



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 Educators Shore up on Playa Lakes

Submitted by: Debbie F. Slobe

Dozens of educators and students traveled from as far east as Topeka to learn about western Kansas playas during the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE) annual conference November 4-6 in Dodge City. A special pre-conference session on playas was held November 4 for about 25 participants, who learned about playas through presentations, field trips and hands-on activities. Speakers included Tom Flowers, District Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service office, who presented information about a bird survey on Kansas playas which identified more than 140 species, and Debbie Slobe from the Playa Lakes Joint Venture (PLJV) who talked about playas' important role in aquifer recharge.

The later half of the day was spent out in the field at Herron and Wild Turkey Playas where participants learned about the history and ecology of the playas from Scotty Baugh, regional biologist for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. Students from Jackson Heights High School north of Topeka and their science teacher Gary Keehn led the group on a wild goose chase at Wild Turkey Playa, seeking out hidden treasures with GPS devices and peeking into the murky world of invertebrates with an underwater camera.

The pre-conference workshop was just a taste of what's to come. This summer, June 8-9, KACEE will host a multi-state facilitator workshop on playa lakes to train teachers across the region to host similar workshops in their home states. The workshop is open to teams of educators from Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. For more information, contact Beth Carreno of KACEE at (785) 233-4721 or bcarreno@swbell.net.



Natural Resource Conservation Service biologist Tom Flowers leads participants in a bird migration exercise.

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News

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Receives 2004 KACEE Award

The 2004 KACEE Award was in recognition of the partnerships and support for educators exemplified by the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks. KDWP has contributed to conservation and environmental education throughout Kansas for more than 20 years by providing information and resources to teachers and informal educators; facilitating teacher workshops; providing programs for schools and by naturalists in state parks; hosting ECO-Meets, OK Kids events, and Field Days; and sponsoring the OWLS (Outdoor Wildlife Learning Sites) program. KDWP is an active member of KACEE and its staff serves on KACEE committees and the Board of Directors. KDWP was nominated by staff members Roland Stein and Mike Rader.



Pictured L to R: Shari L. Wilson, KACEE staff & KDWP Commissioner, Mike Radar, KACEE board member & KDWP conservation worker, Keith Sexson Assitant Secretary for Operations, KDWP, Kate Grover, KACEE President & City of Topeka, Jerry Hover, Director of Parks, KDWP, Mike Hayden, KDWP Secretary, and Governor Kathleen Sebelius

The 2004 John K. Strickler Award for an outstanding environmental educator was presented to Cindy Ford from Pittsburg State University. Cindy's long history of service through her teaching and involvement with the KACEE Board of Directors and KS EE Conference were cited in the nomination completed by Jim Triplett.

These awards are given annually to both an individual and an organization, business, or agency with at least five years' involvement/contributions in the field of EE. Nominations are open to the public and can be submitted at any time. For more information, please contact Shari L. Wilson at: sharilea@kc.rr.com or 913-287-6879.

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

KACEE SPRING MEETING
FRIDAY APRIL 8, 2005 **9:00 AM-3:30 PM**
(Optional Tour of the WATER Center at 3:30 PM)
The WATER Center, 101 E. Pawnee, Wichita, Kansas

Join KACEE for a day of informative presentations about our Kansas environment and the exciting environmental education projects taking place. This is a great opportunity for meeting and networking with others who share your interests in environmental education. We are pleased to have the WATER Center in Wichita host us. Attendees will have the opportunity to tour this new facility (read more about the WATER Center below).

Watch your mail for a complete agenda of this event. For more information or to suggest a presentation or speaker, please contact Shari Wilson at (913)287-6879 or sharilea@kc.rr.com

KACEE SPRING MEETING
FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2005

The WATER Center, 101 E. Pawnee, Wichita, Kansas
REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____ **Email:** _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____ **Phone:** _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zipcode:** _____

- Enclosed please find my check, payable to KACEE for \$20.00
- Please send me an invoice
- I require a vegetarian meal

Send Completed Registration Form by
4/4/2005 to:
KACEE
2610 Claflin Road
Manhattan, KS 66502-2743
Or fax to: (785)532-3305

ABOUT THE WATER CENTER:

A one-of-a kind venture, the WATER Center offers a hands-on, interactive environmental center dedicated to the education and health issues caused by water and pollution. This facility has the potential to reach far outside the community affected by the Gilbert-Mosley contamination and to provide education for the understanding and prevention of many water pollution activities.

The remediated water flows through aquariums, wetlands and a before entering the Arkansas River. The water supports native aquatic wildlife that can be viewed through "windows" in the outdoor fish observatory. A series of paths and bridges lead visitors along an artificial creek through wetlands and eventually to the Arkansas River where the treated groundwater joins the river. The eyebrow wetlands along the creek provide visitors additional viewing opportunities for other wildlife attracted to the newly-created habitat as well as demonstrative exhibits on wetlands, buffer strips and non-point source pollution.

