



KACEE News

North American Association
For Environmental Education Affiliate

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

Investigating Your Environment Workshop Scheduled April 5th – 7th



KACEE staff listened to comments from members and workshop participants and are working to take a great program to even greater heights! Investigating Your Environment 2006 will return to Rock Springs 4-H Camp starting at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, April 5th and ending at 2:00 pm on Friday, April 7th.

The workshop agenda includes two tracks: one for first-time participants and a second for IYE “graduates” who are looking to improve their environmental educational knowledge and skills. The workshop will involve participants in open-ended environmental investigations through which they will develop skills in questioning strategies, discussion techniques and facilitating group involvement. The course concentrates on the use of process and problem-solving techniques for studying the environment.

First-time participants will participate in field investigations into animal habitats, plant associations, soil, water, and urban environments. The activities are designed to acquaint participants with the wide variety of learning opportunities available. Returning participants will also participate in sessions for planning special events, best practices, questioning strategies, and fundamentals of environmental education.

Other workshop components include simulation games, classification activities, and action planning for personal environmental education efforts. Participants will gain skills in collecting, recording, interpreting, and sharing environmental data. The techniques taught have application to all subject areas and basic skills.

All formal and non-formal educators are welcome to attend this workshop. A mix of educators of all grade levels together with school administrators, resource management agency personnel, youth group leaders and conservation organization members are sought for this unique workshop experience. It is hoped that a truly interdisciplinary mix of participants will be achieved.

Please contact Beth Carreno, Coordinator of Education Programs, at 785-233-4721 or bcarreno@kacee.org for additional information on this workshop or would like to enroll in this workshop, please visit our web-site at www.kacee.org.

CORRECTION

KACEE would like to apologize regarding errors that were made in the recent Membership Directory that was sent to members last Fall. We deeply regret omitting some of the organizations, businesses, schools and individual members.

A revised copy will be posted on our web-site, www.kacee.org for one month for anyone wishing a copy.

We want to thank those who support KACEE in strengthening environmental education in Kansas. Your continued support of quality, sound, non-biased environmental education in Kansas means so much to us!

WHAT'S INSIDE

KWO's 2005 Fox Awards.....	2
KACEE Spring Meeting.....	3
“Playas: Gem of The Plains”.....	4
New Membership Services.....	5
Resources.....	6-7



News

KACEE Board Member receives Kansas Water Office's 2005 Fox Awards

Submitted by Hank Ernst

Recipients of the Kansas Water Office's 2005 Fox Awards are KACEE's John Strickler of Manhattan, second from right, and Sheila Frahm, Colby. The awards were presented at the January Kansas Water Authority meeting in Topeka by Steve Irsik of Ingalls, chair of the Kansas Water Authority, left, and Mike Hayden, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, an ex officio member of the Authority.

The award, named in honor of former state representative Ron Fox, recognizes Kansans for their leadership in the natural resource arena and contributions to the objectives of the *State Water Plan*. Frahm and Strickler served as chair and co-chair, respectively, of the Natural Resources Legacy Alliance that included environmental education as one of its key components.

Strickler, as Extension State Forester, led the way in cultivating an appreciation for the Sunflower State's timber resources among both landowners and members of the Kansas Legislature. As an administrator, he served as interim director of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks during the administrations of Governors Mike Hayden and Bill Graves. He served as KACEE's executive director from 1995 to 2000 and has been active in environmental education since KACEE's inception.

Frahm has had a lifelong commitment to public service, having served as a Kansas senator for three terms, lieutenant governor and U.S. Senator. She chaired the Colby Board of Education, the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center's Board of Education and served on the State Board of Education. Currently she is the executive director of the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees.



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.

