



KACEE News

North American Association
For Environmental Education Affiliate

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

KACEE Spring Meeting - A Big Success!

KACEE hosted its annual spring membership meeting at Rock Springs 4-H Ranch near Junction City on Friday, March 31. An exciting line-up of presenters greeted approximately 30 participants.

The gathering began with Dr. Tom Eddy from Emporia State University who presented on what can we learn from prairies. In his presentation the participants were the students and the prairie was the teacher. Evelyn Neier, KSU Research and Extension, who presented the Junior Master Gardener Program (<http://4-h.k-state.edu/JMG>) which engages children to increase knowledge of gardening and the environment. The morning session concluded with a brain-storming session about the future of environmental education in Kansas and the role KACEE should play.

Afternoon presentations began with the KACEE Business Meeting and Officers were elected to KACEE's Board of Directors. Dennis Wilson, superintendent of the Labette County Schools, was elected to the board. Officers and board members will serve two-year terms (for the complete list of the 2006-2008 Board of Directors please turn to page 2). Beth Carreno had us leaping into Leopold in which the participants experience a sample activity from the Leopold Education Project (<http://www.lep.org/>) Activity Guide. Gary Flory from the Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, Bethel College (<http://www.bethelks.edu/kipcor/>) presented an update on the use of collaborative problem-solving methods to resolve natural resource disputes in Kansas. A tour of Rock Springs 4-H Ranch rounded out the day.

We hope you will make plans to join us for the Kansas Environmental Education Conference in Pittsburg, Kansas on November 3-4, 2006. For more information, please visit www.kacee.org.



Evelyn Neier, KSU Research and Extension, presented the Junior Master Gardener Program to this year's Spring Meeting participants.



Dee Turner, Mike Rader, and Dennis Wilson presented a lesson on "What can we learn from prairies?"

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Online EE Toolbox.....2
- 4-State Ecosystem Workshop.....3
- Meet Lucy.....4
- Upcoming KACEE Workshop.....5
- Resources.....6-7



**2006-2008 KACEE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Cindy Ford, President
Pittsburg State University

Schaneé' Anderson, President-Elect
Sedgwick County Zoo

Rex Buchanan, Secretary
Kansas Geological Survey

John Strickler, Treasurer
KACEE Fund Development Chair

Kate Grover, Past President
Hallmark Cards, Inc

Dolores Daniels, At Large
Kansas City Kansas Community
College Campus Childcare Center

Gary Keehn, At Large
Jackson Heights High School

Brad Loveless, At Large
Westar Energy Green Team

Bill McGowan, At Large
Ernie Miller Nature Center

Mike Rader, At Large
Wilson State Park

Kathy Sexson, At Large
Lee Richardson Zoo

John Shidler, At Large

Steve Swaffar, At Large
Kansas Farm Bureau

Dee Turner, At Large
State Conservation Commission

Dennis Wilson, At Large
Labette County, USD 506

Kim Bomberger-Ex-Officio
Kansas Forest Service

Hank Ernst-Ex-Officio
Kansas Water Office

Rodney Ferguson-Ex-Officio
Kansas Department of
Health and Environment

George Griffith-Ex-Officio
Kansas State Department
of Education

Janet Loebel-Ex-Officio
Kansas State Department
of Education

Roland Stein-Ex-Officio
Kansas Department of
Wildlife and Parks

Janet Waugh-Ex-Officio
Kansas State Board of Education

KACEE STAFF

Laura Downey
Executive Director

Shari Wilson
Special Projects Coordinator

Beth Carreno
Coordinator of Education Programs

Melissa Arthur
Coordinator of Statewide Water
Celebration & Outreach

Sandy Chandler
Business Manager

Jolene Amtower
Office Manager

News

Online EE Community Tips Toolbox



How do I find the Kansas Online EE Community?

--Go to www.kacee.org and click on Online EE Community.

How do I log in to the Online EE Community?

--Click on log in.

--Enter your user name and password. In most cases, your user name is your last name followed by your first initial. If you have not log on before, please contact Shari Wilson or Melissa Arthur (contact info below) for a temporary password.

How do I know if my Membership is up to date?

--After logging in, if your membership is expired, a message will appear. You will need to renew before updating your Membership Profile. Click on Renew Now to renew online and pay by PayPal.

--If your membership is current, and you don't need to make changes to your Membership Profile, click on Logout.