Another opportunity for visitors is the environmental education building that houses a classroom, an aquarium, and exhibits focused on the Gilbert-Mosley project, pollution, and the unique and life-supporting qualities of water. The aquarium is home to native species such as minnows and offers information on why these small creatures are so dependent on water quality. In addition, the relationships between the geology and geography of the area, groundwater and surface waters are also explored. For more information, visit: <http://www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Health/Environmental/WATERCenter/>

News



KACEE Statewide Water Celebrations Invites you participate in the 2005 Water Celebration Planning Workshop *A Networking & Training Opportunity for Water Celebration Planners*

Thursday, September 22 Workshop speakers & "how to" sessions at Topeka-West Holiday Inn Holiday
Friday, September 23 Discover the Topeka Water Festival at Garfield Park, Topeka, KS

What? 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 behind-the-scenes water celebration experience. Participants will have inside access to the Topeka Water Festival, along with workshop sessions covering all aspects of conducting educational & sustainable water celebrations.

Who? The workshop is open to anyone currently implementing, or wishing to implement an annual water celebration event in Kansas. Whether you're affiliated with a school, county Farm Bureau, conservation district, RC & D, university extension office, local government, museum/nature center, rural water district or health department, or just have an interest in water education in your community...this workshop is for YOU! Special Alumni sessions will be offered for past participants.

Why? Experienced water celebration planners from across the state will be sharing their expertise and resources to help you plan a water education event that serves the unique needs of your school or community. Each participant will receive a Kansas water celebration resource guide, packed with tips & templates for getting started on the planning process, along with Project WET and Conserve Water activity guides. After attending the workshop, you'll be eligible to apply for start-up grant funds for water celebrations of up to \$2500 per county served.

How? Mark your calendar, and tell your friends! The registration application forms will be available in Spring, 2005. A limited number of travel stipends (to cover mileage & lodging) are available, and the registration fee is just \$15.

To learn more about the Statewide Water Celebrations Project visit www.kacee.org or contact Melissa Arthur at 785-597-5452 or melisarth7@aol.com



WATER CELEBRATION ORGANIZERS NEEDED

Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE) initiated the Statewide Water Celebrations Project in 2003 to gather information about water celebrations from the state's innovative water celebration organizers to serve all 105 counties in Kansas with a water celebration event. Forty-two Kansas Counties are currently served by a water celebration event, and several additional water celebration plans are in the works for 2005.

At the November meeting of the Water Celebration Planning Committee, we identified that many counties in the western part of the state have not yet taken advantage of the grant funds and training resources available through the project. Because we are committed to providing a high level of service state-wide, the committee will focus on developing and implementing a new system for recruitment of/service to western KS counties. If you are interested in hosting a new water celebration, or helping recruit new water celebration planners in under-served areas of the state please contact Melissa Arthur at 785-597-5452 or melisarth7@aol.com

Have Environmental Education News to Share?

Send your articles, pictures and resources to Jolene Amtower at: jamtower@oznet.ksu.edu

News

Presentations Wanted for Annual Conference

Submitted by: Shari L. Wilson

Have you developed an innovative program that incorporates environmental education into your classroom or youth program? Do you have specialized knowledge that could assist teachers and youth leaders in making their environmental education programs more educational, interactive, and exciting? KACEE is looking for innovative, interactive, and exciting presentations for the 7th annual Kansas Environmental Education Conference. The conference will be held on 4 – 5 November 2005 in Hutchinson, Kansas. We invite you to submit presentation proposals in the following tracks. Topics listed are just ideas and others that fit the tracks are welcome and encouraged.

+ Earth and Space

Ideas include:

Migration (settling the plains via the natural landscape), agriculture connection including railroads and grain, fossils, rocks & minerals, geology, recent explorations of Mars and Saturn, weather, climate change, GLOBE and other earth science related programs

+ Exploring Technology

Ideas include:

Wildlife photography, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Global Positioning Systems (GPS), distance learning, Kan-Ed, computer modeling, using technology to support curriculum, Pathfinder Science

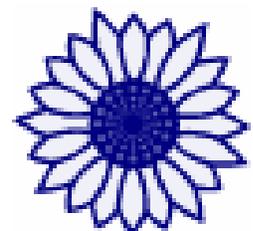
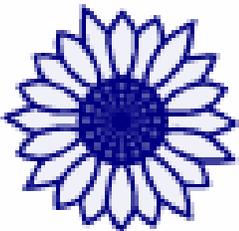
Projects (i.e. Winter Bird Feeder Survey with online data collection and sharing)

+ Reading the Landscape

Ideas include:

Salt marshes, sand prairie, Kansas Scenic Byways, Leopold Education Project, animal tracking, ability of animals to “read the landscape” and sense change, journaling, observation and appreciation of wildlife and the outdoors, place- based education, using current events to illustrate EE concepts (i.e., the Indian Ocean tsunami).