2004-2006 KACEE Board of Directors

Kate Grover, President
City of Topeka Water Pollution Control

Cindy Ford, President Elect,
Pittsburg State University

Rex Buchanan, Secretary
Kansas Geological Survey
University of Kansas-West Campus

John Strickler, Treasurer
KACEE Fund Development Chair

Brad Loveless, Past President
Manager, Biology & Conservation Programs, Westar Energy

Schaneef Anderson, At Large
Sedgwick County Zoo

Dolores Daniels, At Large
KCK Community College,
Campus Childcare Center

Val DeFever, At Large

Gary Keehn, At Large
Jackson Heights High School

Bill McGowan, At Large
Johnson Co Parks & Recreation

Mike Rader, At Large
KDWP, Wilson State Park

Kathy Season, At Large
Lee Richardson Zoo

John Shidler, At Large

Steve Swaffar, At Large
Kansas Farm Bureau

Dee Turner, At Large
State Conservation Commission

Rodney Ferguson, Ex-Officio
KS Department of Health and Environment

Diane DeBacker, Ex-Officio
KS State Department of Education

Janet Loebel, Ex-Officio Alternate
KS State Department of Education

Janet Waugh, Ex-Officio
KS State Board of Education

Kim Bomberger, Ex-Officio,
KS Forest Service

Hank Ernst, Ex-Officio
KS Water Office

Roland Stein, Ex-Officio
KS Dept of Wildlife and Parks

STAFF:
Laura Downey
Executive Director

Shari L. Wilson
Special Projects Coordinator

Beth Carreno
Coordinator of Education Programs

Melissa Arthur
Coordinator of Statewide Water Celebrations Project and Program Development

Sandy Chandler
Business Manager

Jolene Amtower
Office Manager

News

KACEE SPRING MEETING

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2006

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Rock Springs 4-H Center, 5405 West Highway K157, Junction City, 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.

Watch your mail for a complete agenda of this event. Information for the Spring Meeting will be posted by the end of February at www.kacee.org or contact Shari Wilson at 913-287-6879 or swilson@kacee.org.

KACEE SPRING MEETING

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2006

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Rock Springs 4-H Center, 5405 West Highway K157, Junction City, 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 3/25/06 to:
KACEE
2610 Claflin Road
Manhattan, KS 66502-2743
Or fax to: 785-532-3305

Discover A Watershed: The Missouri Workshop Location Change

KACEE will be hosting a *Discover A Watershed: The Missouri Workshop* on Wednesday, March 29, 2006, from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. The workshop location has been changed to the Hollis Center, located at 1141 Kansas Ave in Bonner Springs (www.holliscenter.org for a map and directions).

Discover A Watershed: The Missouri is a publication from International Project WET. It provides background information, resources, and hands-on activities for teaching about the Missouri River and its watershed. It is part of a unique series of watershed-based publications with the mission to reach children, young adults, teachers, parents, and communities through watershed education.

The Missouri River winds its way from southwestern Montana to the state of Missouri where it joins the Mississippi River. The basin encompasses nearly 530,000 square miles and drains one-sixth of the landmass of the continental United States. The Missouri River is vital to the economic, cultural, and ecological health of the region.

Workshop attendees will receive the *Discover A Watershed: The Missouri* activity guide, as well as the Project WET activity guide, and participate in hands-on, interdisciplinary activities that will enhance their ability to teach about water quality, history, geography, climate, hydrology, and other watershed topics.

The workshop fee is \$25 and includes lunch and materials. *Discover A Watershed: The Missouri* is being offered through the generous support of the Army Corp of Engineers. For more information on this workshop, please contact KACEE Coordinator of Education Programs, Beth Carreno at 785-233-4721 or bcarreno@kacee.org.

Learn more about the river and watershed explored by Lewis and Clark!



News

One Million Educators Gone WILD!

Submitted by: Roland Stein



Sometime in December or January, Project WILD will train its ONE MILLIONTH educator. Project WILD, an interdisciplinary and environmental education program emphasizing wildlife, was first introduced in 1983 (1990 in Kansas). It is based on the premise that young people and their educators have a vital interest in assuring Earth will always provide the necessary habitat and its component for the well-being and survival of people and wildlife.

