

Saturday, September 9, 2006		KAEE Conference				
Time	Commonwealth Room	Thoroughbred Room	Twain Room	Texas Room	Parlor A	Parlor C
7:30 am	Registration opens, Continental Breakfast Buffet opens - Commonwealth Room					
8:00 am	KAEE Exhibit Fair and Silent Auction open in Derby Room – Mystery Table opens near registration area					
8:30 am	Opening Plenary Session - Commonwealth Room – Guest Speaker, Robert Lape, Kenton County Schools					
9:45 am	Weaving EE into Every Course	Introducing Environmental Issues with Literature	Growing, Growing, Gone: Population Resources	The Where and Why of Place	Getting to the Core of Elementary EE	Urban Ecology: An outreach program for disadvantaged youth
10:45 am						Swamps, Bogs and Marshes...OH MY!
11:45 am	KAEE Awards Luncheon – Commonwealth Room					
1:30 pm		The Song and Dance of Critters and Plants	What is EE Certification and how will it help my practice?	Experience the Smartroom Response System	Getting to the Core of Middle & High School EE	Biofuels and Schools
2:30 pm	Leave No Trace		Conversations That Matter			
3:15 pm	Networking Break – in Exhibit Area, Derby and Keeneland Rooms					
4:00 pm	Env. Monitoring - Using Real-Time Meteorological Climatological Data	Biosolids, Greasy Beans, Kids and Earthbox	Using the tools of the Commonwealth Water Education Project	Getting into Schools	Urban Forests	Using Digital Imagery to Enhance Environmental Inquiry
5:00 pm	Plenary Session - Commonwealth Room Silent Auction, KAEE Exhibit Fair, Mystery Table, and KAEE voting closes					
5:30 pm	Silent Auction Items Released – Conference Adjourns					
6:00 pm	Dinner with Friends – Old and New!					



*30 Years of Excellence in Environmental Education*

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY  
SEPTEMBER 8-9, 2006  
RADISSON HOTEL  
COVINGTON, KY**

# Kentucky Association for Environmental Education Conference



2006 Conference Schedule at a Glance	
<b>Friday, September 8, 2006</b>	
7:30 a.m.	Registration opens and continues throughout the day.
8:30 a.m.	Morning off-site workshops and all-day workshops depart hotel lobby.
Noon	Lunch at hotel.
1:00 p.m.	Afternoon workshops begin in hotel - off-site workshops depart from hotel lobby.
4:00 p.m.	KAEE Resource Fair, Silent Auction, and Mystery Table Opens
6:00 p.m.	KAEE 30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration opens in Bluegrass Ballroom Welcome from Julie Gee, KAEE President and Covington Mayor Butch Callery Dinner
8:00 p.m.	Billy B. – The Natural Science Song and Dance Man
<b>Saturday, September 9</b>	
7:30 a.m.	Registration opens Continental Buffet Breakfast opens – Commonwealth Room
8:00 a.m.	KAEE Exhibits and Silent Auction open in Derby and Keeneland Rooms
8:30 a.m.	Opening Plenary Session – Commonwealth Room Julie Gee, KAEE President – KAEE Into The Future Guest Speaker, Robert Lape, Facilities Director/Architect for Kenton Co. Schools <i>Integrating the Building as a Learning Tool</i>
9:30 a.m.	Adjourn to sessions
9:45 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions
10:45 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions
11:45 a.m.	KAEE Awards Luncheon – Commonwealth Room
1:30 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions
2:30 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions
3:15 p.m.	Networking Break - Derby and Keeneland Rooms
4:00 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions
5:00 p.m.	Silent Auction, Exhibits, Mystery Table close Voting for KAEE Board of Directors and Officers closes Closing Plenary Session – Commonwealth Room Kentucky Gift Basket drawing; Exhibit Exploration Experience drawing Mystery Table answers revealed KAEE election results announced Networking and time to plan for evening if staying over
5:30 p.m.	Silent Auction items released - Conference adjourns
6:00 p.m.	Dinner with Friends – Old and New!