--If your membership is current, and you would like to update your profile, click Membership Profile in the left-hand box. If you are an Organizational Member, you will also need to click on Org Profile.

--Your Membership Profile is your contact information. Organizational members' profiles also include information about their mission, programs, and resources.

--If you have questions, contact Shari Wilson at swilson@kacee.org or 913-287-6879 or Melissa Arthur at marthur@kacee.org or 785-597-5452.



6th Annual Earth Fair in Prairie Village

Submitted by: Margaret Thomas

There was excellent attendance at the 6th Annual Earth Fair held Saturday, April 8th at Shawnee Mission East High School in Prairie Village. This free event is a joint project of the Prairie Village Environmental Committee and Shawnee Mission East Student Environmental and Recycling Committee. This year's Earth Fair drew an estimated 1500 attendees to see a large display of hybrid, electric, and natural gas-powered cars and more than 50 exhibits on sustainable energy, transportation, agriculture, building construction, prairies, and streams. There were craft activities for kids, live animals, eco-products and live plants for sale, a giant used book sale, and presentations on how to build a rain garden, and how to make the most of the OWLS (Outdoor Wildlife Learning Sites) at local schools. Three elementary schools performed and Green Elvis sang as well. Delicious organic lunches were sold. If you have a city/high school cooperation, and are interested in replicating the successful Earth Fair model in Prairie Village, contact Margaret Thomas at mgt84roe@aol.com.



A youngster looking at a working beehive display at Earth Fair.

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.

News

Environmental Education Program Profiles

What does excellence in environmental education look like? There are so many ways of delivering environmental education programs, and so many components to a comprehensive approach to EE. Please visit the website http://eetap.org/pages/article.ee_program_profiles.2006.04.php to explore profiles of seven exemplary and varied efforts that illustrate the range and variation in environmental education.

Among the highlighted programs are:

- An integrated literacy-science program for kindergarten students
- Project-based learning on the prairie
- The high-school run business that grew from a weedy lot-turned-garden;
- A wetlands restoration project that involves and benefits elementary and high school students
- A systemic approach to environmentally-based learning based on proven best practices in education



Education and the Environment: Partners for Change

Schools from Florida to Washington are using environmental education to find creative ways to address both state and national standards and economic performance pressures. They're demonstrating that important and engaging environmental themes can breathe life into academics while meeting the requirements of the *No Child Left Behind Act 2001*.

Environmental education and education reform share many of the same goals, as exemplified in "Partners for Change," a richly descriptive article that illustrates how environmental education can bring about systemic change.

Visit http://eetap.org/media/pdf/PartnersFINAL_4_5_06.pdf to read about four exemplary schools, working in especially effective partnerships with non-formal education organizations that are realizing lofty education goals—with the backing of teachers, administrators, and state education department officials. See how interdisciplinary, hands-on, project-based learning is replacing traditional, compartmentalized instruction at Clay County High School (Kentucky), Gove Elementary School (Florida), Hollywood Elementary School (Maryland), and Komachin Middle School (Washington).



11th Annual 4-State Ecosystem Workshop "Exploring Arkansas' Big River Ecosystems"

Submitted by: Roland Stein

What: "Big Rivers: 200 Years of Change - Exploring the Arkansas River Basin" - the eleventh annual four state ecosystem workshop conducted by the PLT, WILD and WET coordinators from Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma.

Who: Active program facilitators from the four states. Registration is limited to 10 facilitators from each state.

When: September 28-30, 2006

Where: Winrock Conference Center on top of beautiful Petit Jean Mountain near Morrilton, Arkansas. The center is located at 38 Winrock Drive, Morrilton, AR 72110. Web address: www.wrcenter.net.

Cost: The \$75 registration fee includes meals and lodging. Scholarships for facilitators from Arkansas and Oklahoma are available. Contact state coordinators for information on scholarships. Registration Deadline is August 31, 2006

For more information or if you would like to register for this exciting workshop, visit www.kacee.org.



News

Meet Lucy!

Submitted by: Kathryn Wohlfeil



What's black and white and taped all over? A life-size inflatable whale, of course! On a cold December day in 2006, Sunset Zoo Docents and Explorers gathered together to create our largest, interactive educational tool. Welcome Lucy the fin whale, *Balaenoptera physalus*, the second largest animal on earth!