There are five areas of study in the guide:

- ◆ attitudes and awareness, including human perspective and values
- ◆ human impact, both positive and negative
- ◆ issues and trends in land use, consumption of natural resources, and life styles
- ◆ wildlife management
- ◆ responsible action and service

The activities within the Project WILD guide focuses on creating a greater awareness and understanding of the environment; assessing students to making responsible choices throughout their lives regarding our natural resources.

Perhaps it is time for you, if you have not done so, to enroll in a Project WILD workshop. Become apart of the process that recognizes Earth is home for both people and wildlife; it is up to all of us to protect and preserve it. We all have a responsibility for equipping learners with the skills and knowledge necessary to access and evaluate information upon which sound environmental decisions can be made. For more workshop information, please contact Beth Carreno at bcarreno@kacee.org or 785-233-4721.

"Playas: Gems of the Plains"

Submitted by: Kathy Sexson and Tim Christian



In an effort to provide better educational opportunities to northwest Kansas residents and producers about the importance of protecting playa lakes, the Playa Lakes Joint Venture (PLJV) has provided "Playas: Gems of the Plains", an interactive, playa lake exhibit.

The Lee Richardson Zoo hosted the traveling exhibit, "Playas: Gems of the Plains" during the months of October - December at the Finnup Center for Conservation Education. While on display, the award winning exhibit, developed by the Northwest Texas Museums Association, attracted over 1000 people, and helped to educate them regarding the



existence and importance of playas in the Midwest.

The interactive exhibit is designed in the round, giving the viewer the impression that they are standing in the center of a playa looking out. Playas are a unique feature of the High Plains region. Despite their common occurrence and the crucial role they play in the ecology and hydrology of the region, most Southwest Kansans are unfamiliar with playas. They are important in the recharge of the Ogallala Aquifer, and throughout history, these seasonal water supplies have been like a magnet to wildlife and humans alike.

The exhibit will be in Colby at the Prairie Museum of Art and History from January, 2006 – March 1, 2006. The exhibit will then travel to the Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Hays Kansas and will be there from March 6, 2006 - May, 2006.

For more information on the exhibit viewing times and locations please contact Prairie Museum of Art and History at 785-460-4590 or after March call Sternberg Museum of Natural History at 877-332-1165. For more information on playa lakes please visit PLJV website at www.pljv.org or KAWS website at www.kaws.org click on hot topics button.

News

New Services coming in 2006 for KACEE Members!

Membership renewal time provides an excellent opportunity for KACEE to update our members on some exciting new membership benefits, and invite members to take advantage of more KACEE membership benefits and services in the coming year.

KACEE's Membership Committee worked throughout 2005 to evaluate existing and potential membership benefits. In the process, we discovered many ways in which new technology available through the Kansas Online EE Community can help us to better communicate with our members. Several new benefits were added in 2005, and KACEE will phase in additional services throughout 2006.

Benefits added in 2005

- Kansas Online EE Community – Organizational members can post materials, resources, events, and more on our new one-stop source for EE in Kansas at www.kacee.org. All KACEE members may renew memberships online and search the online system
- Reduced registration rates for KACEE's Advanced Workshops
- Periodic environmental education e-updates
- Opportunity to participate in new EE projects through serving on standing and ad hoc committees

New services coming in 2006

These services have been approved by KACEE's Board of Directors and will be phased in throughout 2006. New services will be announced in KACEE News as they become available.

- Organizational membership will include one primary contact and up to two additional contacts to receive membership benefits - additional contacts (beyond the 3 included) may be purchased for \$10.00 each (*available now!*)
- KACEE will begin offering an electronic newsletter option to all members. Members selecting this option will receive KACEE news electronically via email in lieu of a paper copy via U.S. Mail
- A new membership category, Student Member, will be offered to students (Pre-K – Grade 16) at the rate of \$10.00 per student member
- Donors and sponsors contributing \$250.00 or more to KACEE annually will receive a complimentary membership

Whether you're brand new to KACEE or a veteran member we hope you'll make the most of your KACEE membership in 2006. There are many fun and rewarding ways to get involved. Perhaps you'll plan to attend the KACEE Spring Membership Meeting for the first time, update your programs and information in the Kansas Online EE Community, or serve on a committee this year.