Thanks to the 2006 Conference Committee  
for all their hard work and support

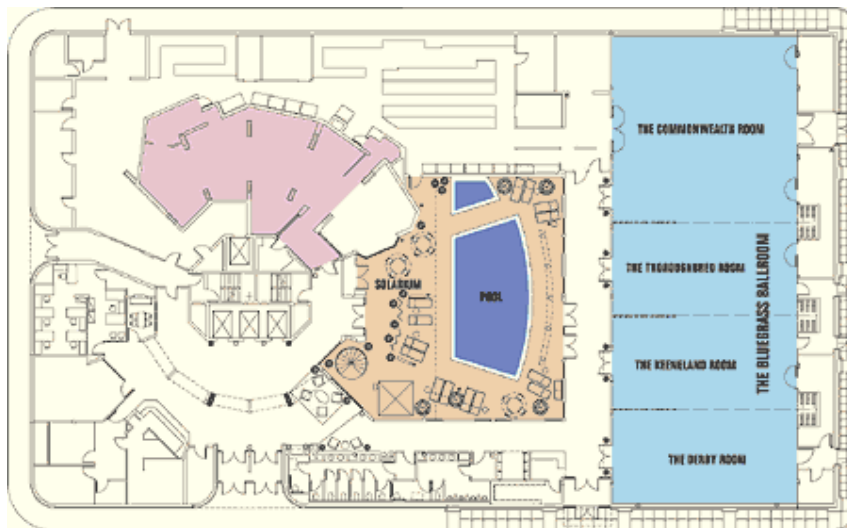
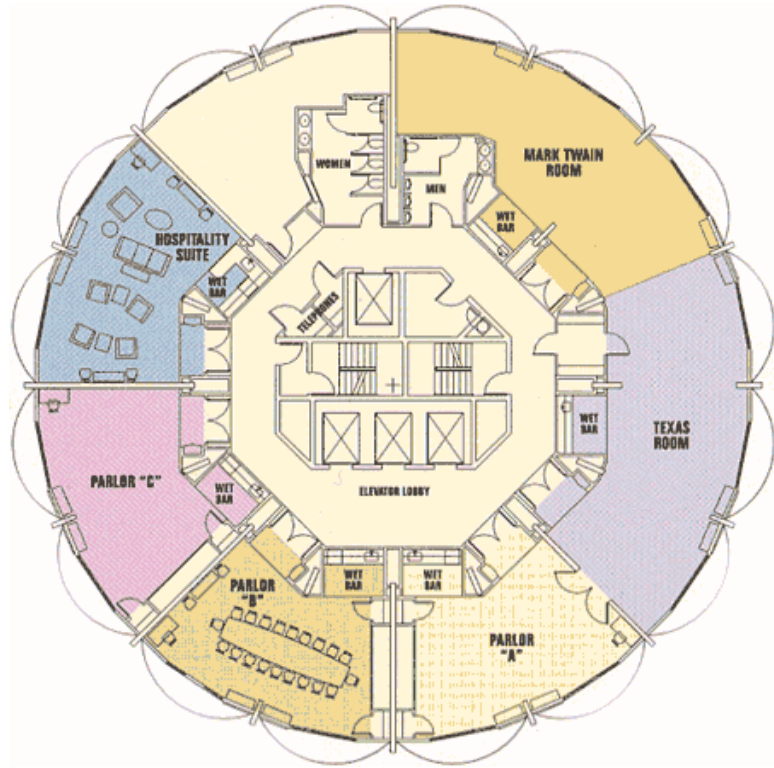
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Portia Brown<br>Simply Natural                                  | Cheryl Messenger<br>National Park Service        |
| Mary Kathryn Dickerson,<br>Boone-Campbell-Kenton Co. Cons Dists | Evelyn Morgan<br>USDA Forest Service             |
| Jane Eller<br>KEEC  | Cathy Neeley<br>East Kentucky Science Center     |
| Rosetta Fackler<br>Kentucky Division of Water                   | Pam Proctor<br>Kentucky NEED Project             |
| Julie Gee<br>Regional Science Resource Center                   | Karen Reagor<br>Kentucky NEED Project            |
| Reeda Hart<br>Retired Educator, Falmouth                        | Amy Sohner<br>Bluegrass PRIDE                    |
| Janet Kistler<br>Cub Run Elementary                             | Debra Spillman<br>Retired Educator, Glasgow      |
| Doug McCoy<br>Louisville Zoo                                    | Jennifer Turner<br>Kentucky Division of Forestry |
| Doug McLaren<br>UK - Dept of Forestry                           | Sherry Wheeler<br>Austin Tracy Elementary School |
| Yvonne Meichtry<br>Northern Kentucky University                 |  |

Many Hands Make Light Work!



Photo by Debra Spillman

## Radisson Hotel



## Welcome to the 2006 KAAE Conference!

### **KAAE**

#### **Executive Committee**

**President:** Julie Gee  
**Vice President:** Amy Sohner  
**Secretary:** Mary Kate Dickerson  
**Treasurer:** Doug McLaren

#### **Board of Directors**

##### **Seated Board Members through 2006**

Rosetta Fackler  
 Nancy Kiernan  
 Cheryl Messinger  
 Debra Spillman  
 Jennifer Turner  
 Sherry Wheeler

##### **Seated Board Members through 2007**

Portia Brown  
 Janet Kistler  
 Cathy Neeley  
 Steve Spencer

#### **Ex Officio Members**

Jane Eller, KEEC  
 Kate Shanks, EPPC

**Newsletter Editor:** Matt Coddington at  
[matt@MultiMatt.com](mailto:matt@MultiMatt.com)

#### **Membership Information**

KAAE  
 P.O. Box 17494  
 Louisville, KY 40217-0494

KAAE is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization of teachers, administrators, government and agency personnel, business and industry representatives, and private citizens interested in promoting environmental education. Visit us online at [www.kaee.org](http://www.kaee.org)

The Kentucky Association for Environmental Education (KAAE) is one of the country's oldest associations supporting environmental education and the first affiliate of the North American Association for Environmental Education. KAAE represents teachers, government, industry, parents, students---people who understand that each citizen should be able to make wise decisions concerning the environment, and to do that, they must be environmentally literate.

KAAE welcomes you to the 2006 conference, a celebration of 30 years of Excellence in Environmental Education. There will be many opportunities for you this weekend – opportunities to learn environmental education techniques and learn about other environmental education programs, as well as to receive free educational resources and meet new friends.

#### ***A special Thank You! to our supporters:***

**Acorn Naturalists**  
**Border's Books**  
**National Gardening Association**  
**USDA Forest Service –**  
**Daniel Boone National Forest**  
**Project Learning Tree**

**and the**  
**Northern Kentucky Convention &**  
**Visitor's Bureau**

## General Information

**Badges:** Your name badge is your passport to all conference activities. Please wear your name badge during the conference and return it to the registration area “Badge Box” before you leave so we can use it again.

**Annual Meeting:** The conference serves as the official annual meeting of the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education. Several activities throughout the conference will provide opportunities for members to learn more about the Association, as well as contribute ideas for the future.

**Elections:** Members will receive a ballot in their registration packet. Ballots must be placed in the Ballot Box located in the *Registration Area* by **5:00 p.m., Sat., Sept. 9**. Information about the nominees is available at the display on the Ballot Box table in the registration area.

