From the Executive Director:

I think that 2021, for many, began with the hope that we would get back to "normal" this year and that as an organization, KACEE would have more opportunities to see our environmental education community face to face. But if we've learned anything over the last couple of years, it's this--1) We have some challenges in our communities, our state and our country and there's work to be done, especially in improving equity and inclusion and in supporting the teachers and administrators in our schools and 2) Environmental educators are incredibly resilient, creative, resourceful, dedicated and ready to be part of the solutions. With masks in hand and making use of outdoor spaces, we were able to hold some face to face events and professional development opportunities. While smaller than our usual, all our amazing volunteers got together to host a water festival in Topeka for a little over 400 area fourth graders. It felt so good to hear the kids enjoying a beautiful day outside and learning about water in their lives.

In August of 2021, we were able to gather family and speakers with an amazing and diverse group joining online to celebrate the life of John Strickler, one of the founders of KACEE. I was honored and humbled to be able to speak along with several of the key and critical folks who had the fortune to be a part of John’s life and a big part of shaping KACEE. What I heard over and over again was John was a person who you could talk about anything with and if it happened outdoors, all the better. John had such an impact on KACEE, I cannot in the space here possibly convey the myriad of things John put into motion for KACEE, but suffice to say his touch is nearly everywhere. This quote from Nelson Henderson sums up John’s impact for me:

*The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.*

My wish for you all--get out there and plant your own trees!

And speaking of planting trees, I am so proud of the amazing board and staff of KACEE who have used their innovation and adaptability to continuously shift the way we do our work--finding ways to get together when we're able, finding ways to stay connected when we can't. The launch this year of our eeCredentials, our online conference, and our online awards event are great examples!

But we couldn't do what we do without all of you! From volunteering to doing activities with students, helping with professional learning, sharing your knowledge and expertise at the conference, celebrating the accomplishments of outstanding educators, making donations and more. We are deeply grateful for your support! Also, please continue to support our classroom teachers and administrators--they really need our support right now. Our gratitude to you all for being an integral part of EE in Kansas!

Laura Downey, Executive Director
2021 IMPACT
Environmental Education in Kansas by the Numbers

102,057 students participated in environmental education in Kansas in 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educators Trained in EE</th>
<th>Kansas Green Schools</th>
<th>EE Conference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>205</td>
<td>476</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formal &amp; Non-formal</td>
<td>Schools and 19 Districts</td>
<td>Educators, reaching 79,717 students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EE Awards</th>
<th>Colleges &amp; Universities</th>
<th>Topeka Water Festival</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educators and 1 Green School recognized to be honored in 2021 Awards Celebration</td>
<td>Engaged with the Kansas Green Schools Program</td>
<td>In a scaled back COVID safe in person event!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An email to Green Schools Coordinator, Rachel Wahle, from a Wichita School Science Teacher on the impact Kansas Green Schools has made on ONE student:

"I have to tell you about one of my Green Team Leaders. She rarely speaks to teachers or classmates and school is really hard for her. She gets a lot of interventions and is constantly being pulled from the classroom so it is hard for her to make those connections. She wrote a paragraph about why she wanted to be a Green Team Leader and was chosen. On the day I announced who was on the Green Team Leader program she came up to me afterwards and whispered in my ear, "I've never been picked for anything before!" Her eyes were glowing! I'm just so happy that she is connecting in a way that is making her feel safe and comfortable. When you were talking about being a leader today she was showing signs of anxiety but then calmed down when you talked about being a quiet leader. Thank you for that!"
2021 Financials

2021 Total Funding $419,526—Sources
- Grants: 26%
- State Partnerships: 45%
- Donations: 19%
- Events: 7%
- Workshops: 1%
- Other: 3%

2021 Total Expenses $323,012—Sources
- EE Workshops: 36%
- Kansas Green Schools: 12%
- Operations/Awards: 25%
- EE Conference & Projects: 27%
- Kansas Department of Health and Environment:
- Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks:

THANK YOU, PROGRAM SPONSORS
We felt very strongly about maintaining connections during this prolonged period of isolation, so we started a series of Virtual Monthly Events. These events are held once a month and designed to support: Networking; Developing partnerships and creating new relationships with individuals and organizations; Learning: Expanding knowledge of what environmental education is and can be. Examples include: Making Bee’s Wax Wraps, Black Farmers, Growing Herbs in Your Backyard and Student-Led Climate Work.

As the pandemic continued to limit our ability to interact with people in person, we got creative about connecting with folks who support our work and started making invitations to Virtual Coffee Chats. We mailed a KACEE mug, some donated coffee, and some local cookies, and invited folks to just join us for a conversation. We learned more about our supporters, what is important to them and shared KACEE’s recent work.

KACEE recognized 8 environmental educators and one Green School for the 2020/2021 Virtual Awards Celebration. We also recognized 3 individuals/organizations for the special award category, "The Pivot Award", and longtime environmental educator, Richard Mabion, for the surprise President’s Award.

The $831M that was allocated to schools in Kansas created a unique opportunity for environmental and outdoor learning as tools to address academic and socio-emotional health and wellbeing of students. KACEE worked with national partners to create guidance outlining four key strategies: outdoor classrooms, access to outdoor/nature-based field experiences, green schools and professional learning for teachers.

KACEE is partnering with Greenbush for the Kansas Green Schools Virtual Academy to provide guided, hands on, standards-based sustainability investigations, for “Green Leaders”. Green Leaders receive training on how to investigate Water, Energy, Waste, and School Environment, and then create action plans to help make our schools and communities more sustainable places for all!
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In Memoriam
John K. Strickler

Nancy Bolsen & Mary Kay Siefers
Whitney Damron
Larry Erikson
Richard & Martha Seaton
Kent & Sharon Smith
William & Mary Strickler

Thank you to Delia Lister for becoming KACEE’s first legacy donor!

Delia has included KACEE in her Will as a beneficiary in honor of her Grandma Louise and her Mentor, Cindy Ford.

Are you interested leaving a Legacy at KACEE? Contact Laura Downey at ldowney@kacee.org or 785-532-3322