The hard work and support of our members has always been the key to KACEE's success. As we continue our work to find better ways to serve you, we welcome member feedback at any time.

Benefits of KACEE Membership

- Reduced registration rates for the Kansas Environmental Education Conference
- Reduced registration rates for KACEE's Advanced Workshops
- Quarterly KACEE News
- Periodic environmental education e-updates
- Access to and inclusion in a network directory of over 400 related businesses, organizations, agencies, and individuals in the environmental education community
- Support services and resources for environmental education
- Professional development opportunities
- Networking with the environmental education community at the Spring Membership Meeting
- 10% discount in gift shops at participating nature centers
- Kansas Online EE Community – Organizational members can post materials, resources, events, and more on our new one-stop source for EE in Kansas at www.kacee.org
- Opportunity to participate in new EE projects through serving on standing and ad hoc committees
- Recognition as a supporter of an environmental education organization that is a national leader

Resources

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

Prairies Across Kansas



The Konza Environmental Education Program (KEEP) has the objective to teach students the process of science through hands-on ecological research.

Since 1999, KEEP has developed ten long-term ecological research activities parallel and in addition to current scientific research on Konza Prairie Biological Station (KPBS). Through seven research and five technology workshops, 41 teachers have graduated from the program. Teachers bring their classes annually to KPBS to maintain the long-term databases. The Schoolyard Long-term Ecological Research (SLTER) program is host to over 900 students every year on Konza Prairie.

A new project, "Prairies Across Kansas", funded in 2005 by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and EHR, will allow 5th –12th grade teachers from across Kansas the opportunity to interact with KEEP SLTER on a native prairie site near their school. The workshop is open to teachers from anywhere in Kansas, who would not be able to bring a class to Konza Prairie because of distance and cost. Teachers from rural schools are especially invited.

To learn more about the new project or to enroll in the workshop, please visit www.ksu.edu/konza/keep.

Upcoming KTWU Environmental Programs

Nature "The Queen of Trees" airs March 26, at 7:00 pm

The story of the sycamore fig and its tiny pollinator describes one of the most remarkable relationships in the natural world between a tree and a wasp. The film combines intricate detail with grand Africa, and crystal-clear springs with the forest canopy to tell a wild life story that has never been told before.

The Gulf Rebuilds: A Nightly Business Report Special airs April 10, at 9:00 pm

(No description available yet)

Journey to Planet Earth "The State of the Planet's Wildlife" airs April 18th, at 8:00 pm

A global investigation of why and how nearly 50 percent of the world's animals may become extinct over the next 25 years. The program is also a visual celebration of the natural world, and features stories of hope and personal courage.

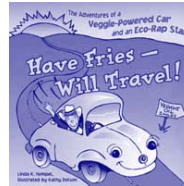
For more information about upcoming programs, please visit <http://ktwu.washburn.edu/>.

Kansas Birding Festival

Don't miss this event! Enjoy a "natural" weekend of birding, education, networking, fabulous sunsets and fun! On April 28-30, 2006, bird watchers of every experience level will discover something wonderful at the Kansas Birding Festival. This event will be held at Wakefield, Kansas at the upper end of Milford Reservoir.

Have Fries - Will Travel!

The Adventures of a Veggie-Powered Car and an Eco-Rap Star



Have Fries - Will Travel! is an adventure story for children of all ages. It features "Rock," an eco-rap singer. Who buys "Tiny," a smelly diesel car, at a used car lot. Rock coverts Tiny to run on biodiesel.

About the Author

Linda K. Hempel is an environmental entrepreneur and educator who has spent over two decades teaching the public about caring for, restoring and preserving the environment.

About the Illustrator

Kathy Dotson is an artist and illustrator who recently illustrated Salmonid Savers, a children's book on salmon.

Get Ready for the Great Backyard Bird Count!



The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) returns for its ninth season February 17-20, 2006.