**Evaluations:** Evaluation forms are in your registration packet. When you turn in your evaluation form, you will receive a ticket for the Kentucky Prize Basket drawing. The basket will be given away at the Saturday 5:00 p.m. plenary session in the Commonwealth Room. You must be present to win the basket. If you forget to turn in your evaluation, or must leave early, please mail it to KAEE, P.O. Box 17494, Louisville, KY 40217-0494. We really do value your input!

**Member Skills Survey:** You’ve Got Talent! Why not put your talents to work for KAEE? Many hands make light work, so don’t forget to fill out your KAEE Skills Survey and turn it in at the registration area by 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. When you do, you’ll receive a ticket to win the special Kentucky Prize Basket!

**Certificates of Participation for professional development:** Stop by the registration desk to have documents signed, or pick up a certificate

of participation. Participation certificates will be available at the conclusion of workshops on Friday or concurrent sessions on Saturday and will be signed by a KAEE designee, listing the hours you actually spent at the conference.

**Exhibits – Derby and Keeneland Rooms**  
Exhibits will be open Friday 4:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. and Saturday 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. An **Exhibit Exploration Experience** will lead you through the exhibit area. Complete the Exhibit Exploration Experience form in your registration packet and turn it in at the registration desk by 5:00 p.m. on Saturday to receive a ticket for the special exhibitor prize basket.

**Reuse and Recycle:** Containers are located in the registration area for paper, plastics, glass, and other items. If you receive items during the conference that you will not be able to use, drop them off in the **Reuse Me Box**. We’ll make sure they find their way to someone who can use them.

**Meeting Room Locations: Plenary Sessions and Meals – Commonwealth Room**  
The Commonwealth, Thoroughbred, Keeneland and Derby rooms are located on the main floor. The Texas, Twain, Parlor A, and Parlor C are located on 16<sup>th</sup> Floor. A map is printed in this program.

**Silent Auction - Derby Room.** Donations for the Silent Auction and raffle may be brought to the conference registration desk. Raffle tickets are available for purchase throughout the conference, but you must be present to win. For the Silent Auction, all you do is sign your name and your bid amount on the sheet next to the item. Check back often as other KAEE’ers will try to out-bid you! **Bidding closes at 5:00 p. m. SHARP on Sat.** Winning bids will be posted

**Quality Conference Vision Statement:** KAEE will consistently provide a quality conference that provides professional development benefits for educators with diverse experiences and needs.

### Quality Conference Vision Group Report

During the October 2005 strategic planning session, the KAEE conference was identified as an area in which we can showcase excellence in environmental education. A goal was set forth to consistently provide a quality conference that provides professional development benefits for educators with diverse experiences and needs.

The overall structure of the conference was reviewed, and it was decided to move to a Friday and Saturday conference format. Sunday field trips were replaced by Friday workshops that could be conducted either on-site or off-site to provide a wide array of learning experiences. Our conference is the one event each year in the state that offers environmental educators from all walks of life to gather. A Friday evening dinner and time built into the Saturday schedule were added to provide time for networking. Friday evening will feature special educational entertainment, especially this year as we celebrate KAEE’s 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Saturday morning opening and closing plenary sessions were also added to provide more time to build our environmental education community.

Many other small, but important changes were made in how we plan and prepare for our conferences. Like everything in life, some things will work better than others, and the board remains committed to changing, adjusting and revising things to make the conference an exceptional learning experience. Comments on all aspects of the conference are important to this continued effort to provide a quality conference that showcases Kentucky’s Excellence in Environmental Education.

## Partnerships & Networking Committee Report

This committee was formed to explore the vision of KAEE developing partnerships and networking opportunities with individuals, organizations or groups sharing in common missions for developing a sustainable environment through education. Our first brainstorming session occurred at the January board meeting. Some of the main strategies discussed and specific actions taken or planned:

1. Partner with appropriate agencies (ex. AWAKE) to make EE resources accessible to educators
  - a. Nancy Kiernan took the lead and this spring KAEE directors worked in partnership with AWAKE to begin populating the Nature Experiences Directory (NED) of sites of interest to educators. KAEE board members contributed information for the directory from their regions.
2. We also hope to create an events calendar on our web site, in partnership with nature-oriented organizations throughout the state. People could use this as a one-stop resource for finding activities and events. This is still in the planning stages and may be implemented through the Southeast Regional EE website.
3. Encourage membership retention and passion for EE.
  - a. Partnering with KUPEE to develop regional networks; we agreed to focus first on encouraging KUPEE to continue sending student teachers to conferences and work with KUPEE to retain student teachers in KAEE
4. Discussion of ways to broaden our scope to identify and seek out businesses and other organizations as partners to enhance financial, resource and expertise sharing has begun.

In the fourth quarter of 2006 our committee will refocus our efforts in light of the status of our partnerships with AWAKE/NED, KUPEE, and SE regional web resources.

**Professional Development Vision Statement:** KAEE will educate formal and non-formal teachers about the interdisciplinary and engaging nature of EE so that they can realize its educational benefits.

### Professional Development for Environmental Educators Group Report

During strategic planning brainstorming last fall, it became clear that KAEE needed to build professional development opportunities for environmental educators. KAEE already provides professional development through the annual conference. However, the conference is only once a year leaving few educational opportunities between conferences. Kentucky now has a certification program for environmental educators administered by the Kentucky Environmental Education Council. This is an excellent program, but once it is completed, there needs to be follow up workshops and programs so that certified educators can build on their skills.