Presentation proposal forms will be appearing in mailboxes soon. To submit a proposal, contact Shari L. Wilson, Conference Manager, at sharilea@kc.rr.com or 913-287-6879. Proposals are due no later than 6 May 2005.



Oakdale Elementary First Grade Teacher, Jan Clark, did a project with her class for Kansas Day. She talked about different crops that grew around Kansas and identified the seeds of wheat, milo, corn, soybeans, cotton, oats, alfalfa, & sunflowers. The students worked in small groups locating the seed that matched each word on a graphic organizer & then glued the seeds to the paper.

Resources

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

Two New Resources from Great Plains Nature Center

The Great Plains Nature Center recently released its latest pocket-sized reference guide to help outdoor enthusiasts identify wildlife. "A Pocket Guide to Common Kansas Mammals" features an American badger in a colorful setting on the cover and promises to be a valuable asset to any resource collection. More than 400 species of mammals are found in North America; 88 of these species are found in Kansas. The guide highlights 40 of the most visible and common species in the Sunflower State. "It's a great resource," said GPNC Director Bob Gress. "Each mammal listed has a color photograph accompanied by interesting natural history information. It also has a checklist of Kansas mammals and illustrations of common mammal tracks."

"A Pocket Guide to Kansas Mammals" and a limited supply of "A Pocket Guide to Kansas Raptors" are available free of charge to visitors that request one when visiting the GPNC. Copies can be mailed by sending your name, complete mailing address and a check for \$1.50 (payable to GPNC) per booklet (please specify which booklet and quantity) to cover postage and handling to: ATTN: Pocket Guide, Great Plains Nature Center, 6232 E. 29th St. N, Wichita, KS 67220.

The latest in the GPNC poster series is here. The "Wildlife Success Stories" poster highlights 18 eye-popping photographs shot by GPNC Director Bob Gress of various species of wildlife that have made a dramatic comeback. Species such as wild turkeys, white-tailed deer, elk, pronghorn, Canada geese and numerous others are featured and their natural history success stories detailed on the back.



This new poster promises to be a beautiful addition to previous posters in the series: "Wildlife of the Shortgrass Prairie," "Wildlife of the Wetlands," "Wildlife of the Tall Grass Prairie" and "Wildlife of the Woodlands."

As with the previous posters, The Coleman Company Inc. sponsored this poster with a generous monetary contribution. The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks also contributed funds for printing additional quantities. The poster will be available free of charge to GPNC visitors. Copies can be mailed by sending your name, complete mailing address and a check for \$5.00 (payable to GPNC) per poster to cover postage and handling to: ATTN: Wildlife Poster, Great Plains Nature Center, 6232 E. 29th St. N, Wichita, KS 67220.

"Smart Consumers: An Educator's Guide to Exploring Consumer Issues and the Environment."

The World Wildlife Fund and the Center for a New American Dream have recently created a toolkit targeted at teachers for grades 6-9 called "Smart Consumers: An Educator's Guide to Exploring Consumer Issues and the Environment." The guide seeks to help middle school students learn more about how their consumer choices affect the environment and how they can make a difference by buying differently. The toolkit includes an Educator's Guide with background information; fourteen hands-on activities that range from analyzing pop song lyrics and advertisements to acting out product life cycles and calculating ecological footprints; an annotated list of resources for more information; and more. It also includes a Community Action Guide, including 25 consumer-related project ideas and step-by-step advice on organizing group projects. For additional information, go to www.ibuydifferent.org/educators.asp.

Children's Museum of Kansas City



The Recycled Materials Center located at the Children's Museum of Kansas City, offers a wealth of free and inexpensive project supplies to all teachers and other providers of children's activities. The center also accepts some household discards that are otherwise difficult to recycle, such as 35mm canisters, oatmeal boxes, Pringles cans, plastic berry baskets, and baby food jars with lids. Donations of usable scrap materials from businesses are welcomed, as well. Call 913.287.8888 for more information and hours of operation.

New Web-site for US Geological Survey

The US Geological Survey has recently announced a new web-site featuring a wonderful diagram of the water cycle and in-depth discussion of 15 water cycle-related topics. For information go to <http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/watercycle.html>

Center for Global Environmental Education and Watershed Partners

Many water celebrations include service oriented activities such as storm drain stenciling, stream clean-up, or tree planting. The Center for Global Environmental Education and Watershed Partners have a variety of resources for water-related service projects on their site at <http://cgee.hamline.edu/watershed/action/projects/index.htm>.