The Sunset Zoo's Education Department goal was to design an affordable model of a whale that is life-sized to students of all ages. The zoo's 55-foot whale is made of inexpensive materials including packaging tape and black and clear plastic sheeting. It can be carried by one person, fits into a large duffel bag for easy transportation, and leaves your other hand free to carry a box fan that quickly inflates the whale. Because it's made of such heavy duty materials, people simply remove their shoes keeping the

whale protected and clean. Finally, an entire classroom of children can fit inside to experience the whale from within!

The whale presents children and adults alike with an incredible educational opportunity. Since the birth of the fin whale, children ages 5-12 enrolled in Sunset Zoo's Piranha School learned about the difference between baleen whales and toothed whales, tested a blubber glove, and made a whale craft to take home. At the zoo's Earth Day event, April 22, the whale welcomed children in for a whale of a tale story time while the parents received information about the Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch.

The life-size whale adds such an unexpected element to our educational programs and a fun way for people to see the true size of a whale while learning about whales and conservation. You can find instructions on how to construct a whale in the Project WILD Aquatic K-12 Curriculum & Activity Guide under the activity *Whale of a Tail*.



NAAEE Annual Conference: NAAEE Returns to St. Paul, Minnesota

Call for Proposals

Kansas Environmental Education Conference



KACEE is now accepting proposals for this year's EE conference. To submit a proposal, go to www.kacee.org and click on "Call for Proposals". The deadline for submissions is Friday, 14 July. For more information, contact Shari Wilson at swilson@kacee.org or 913-287-6879.



Home to F. Scott Fitzgerald, "Prairie Home Companion" and Charles Schultz, St. Paul hosts a thriving creative community featuring the St. Paul Art Crawl the second weekend of October. St. Paul is the heart of a great state that contains many amazing natural features: the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Mississippi River Headwaters, the Superior & Chippewa National Forests, a plethora of wildlife loons,

wolves, eagles, and more) and of course, thousands of lakes, including the big one: Lake Superior. October is a great time to observe peak fall color, stellar bird migration, and maybe a showing of Northern Lights (aurora borealis) in Minnesota. With over 80 environmental learning (nature) centers, countless EE programs, and more than 200 formal outdoor classrooms, Minnesota is a great place to hold the North American Association for Environmental Education Conference on October 10-14, 2006. For more information, go to www.naaee.org.

Eighth Annual Kansas Environmental Education Conference

"EE in the Balance: Lessons of the Land"

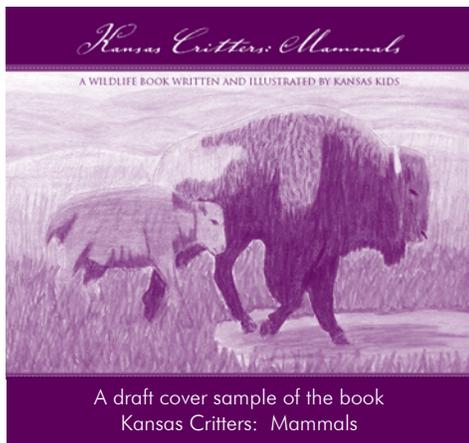
November 3 - 4, 2006
Pittsburg State University
Pittsburg, Kansas



News

Kansas Critters: Mammals

Submitted by: Lorrie Beck



The Great Plains Nature Center recently sponsored an art and literature contest that will result in the publication of a book entitled, "Kansas Critters: Mammals." The book will contain a collection of writings and illustrations of Kansas mammals created by Kansas kids. This contest was open to students grades K-8 and asked them to write about, or draw a picture of Kansas mammals. The mammals from which students chose were divided into three groups. Students were eligible to submit up to three entries, but each entry had to be about an animal from a different group.

The art entries were created using a variety of media including colored pencil, crayon, water colors, colored markers, pastels, pencil, cut-out colored paper, oils, and acrylics. The literature entries were either factual information or a poem about the chosen animal.

By the entry deadline, we received nearly 1,400 entries: 1,100 art entries and nearly 300 literature entries! Needless to say the selection committee had a very

difficult time narrowing down the entries for the 26 mammal species, yet selecting enough illustrations and literature text for the graphic designer to compile a visually exciting, yet factual, book.

The first draft of the book includes entries from more than Kansas 200 students, and more entries may be included by the time the book is complete. All students whose work is featured in the book will receive a few complimentary copies of the book for their personal use and to donate to their school's library, and will be invited to an award ceremony later this summer.