KAEE has already responded to the need for professional development. This past year KAEE hosted a grant writing workshop and several outdoor classroom workshops. The attendance at these workshops proves there is a demand for professional development. In the coming year, KAEE will continue to analyze the need for certain topics to decide which types of workshops to offer. Note that board members may be calling on you to tell them what training you are interested in.

and items will be released after 5:30 p.m. Payment in the form of a check or cash (*No Credit Cards, sorry!*) is due when you pick up your items. You, or your authorized representative, must be present to pay for and claim your silent auction items. All proceeds from the auction and raffle go to support KAEE programs.

**Mystery Table:** The table is located in hallway near the registration area. Items from nature in Kentucky are displayed with a list of clues. Match the clue with the item to win a great prize. Bring your completed sheet to the Saturday 5:00 p.m. plenary session in the Commonwealth Room to discover the answers and claim your prize. Must be present to win.

**KAEE Boutique** – Visit the KAEE boutique in the registration area for great buys on shirts, note cards, pens, tote bags, books and other items. Help promote KAEE and show your support for Environmental Education. KAEE brochures for membership recruitment will be available free! Open Friday, noon – 6 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Closed during awards luncheon)

### Registration fee includes:

**Friday one-day:** Workshops, Lunch, KAEE Resource Fair, Dinner, Billy B. Concert, KAEE Anniversary Gift, 2007 KAEE Annual Membership.

**Saturday one-day:** Continental Breakfast, Concurrent Sessions, KAEE Resource Fair, Awards Luncheon, KAEE Anniversary Gift, 2007 KAEE Annual Membership.

**Two-day:** All of the above (Note: one anniversary gift and annual membership per registration).

## KAEE goes to Cave Country for 2007 Conference!

**Plan Ahead and Save 20% on the 2007 conference!** Put down a \$25 deposit on the 2007 conference, and receive a coupon good for 20% off next year's registration! (*You will receive a coupon to redeem with your registration, but will forfeit the deposit if you do not register for the 2007 conference.*)

So - Plan now to head for Cave City for the September 14 - 15, 2007 KAEE

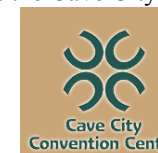
Conference. Friday will feature workshops, both on-site and off-site, for unique learning experiences.



Walkin' Jim Stoltz joins us from Montana. Walkin' Jim has walked the Appalachian Trail, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from Mexico to Canada long the Continental Divide

Trail, to name a few places. His miles now total more than 26,000 and along the way he has collected experiences, stories and songs that he shares through original songs and photography.

We'll center our conference at the Cave City Convention Center, conveniently located near many hotels. Conference details and rates will be published in early 2007. For more about the area, go to <http://www.cavecity.com/>.



In 2008, we head for Lake Cumberland State Resort Park. Put Friday & Saturday, Sept. 12 - 13, 2008 on your calendar now!

## Guest Speakers and Presenters

### Billy B - The Natural Science Song and Dance Man

For a quarter of a century Bill Brennan (a.k.a.



“Billy B.”) has electrified children, parents, and teachers alike with his exciting, unique style of environmental education and

entertainment. Billy B., a trained educator turned performer, uses songs and dances that he writes and choreographs to teach children of all ages about the wonders of natural science, ecology and the environment. Through his energetic performances, Billy B. teaches children the entire spectrum of environmental topics, from arthropods, alligators, and owls to complex scientific phenomena such as photosynthesis, pollination, the grinding of the earth’s tectonic plates, and erosion. In addition to teaching children environmental science through song and dance, Billy B. also teaches important values such as common courtesy, the need for rules at school, and getting along with people from his albums “When My Shoes are Loose” and “Staying Cool at School.” Additionally, he has a performance dedicated to teaching about the daily living skills of early Native Americans.

Billy B explains, “*Kids want to do two things, move and make noise. In my shows I make sure they have the opportunity to do so. I use gestures and sounds to elicit immediate as well as unsolicited participation. I love to teach them how to imitate the movements of an alligator or the call of an owl or to use an irresistible gesture to help them remember tricky vocabulary.*”

### Robert Lape – Facilities Director

Robert Lape is the Facilities Director/Architect for Kenton County Schools. Prior to this position, he practiced



architecture for 25 years. He is a past president of the Kentucky Society of Architects of the AIA. Currently he serves as Secretary/Treasurer of Kentucky Educational Facility Planners (KEFP), a chapter of the Council of Educational Facility Planners International (CEFPI). Mr. Lape was instrumental in initiating the concept of high performance sustainable design into the new Twenhofel Middle School and Caywood Elementary School at the Kenton County School District. These schools are integrating the “building as a learning tool” into the school’s curriculum.

Twenhofel Middle School has been submitted to the US Green Building Council for consideration as a LEED Silver Building. This will be the first K-12 LEED building in Kentucky and incorporates many high performance features including daylight harvesting, rainwater catchment, geothermal HVAC, and a 24 kw solar panel electric generation system. A key feature that enhances the student learning process is an innovative vital signs monitoring system that collects real time environmental data from hundreds of sensors and displays it interactively on various web pages for the school’s students to use as well as students worldwide.

### Treasurer’s Report – Submitted by Doug McLaren

Balance Forwarded January 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2006	\$21,234.38
INCOME	\$ 7,664.00
DISBURSMENTS	\$ 9,215.51
Balance at Hand August 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2006	\$19,682.87
Certificate of Deposit	\$15,646.61

Total balance as of August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006 \$35,329.48

### Newsletter Committee Report – Submitted by Kate Shanks

KAEE members are encouraged to submit articles for the newsletter. You do not have to be a member of the board of directors to write for the newsletter. We are eager to hear about EE programs in the classroom and in non-formal settings. Educators may want to spotlight a classroom or group of students that are learning about the environment. Members can submit pictures of outdoor classrooms. They can also submit articles recognizing other educators work on EE. Members may want to share their experience with a new field trip, environmental education curriculum and Web site. Submissions are due on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January, April, July and October. Submit to Kate Shanks at [kate.shanks@ky.gov](mailto:kate.shanks@ky.gov).