HAVE A STORY TO TELL OR A RESOURCE TO SHARE?
Send it to Jolene Amtower at
jamtower@oznet.ksu.edu



Resources

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Playa Educational Resource Guide Available Online

Teachers craving classroom resources on playa lakes - look no further. The Playa Lakes Joint Venture (PLJV) has tracked down dozens of educational materials on playa lakes, prairies and birds. They are all showcased in the PLJV Educators' Resource Guide on the PLJV web site (<http://www.pljv.org/EduResources/index.html>). The Guide is a detailed index of books, magazine articles, videos, activity guides, field trip opportunities and more focused on playa lakes, including information on how to obtain copies of everything. If you know of a resource that is not on the list, email your suggestion to PLJV Communications Team Leader Debbie Slobe at Debbie.slobe@pljv.org.

Watershed Patch

EPA recently launched the Watershed Patch project to encourage young people to learn about and get involved in their local watersheds. The project involves a collection of watershed activities designed for schools, science clubs and community organizations. Check it out at <http://www.epa.gov/adopt/resources.html>.

Great Green Web Game

Students can play the Great Green Web Game at the Union of Concerned Scientists' website.



This game tests knowledge of how consumer choices affect the environment. As players answer questions and shop, an "Envirometer" gauges the cumulative impact of their choices. At the end

of the game they can compare their impact on air quality, water quality, natural habitats, and the sustainability of our climate. The Union of Concerned Scientists' website also contains a publication titled *The Consumer's Guide to Effective Environmental Choices*, which is an excellent resource for all

YES! MAGAZINE

YES! magazine is ad-free and offers teachers and students inspiring stories of practical, positive solutions to a broad range of environmental and social justice challenges. By casting a spotlight on everyday heroes -- in the U.S. and around the world -- YES! shows that everyone can make a difference and help shape a more sustainable future. Educators find YES! a powerful tool for informing students about ecological and social problems while also providing avenues for constructive action. The YES! Education Connection website has resources for using YES! stories effectively in class. Teachers are eligible for a free one-year introductory subscription to the YES! quarterly journal, and can sign-up online. <http://www.yesmagazine.org/default.asp?id=114>

Nuclear Energy Applications for Teachers (NEAT)

Wolf Creek is offering a graduate level two-hour class at Emporia State University, it's called ...Nuclear Energy Applications for Teachers (NEAT).

Wolf Creek will pay for one hour of the graduate credit, (up to 20 teachers) it includes a Wolf Creek tour. We'll cover Emergency Planning, environmental aspects of the plant etc. For more information, please call Susan Maycock at 620-364-4141 or e-mail sumayco@wcnoc.com

NATIONAL EE WEEK April 10 - 16, 2005



National Environmental Education Week is a full week of educational preparation for Earth Day and will involve some 400,000 educators and 15 million students. Educators can participate by conducting environmental education programming during the Week. Check out the "To-Do List" and "Tools and Links" sections on the site for suggested activities, ideas, and resources to involve, educate, and inspire. EE Week is coordinated by the National Environmental Education & Training Foundation (NEETF) in cooperation with many other EE organizations and agencies. Sign-up to participate! <http://www.eeweek.org>

HOBO Energy Challenge

K-12 teachers and students get ready for the HOBO Energy Challenge sponsored by iScienceProject.

This free contest, which runs until May 1, 2005, is designed to promote energy awareness within schools while offering students of all ages a fun, hands-on science learning experience with HOBO data loggers. These data-loggers are very cool real-world technology, and easy to use. They are widely used to monitor collections storage and exhibit environments for light, temperature, and humidity in museums. The mission of the contest is to use the data loggers to find examples of energy waste in your school. For more information on the HOBO Energy Challenge, or to sign up, visit http://www.iscienceproject.com/energy_challenge/energy_challenge.html

Green Pages

Visit the largest directory of qualified green businesses available online at Co-op America's Green Pages. Search for more than 25,000 products and services from 2,000 green companies in more than 170 categories including clothing, toys, computers and much more. Green business operates in ways that solve—rather than cause—environmental and social problems. These businesses adopt principles, policies and practices that improve the quality of life for their customers, employers, communities, and the planet. For more information visit www.greenpages.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: _____ 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
- Other (please specify): _____
- Becoming a project facilitator
- Presenting at a workshop or conference
- Becoming a school or district liaison
- Becoming a corporate sponsor
- WILD
- WILD Aquatic



Please return completed form to:
KACEE
2610 Claflin Road
Manhattan, KS 66502-2743
(phone 785-532-3322)

Internal Use:

Membership Category: _____

Date Received: _____



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