Funding for this fun, educational project was made possible by a \$15,000 grant from The Lattner Family Foundation given in memory of Forrest C. and Frances H. Lattner.

Setting High Standards: EE Builds a Home in Teacher Education Accreditation



The article, "Setting High Standards: EE Builds a Home in Teacher Education Accreditation", features the work being done by NAAEE to have Environmental education incorporated into the accreditation of teacher preparation programs. Educators may read the article online or download it onto their computer. The web addresses for the article is: http://eetap.org/pages/fetch.php?fid=accreditation.pdf@pdf_url.

Wichita Water Workshop: Project WET & WET in the City



Wichita Water Workshop: Project WET & WET in the City! is a professional development opportunity for formal and non-formal educators in and around the City of Wichita. Project WET is a water education program that promotes critical thinking, problem solving, and responsible decision-making in water related issues. WET in the City is a new water education program that compliments the materials in Project WET by providing urban-focused activities and additional information to meet the unique needs of urban educators. The workshop will also include field trips and information on the E.A.R.T.H. program, the Water Spout Garden Program, and local water resources. Participants will receive two activity guides, Project WET and WET in the City, as well as materials related to the water spout garden curriculum and other resource materials.

It will be held on June 13-14, 2006 from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm at The WATER Center, 101 E. Pawnee in Wichita. For additional information, individuals may contact Tonya Bronleewe at 316-722-7721 or tonyab@ksu.edu or Beth Carreno at 785-233-4721 or bcarreno@kacee.org. To register for this workshop, please visit www.kacee.org.



Resources

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

New Web-site Focuses on Kansas Amphibians



A new internet site features informational maps about amphibians, reptiles, and turtles in Kansas.

The Kansas Herpetofaunal Atlas is intended to help with education and conservation in the state. The atlas was developed with a grant awarded to the Sternberg Museum of Natural History in 2003 through the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

The web-site <http://webcat.fhsu.edu/ksfauna/herps/> allows the public to view current maps of different species in the state. The Center for North American Herpetology, Kansas Herpetological Society and many other participants assisted with the atlas.

Grassland Heritage Foundation



The Grassland Heritage Foundation, with headquarters in Kansas City, seeks to preserve and restore remaining tallgrass prairies and call attention to the need to preserve this heritage for the future. Its members

throughout the region attempt to bring this important natural resource, which has been reduced to less than 1% of its original area, to the attention of our constituency. The Foundation has formed a "groundhogs" group which periodically removes noxious weeds and impinging trees from several prairies sites, both in the Kansas City and Topeka areas. Speakers are available to present the need to preserve this heritage to audiences throughout the region. To these ends, the Foundation request your help. The office address is: 5460 Buena Vista, Ste 208, PO Box 394, Roland Park, KS 66205, email@grasslandheritage.org, or visit their website at www.grasslandheritage.org

Edith Stevens Groundwater Educator Award



Award to recognize educators who understand the importance of groundwater, motivate others to protect groundwater, and lead by personal example. Anyone actively involved with the implementation and delivery of groundwater education programs is eligible. Deadline date is July 14, 2006. For more information, visit

<http://www.groundwater.org/aw/edithabout.html>.

Renewable E-Field Trips



"Renewable Energy: POWERful Choices" is a web-based e-field trip developed by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management in partnership with Distance Learning Integrators. The program features information focusing on what renewable energy sources are available, what challenges exist, and the role public lands serve in meeting our nation's energy needs. A student journal to assess learning and an "ask the expert" section are also available. To take a POWERful trip, visit www.efieldtrips.org.

A Reason for the Season



National Geographic classroom activities about reasons for seasons with embedded links for illustrating Earth's seasonal positions around the Sun. Learn the long and short of the changing of the seasons, then self-test using the cosmic map.

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/activities/07/season.html>

National Public Lands Day



National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the public lands American's enjoy. In 2005, nearly 90,000 volunteers built trails and bridges, planted trees and plants, and removed trash and invasive plants. Join us Saturday, September 30, 2006 for the 13th annual National Public Lands Day and help care for our land. We invite everybody from federal land management agencies to state parks and playgrounds in local neighborhoods to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.npld.com/index.cfm>.

Angels in Action Awards



Georgia-Pacific's Angels in Action Awards Program will recognize children who are involved in exemplary community service projects in age categories 8-15 years old and 16-18 years old.