### Awards Committee Report

The awards committee received a number of nominations for environmental education awards this year. From these, a winner was chosen for Individual, Organizational, and Program Award. The quality of programs and the work being conducted throughout the state was and is very impressive. The Awards Committee reminds all members that outstanding efforts in environmental education should be recognized and nominations may be made at any time throughout the year. You may even submit the name of a worthy person, group, or activity that deserves recognition before you leave the conference this weekend!

### KAEE Membership Committee Report

#### Long Range Plan for 2005 – 2006

During the KAEE Board Retreat – Friday & Saturday October 21 - 22, 2005, members completed and discussed the OAT Assessment and Strategic Planning model. KAEE’s mission is “to build a sustainable environment through education”. That lead to the question, “How can KAEE build toward a sustainable (Kentucky) environment through education within the next 7 years?”. Three vision statements came from the subsequent conversations. The following three vision statements and year end reports are listed below.

**Partnerships & Networking Vision Statement:** KAEE will develop partnerships and networking opportunities with individuals, organizations or groups sharing in KAEE’s common mission for developing a sustainable environment through education.

## KAEE Business Meeting September 9, 2006

**President's Report**  
**September 12, 2005 – September 30, 2006**  
**Submitted by Julie Gee, KAEE President**

This has been a busy, productive and direction changing year for KAEE. The year started with the Board of Director's annual retreat. This year's retreat was unique in that we had an outside professional working with us to develop a strategic plan for KAEE. Prior to the retreat, all board members were asked to fill out the Organizational Assessment Tool (OAT). The OAT provides environmental education leaders with a tool to comprehensively review the major aspects of internal organizational development. It is also a tool which can be used to increase organizational effectiveness.

One result of completing the OAT was that it forced us to look at our mission statement with fresh eyes. According to the KAEE bylaws, our mission is to **build a sustainable Kentucky environment through education**. The board ultimately had to answer the following question: *How can KAEE build a sustainable Kentucky environment through education in 7 years?* There were 82 responses to the question. These responses had to be narrowed down and finally resulted in the development of three positive statements about what we will try to accomplish in the next 7 years—our vision:

1. KAEE will consistently provide a quality conference that provides professional development benefits for educators with diverse experiences and needs.
2. KAEE will develop partnerships and networking opportunities with individuals, organizations or groups sharing KAEE's common mission for developing a sustainable environment through education.
3. KAEE will educate teachers about the interdisciplinary and engaging nature of EE so that they can realize its educational benefits.

Since the development of these vision statements, the Board of Directors has been working on action plans to achieve these visions. During the past year, KAEE has achieved the following actions: sponsored five Outdoor Classroom Workshops and one Grant Writing Workshop (with partial funding from the Kentucky Environmental Education Council); offered three Get Away Days; improved many components of the annual conference; refined our membership database and renewal structure. The Board of Directors continue to strive toward achieving the goals of our strategic plan. This will be an ongoing process.

It has been an exciting year for KAEE! After you read the above vision statements, does one of them hit home for you? Would you like to help us achieve our goals? We want our members involved and would love to have your assistance. Please don't hesitate to contact me or any board member if you would like to help!

## KAEE Excellence in Environmental Education Awards



Individual Award  
**Evelyn Morgan**  
USDA Forest Service

When an educator goes above and beyond the call of duty and truly makes a difference in a child's life they deserve special recognition. Every year, the Kentucky Association of Environmental Education (KAEE) recognizes an outstanding individual for making a contribution in environmental education. This year's recipient is Evelyn Morgan.

Evelyn has been involved in environmental education since 1983. She has consistently given of her time to the field of EE and is an mentor for other environmental educators.

Evelyn served in a lead role in aligning Project Learning Tree to the Kentucky state standards and is also a facilitator for all the national projects. She has raised public awareness about environmental education by being instrumental in creating many educational tools for teachers to use in their classrooms.

She was involved in starting the Terrific Trees project in Rowan County, which involved hands-on learning for all 4<sup>th</sup> graders in the county.

Evelyn's dedication to the field of EE and her unwavering commitment, make her the ideal recipient for this year's environmental educator of the year award.

### Program Award

**Louisville Science Center**  
"The World Around Us"



The Louisville Science Center has been selected the Kentucky Association of Environmental Education's (KAEE) outstanding program of the year for their "World Around Us" exhibit. "The World Around Us" is a 8,000 square-foot exhibit that explores Kentucky's diverse environment.

The exhibit begins with a floating globe that introduces students to land, air and water. A large screen depicting panoramic views of Kentucky will astound visitors. From here students may visit the three main rooms of the exhibit—Aquasphere, Atmosphere, and Terrasphere.

The Aquasphere allows students to manipulate marbles as they make their way through a water cycle that flows through rural and urban landscapes. The Atmosphere exhibit allows students to navigate through a hole in the ozone layer over Mount St. Helens. The Terrasphere enables students to explore the earth. This exhibit explores how the loss of the wolf from the state affects the deer population.

"The World Around Us" at the Louisville Science Center engages students in contemplating their role in protecting our environment. It enhances critical thinking, problem solving, and decision-making skills in order to inspire students to protect our precious natural resources. For their contribution in producing this inspiring work, the Louisville Science Center was selected the KAEE program of the year.