The National Audubon Society and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology encourage everyone to COUNT BIRDS WITH A BUDDY! Bird en-

thusiasts of all ages can share their love of birds with a friend, a child, a scout troop, a class, or a co-worker-opening new eyes to the joy of birding and the fun of creating a unique snapshot of winter bird abundance and distribution across the continent. Every pair of eyes is needed and every birdy counts, whether in a backyard, on a high-rise balcony, in a park, or on any of the 730 million acres of public lands. For more information, please visit www.birdsource.org/gbbc.

Resources

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

TEACH Toxicity and Exposure Assessment for Children's Health



EPA Launches Children's Environmental Health Database. In early November, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) launched a searchable database, called TEACH (Toxicity and Exposure Assessment for Children's Health), with over 1,400 references to chemicals that have the potential to affect children's environmental health. The database is designed to improve the information base related to children's environmental health risks by providing a listing and summary of scientific literature applicable to children's health risks due to chemical exposure." TEACH features a list of 16 different chemicals, including arsenic, vinyl chloride, and several pesticides. The database is at <http://www.epa.gov/teach/index.html>.

"Wildlife Migrants" Poster Series



The latest in the GPNC poster series is here! The "Wildlife Migrants" poster highlights 19 eye-popping photographs shot by GPNC Director Bob Gress of various species of wildlife that travel through the Great Plains during their annual migration cycles. Species such as the painted bunting, monarch butterfly, hoary bat, American white pelican, and common green darner are just a few examples of the animals that wing their way through the Great Plains every year enroute to their winter and summer homes. Their natural history stories are detailed on the back of the poster.

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 Tallgrass Prairie," "Wildlife of the Woodlands," and "Wildlife Success Stories."

As with the previous posters, The Coleman Company, Inc. sponsored this poster with a generous monetary contribution. 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.

Scholarship Opportunity to attend the American Wilderness Leadership School

The American Wilderness Leadership School (AWLS) (located near Jackson, Wyoming) is Accredited by the American Camping Association as a Conference Retreat Center and is offering six teacher sessions throughout the summer of 2006. Each session provides successful applicants with academic lectures, discussions, and challenging experiences in wildlife ecology, natural resource management and conservation, outdoor interpretive techniques, outdoor skills, Project WILD, and outdoor ethics. A registration fee of \$800 covers meals and lodging plus round trip transportation to and from the Jackson, WY airport.

The Kansas City Chapter of Safari Club International (KCSCI) is offering scholarships to cover registration fees for Northeast Kansas and Western Missouri teachers and outdoor educators to attend the leadership school. Additionally, KCSCI will donate a Safari in a Box to each teacher's school and reimburse for up to \$200 in travel expenses. To apply for a scholarship submit a completed application and a 500 word essay including a brief bio on your current teaching position and on how you and your students would benefit from your attendance prior to February 28, 2006. Send to Bryan Schanze, Kansas City Chapter of Safari Club International, 2912 W 72nd St, Prairie Village, KS 66208 or bschanze@kc.rr.com.

Visit <http://www.safariclubfoundation.org/education/awls/> for the application and more information about AWLS and <http://www.safariclubfoundation.org/sables/programs.htm> for information about the Safari in a Box.

Search the Online Environmental Education Community

Accessible through www.kacee.org, the Online EE Community gives organizational members the opportunity to develop, through an easy to use online form, a tool that will help others quickly and easily locate and access information about your programs, resources, training tools, educational events and more!

This is your one stop shop for information about Environmental Education organizations, programs and resources, jobs and events. While anyone can use the Online EE Community, only organizational members are able to input information.

We hope you find the KACEE web-site and Kansas Online EE Community to be easy to use, informative, and fun! Email Shari L. Wilson at swilson@kacee.org or Melissa Arthur at marthur@kacee.org with comments or questions.

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

Investigating Your Environment

Becoming a project facilitator

Presenting at a workshop or conference

Becoming a school or district liaison

Becoming a corporate sponsor

WILD Aquatic

Other (please specify): _____



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: _____



2610 Claflin Road
Manhattan, KS 66502-2743

Non-Profit
U. S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1
Manhattan, KS
66502



Printed on Recycled Paper