One outstanding awardee will receive \$15,000 for "Program of the Year." Two grand-prize winners (one from each age category) will receive \$10,000, and ten finalists (five from each age category) will receive \$1,000. Deadline is October 1, 2006. To fill out an entry form, visit <http://eelink.net/cgi-bin/ee-link/newclick/489448>.

Resources

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

Upcoming KTWU Environmental Programs

(For more programming information, please visit
<http://ktwu.washburn.edu/>)



Jean-Michel Cousteau: Ocean Adventures "Sharks at Risk"

Wednesday July 12: 7:00 pm

Long feared as an object of terror, sharks are now gaining a new reputation as a species whose numbers are being decimated with unprecedented speed. This decline comes at a time when we are beginning to learn more about the complexity of their behavior and to dispel the myth of the shark as "a mindless eating machine." Narrated by Pierce Brosnan, the program follows the Cousteau oceanographic team as they travel to the French Polynesia islands and South Africa to examine their living conditions, behavioral patterns and intelligence, and to seek out possible reasons behind the decreases in their population.

Jean-Michel Cousteau: Ocean Adventures "The Gray Whale Obstacle Course"

Wednesday July 19: 7:00 pm

The only large whale to be studied in captivity, gray whales have become one of the most urban travelers -- passing some of the world's busiest cities and ports along some of the most polluted coastlines. However, the species have also become one of the first to face extinction. The program trails the Cousteau team as they follow the annual migration of these traveling giants from Baja to the Arctic and examines the less visible and more ominous obstacles these unique whales face in their struggle to survive.

Nature "A Mystery in Alaska"

Sunday, July 30: 7:00 pm

Among some of the world's unspoiled and untouched landscapes, Alaska also contains one of the greatest wildlife mysteries, as many animals are declining dramatically in number with no clear explanations why. Against the breathtaking backdrop of magnificent mountains and seacoasts, the film attempts to unravel at least part of the enigma.

Native Plant Finder



The Native Plant Finder provides a list of recommended native gardening plants for each state. Try it, and see how many wonderful native plants are available for your backyard or schoolyard! To develop your own native plant guide, please visit http://www.enature.com/native_invasive/.

Fundamentals of Environmental Education Online Course



A 10-week online course about the fundamentals of environmental education will be offered this fall (September 11 - November 17, 2006). The course is appropriate for both classroom teachers and for non-formal educators who work with students and/or teachers. Participants may obtain three undergraduate or graduate credits from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. All students, regardless of location, are eligible for the in-state tuition rate. The course is also offered at a reduced cost for those who are not interested in obtaining college credit.

The "Fundamentals of Environmental Education" online course was developed by the Environmental Education (EE) and Training Partnership (EETAP) in collaboration with national EE experts. It provides educators with the knowledge and skills necessary to incorporate quality environmental education into their instruction. Participants discuss the history, definition, and goals of environmental education; develop an understanding of the professional roles and instructional methods of environmental educators; and interact with other educators from across the country.

For more information, please visit www.eetap.org and click on "Online EE Courses" or contact Angela Arkin at Angela.Arkin@uwsp.edu for a registration form. Deadline for the fall course is August 11, 2006.

Build an Outdoor Classroom at Your School Grants



Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation, International Paper, and National Geographic Explorer! classroom magazine outdoor classroom grant program to help schools improve their science curriculum by engaging students in hands-on experiences outside the traditional classroom. Grants up to \$2,000 will be awarded to at least 100 schools and grants for up to \$20,000 may be awarded to schools or school districts with major outdoor classroom projects. Proposals are reviewed three times a year. Visit <http://eelink.net/cgi-bin/ee-link/newclick/288775>.

LearningScience.org



The LearningScience.org Web site provides free, high quality, newer and emerging Web interactive learning tools of science education based on National Science Education Standards. Visit <http://www.learningscience.org/index.htm>.

NOW AVAILABLE
Join and manage your membership online 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: _____

Organization/School/Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Fax: _____ 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 PLT Secondary WET WILD WILD Aquatic Investigating Your Environment
 - 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 Road
Manhattan, KS 66502-2743
785-532-3322
Fax: 785-532-3305

Internal Use:

Membership Category: _____

Date Received: _____



KACEE
KANSAS ASSOCIATION FOR
CONSERVATION &
ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION

2610 Claflin Road
Manhattan, KS 66502-2743



Printed on Recycled Paper