Organization Award  
**American Cave  
Conservation Assoc.**

The American Cave Conservation Association (ACCA) has been selected as this year's recipient of the Kentucky Association of Environmental Education's (KAEE) Organization of the Year. Each year, KAEE recognizes an outstanding organization for making a contribution in environmental education. The ACCA, with its multitude of programs, is a model for raising public awareness about environmental education.

Both students and the general public are educated about environmental issues in the local community through tours of the Hidden River Cave. The story of the cave and its remarkable clean up, incorporated with the tour, enables visitors to learn about how human behavior impacts the karst landscape and how that behavior can be changed.

The ACCA has also developed numerous environmental projects. Each year the ACCA sponsors a sinkhole cleanup in the local area. Furthermore, the ACCA publishes a quarterly magazine, *American Cave*, which regularly features conservation stories.

The American Cave Conservation Association is truly a model organization for other environmentalists to follow. Their dedication on behalf of caves and the karst landscape in their area has made a difference to the local environment. For their contributions, The American Cave Conservation Association has been selected the KAEE 2006 organization of the year.

**PLT Outstanding Facilitator Award**

**Belinda Smith**  
KY Division of Forestry



Every year the Kentucky Association of Environmental Education allows the Kentucky Project Learning Tree Steering Committee to honor its Outstanding Facilitator at the KAEE Conference.

The 2005 Facilitator of the Year is Belinda Smith. Belinda is a ranger for the Kentucky Division of Forestry. She works in Green County and helps Campbellsville University at their Clay Hill Memorial Outdoor Center.

Belinda conducted 3 workshops during the past year and has another one set for September 16, 2006. She not only brings PLT to teachers in her community but she's been showing volunteer fire fighters how to use PLT activities to teach fire education when they go to classrooms. Fifty volunteer fire fighters have committed to taking a PLT workshop from her in 2007.

Belinda is a true advocate of environmental education and she infuses PLT into many aspects of her daily work. It is with great pride that the Kentucky PLT Steering Committee honors Belinda Smith as our 2005 Facilitator of the Year.

**Thirty Years of Excellence in Environmental Education**

The recorded history of Environmental Education in Kentucky, or Conservation Education as it was known then, goes back to the early 1940's. KAEE's formal history starts on May 7 & 8, 1976, when the Kentucky Environmental Education Conference was held near Bardstown, Ky. During this conference, a recommendation was made to form a statewide association for Environmental Education. On July 30, 1976, the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education (KAEE) was formally organized. Committees met throughout the summer and the first full meeting of the steering committee was held on Nov. 15, 1976.

The first KAEE conference was held Feb. 25 & 26, 1977, in the University of Kentucky Student Center at Lexington. Stuart Udall was the featured speaker and Steven Van Matre closed the conference with his "Sunship Earth" program.

On Oct. 13, 1978, KAEE joined with the Kentucky Association for Progress in Science and the Kentucky Council for Social Studies to co-host a conference "Energy, Environment, & Society" at Northern Kentucky University. The Kentucky Area Environment and Energy Resource (KAEER) Fair was held in 1979, co-sponsored by KAEE and the Energy Conservation Plan. A conference has been held each year, along with special workshops, Earth Day events, Green Weekends, and more recently, Get Away Days, to bring members together to learn and share their knowledge and experience. Members joined together in 1989 and 1990 to support the establishment of the Kentucky Environmental Education Council and in 2000, to lobby for the adoption and

funding of Land, Legacy and Learning, the state's environmental education plan.

The Association has functioned primarily as a volunteer organization throughout the years. In 1996 KAEE hired an Executive Director, Karen Reager, for 10 hours a week. The position was discontinued in 2002. The Association continues to employ a part-time Membership Coordinator, Newsletter Editor and Web Master.

KAEE joined the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) as the first state affiliate in 1986. In 2001, KAEE received the NAAEE Affiliate of the Year award. Three former KAEE presidents have gone on to serve as NAAEE presidents - David Wicks, Terry Wilson, and Joe Baust - more than any other state association in North America.

In 1989, KAEE published "This Uncommon Opportunity - An Environmentally Literate Citizenry." The forward reads in part, "Problems of the environment span international, national, regional, and local sectors. Comprehensive educational programs are needed to inform all citizens of the basic concepts dealing with man's living harmoniously with his environment. The end result should be a better life for all of us."

Over the past 30 years, KAEE has grown through friendships, partnerships, and the hard work of hundreds of volunteers. It is important for us to look back into our history -- to celebrate our accomplishments and honor the work of the many people who have brought us to this place in time.

in an interactive setting. The Smartroom system is an interactive real-time response system that enhances student/instructor feedback and assures participation within the classroom.

### **Urban Forestry Education**

**Program (4:00 – 4:45 p.m.)**

**Presenter:** Esther Cruz Moberly, Bluegrass PRIDE, Lexington, KY **Parlor “A”**

**Session Abstract:** Forests are a far away place for many city citizens. In an effort to increase knowledge and appreciation for forests, especially urban forests, an Urban Forestry Education program has been developed by the Fayette County Conservation District. We will go over each section of the program, including, What is an urban forest?, What are the benefits of an urban forest?, Who lives in the forest?, and What can we do to protect our urban forests?.

### **Biosolids, Greasy Beans, Kids and the Earthbox (4:00 – 4:45 p.m.)**

**Presenters:** Cheryl Bersaglia, Jefferson Co. Soil & Water Conservation District, Louisville, KY and Molly Philbin, The Earthbox, Scranton, PA - **Thoroughbred Room**

**Session Abstract:** This session will demonstrate to educators how Kennedy Metro Alternative Middle School used the Earthbox as part of its science curriculum, particularly the teaching of the scientific method. Educators will learn how the Earthbox will be used at the school to begin annual food production by the students. Teachers will be provided with ideas and activities, as well as how to use and obtain Earthbox materials and available curricula for their classroom.

## Come join KAAEE members at the 2006 NAAEE conference!

Mark your calendars! October 10-14, 2006, St. Paul, MN

We're celebrating the 35th anniversary of NAAEE's conferences! The EE profession has much to offer society. In striving for standards of excellence in our work, we must connect with a wider circle of people to win broader support for EE. To do so, we must demonstrate our relevance to today's challenges in both our education system and natural resource conservation. The 2006 conference will examine the best of what EE has to offer in meeting those challenges and how we integrate EE concepts into all aspects of society.

NAAEE's 35th Annual Conference will be a gathering of over 1,000 educators in Minnesota, at the headwaters of two major water systems, Red River of the North and the Mississippi River, as well as the highest point of the Great Lakes. Our focus will be the role that environmental educators play in bringing together the many segments of society to create a more healthy, equitable, and sustainable world. Surrounded by the "land of 10,000 lakes," our conversations naturally will often revolve around water issues, among other aspects of the natural and built environment.

Check out their web site at [www.naaee.org](http://www.naaee.org) for more information.



## Friday Sessions

### Morning (8:30 a.m. – Noon)

**Thomas More College Biology Field Station on the Ohio River** (Transportation furnished) Thomas More College Biology Field Station on the Ohio River is a 25-acre research station along the banks of the Ohio River in Campbell County, KY. During the session, participants will learn about the history of the Ohio River, the field station, and experience hands-on science activities that are offered to grade schools. The session includes a walking tour of the field station and a short boat ride, pending weather, near the Field Station with an emphasis on the power plants located nearby. **Presenter:** Dr. Chris Lorentz, Thomas More College

### **Journey of a Drop of Water at Sanitation District #1** (Carpool from hotel, no parking fees)

Learn how to increase student retention of material by using an outdoor learning environment that integrates many school subjects. Join us as we follow the *Journey of a Drop of Water* at Sanitation District No. 1's nationally recognized outdoor environmental education center: Public Service Park. You will learn how to bridge the gap between your classroom and the real world in order to evoke a change of behavior in your students. Learn how to utilize the District's free educational resources that are aligned with Kentucky's Core Content. Each attendee will receive the District's award winning environmental unit, a student Waterlog Workbook, an interactive *Journey of a Drop of Water* field notebook, a walking tour of Public Service Park and more! **Presenter:** Jamie Eggemeyer, Sanitation District #1

### Afternoon (1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

#### **Kentucky's Green and Healthy Schools Program** (Radisson Hotel)

Would you and your students like to win a Green and Healthy School Flag for your school? Learn about a new program to help students and teachers assess the health and sustainability of their schools and conduct improvement projects based on their findings. At this three hour workshop, we will describe the project, how to get signed up and how it helps students learn about the environment while preparing for the CATS test. **Presenters:** Jane Eller and Laura Lang, Kentucky Environmental Education Council

#### **GPS/GIS/Geocaching – you have heard about it, now participate in it!** (Radisson Hotel)

GPS (Global Positioning System) is a new technology that is being incorporated into every facet of our lives. Be part of this hands-on workshop that will show how you can incorporate GPS into your formal and non-formal classroom settings. GPS helps you find your location and GIS (Geographic Information System) is an electronic decision maker. Geocaching is just plain FUN! After a short slide presentation, participants will be guided to the field with the GPS units in hand to gather data in the units and then return and download the data into computers to see how the information can be incorporated into math and science opportunities. Be prepared to walk as we go on a geocach "find" in Covington that will explore the social studies opportunities for learning about this German settlement. **Presenter:** Doug McLaren, University of Kentucky School of Forestry

### **Expeditionary Based Education**

(Transportation furnished. All canoe/kayak equipment supplied with workshop.)

On a canoe trip on the Licking River, you will discover how you can use a paddling trip on local waterways to teach and reinforce knowledge of many disciplines. After a comprehensive safety briefing that includes basic paddling instruction, participants will paddle a canoe or kayak (your choice) on the Licking River. The trip will cover the last three miles of the river where it forms the border between Newport and Covington. Along the way, we'll discuss the expeditionary concept and demonstrate how to incorporate various academic disciplines into a paddling trip.

Presenters: Jim Thaxton, Three Rivers District Health Department and Ann Thaxton, Thaxton's Canoe Trails, Inc.

### **The ORSANCO River Education Center: At the Confluence of Learning and Exploring**

(Carpool to Newport - no parking fee. Or city bus - \$2.)

On board this floating classroom for the Ohio River, you will get to sample activities from the River Education Center's "Pollution Detectives" curriculum for high school students. Four stations offer a variety of experiences-Water Quality; Aquatic Biota; Navigation, Impacts; and Land Use and Watersheds. This session will culminate with a short voyage on the Ohio River to learn general information about pollution issues in the Ohio River. Presenter: Heather Mayfield and on-board educators, ORSANCO Educational Foundation.

### **Let's Talk Tanks**

(Carpool to Newport - parking \$3. Or city bus - \$2.)

Keeping an aquarium in your classroom opens up a world of opportunities, whether it be for freshwater, saltwater or terrestrial organisms. Participants will learn about the basic steps involved in setting up a freshwater aquarium. We will discuss the nitrogen cycle and proper procedures involved in cycling a tank in preparation for animals. In addition to talking about aquatic organisms, we will also discuss other ways an aquarium can be used for terrestrial organisms in the classroom. A visit behind the scenes at Newport Aquarium will allow us to compare and contrast small freshwater aquariums to large aquariums.

Presenters: Julie Uffman, WAVE Foundation, Newport Aquarium; and Cyndi Etsler, NSSDC.

### **All Day (8:30 a.m. – 4:00/4:30 p.m.)**

#### **Learning about our local treasures: Big Bone Lick State Park and Split Rock Conservation Park** (Transportation furnished)

Big Bone Lick State Park, the birthplace of American Vertebrate Paleontology, features a new visitor-interpretive center and resident bison herd. Split Rock, located at the confluence of Woolper Creek and the Ohio River, provides a rare view of the glacial history of Northern Kentucky. This unique outdoor facility offers educational programs that include local ecology, geology, archaeology and history of the local area while stressing the need to conserve these valuable local resources for our community. You'll hike the trails in the outdoor classroom that provide access to the natural features and learning stations in the park. Presenter: Mark Jacobs, Boone & Kenton County Conservation Districts.

### **Strand: EE in Practice**

Sessions focus on innovative learning strategies, professional development opportunities, new directions and research in EE, and unique methods of making learning about the environment relevant to students and teachers of all ages.

#### ***Urban Ecology: An Outreach Program for Disadvantaged Youth***

*(9:45 – 10:30 a.m.)*

**Presenter:** Roberta M. Burnes, The Arboretum, State Botanical Garden of KY, Lexington, KY - **Parlor "C"**

**Session Abstract:** Urban Ecology uses environmental education to reinforce KERA core content in science for 4<sup>th</sup> graders in several "at-risk" schools in Lexington, KY. The goal of Urban Ecology is to reinforce KERA core content in science for 4<sup>th</sup> graders in the months leading up to their spring assessment.

#### ***Growing, Growing, Gone: A Population and Resources Lesson Plan***

*(9:45 – 11:30 a.m.)*

**Presenter:** Joan Horn, Population Connection, Yellow Springs, OH – **Twain Room**

**Session Abstract:** Engage in interdisciplinary, hands-on activities that examine limits to growth in a finite world, and explore the role that population stabilization plays in achieving a sustainable society.

In this hands-on workshop, participants will explore innovative ways to teach students about population growth trends, natural resource use and a concept vital to biology and environmental science carrying capacity. Presented activities match state and national content standards. Free activities on CD-Rom!

#### ***The Where and Why of Place***

*(9:45 – 11:30 a.m.)*

**Presenter:** Scott Dobler, Kentucky Geographic Alliance, Bowling Green, KY – **Texas Room**

**Session Abstract:** Global position systems (GPS), Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and other geographic concepts will be introduced in this hands-on session. After the introduction, participants will be loaned a GPS and will go outdoors on a short introductory field experience. Following the field experience, participants will apply the five themes to the unique area that they are experiencing and relate it to the other scientific strands of their teaching experience.

#### ***The Song and Dance of Critters and Plants with Billy B*** *(1:30 – 3:15 p.m.)*

**Presenter:** Billy B., Brooklyn, NY –

#### **Thoroughbred Room**

**Session Abstract:** In this session, Billy will present his techniques for creating songs, dances and audience participatory routines that teach natural science concepts. He will discuss and demonstrate the different material needed to reach the four levels of children he performs for - preschool, primary elementary, upper elementary and middle school. Participants can expect to do some moving and grooving and impromptu creating of rhymes, rhythms, stories and songs.

#### ***Experiencing the Smartroom Response System*** *(1:30 – 3:15 p.m.)* **Texas Room**

**Presenters:** Doug McLaren, Stephanie Jenkins, and, Amanda Abnee Gumbert, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

**Session Abstract:** Join us for the "Smartroom" system. Come and learn about how to evaluate your classroom activities with some new interactive technology. You can evaluate what your students know in a short amount of time

**LEAVE NO TRACE: The national  
“Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics”**

**program (2:30 – 3:15 p.m.)**

**Presenter:** Zeb Weese and NoelleTheres,  
Natural Bridge State Park, Kentucky State  
Parks - **Commonwealth Room**

**Session Abstract:** This program will focus on the “Seven LNT Principles” as defined by the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics. We will discuss how to enjoy the outdoors without degrading the environment. We’ll start with a presentation discussing the LNT Principles, followed by a hands-on session with demonstration of tents, backpacking equipment, low impact campfires, and other features.

**Environmental Monitoring Using Real-  
Time Meteorological/Climatological Data  
(4:00 -4:45 p.m.)**

**Presenter:** Scott Dobler, Kentucky Mesonet,  
Bowling Green, KY – **Commonwealth Room**

**Session Abstract:** The Kentucky Mesonet is designed to monitor and record real-time meteorological/climatological information in the state. Environmental educators will be introduced to Mesonet educational materials for classroom and research interests. One goal of the Kentucky Mesonet is to provide high quality data to educators that are interested in environmental monitoring of real-time meteorological/climatological data.

**Using the Tools of the Commonwealth  
Water Education Project from  
Kindergarten to Kiwanis Clubs  
(4:00 - 4:45 p.m.)**

**Presenters:** Jane Eller, Kentucky  
Environmental Education Council, Frankfort,  
KY; and Rosetta Fackler, Kentucky Division of  
Water, Frankfort, KY – **Twain Room**

**Session Abstract:** The Commonwealth Water  
Education Project has produced numerous  
educational tools specific to Kentucky. In this

session, we will view many of the new CWEP products including parts of the documentary, the electronic fieldtrip to a watershed and the print ads. We will provide copies of the media products as well as discuss how they can be used with a variety of age groups.

**Conversations That Matter  
(2:30 – 3:15 p.m.) - Twain Room**

**Presenters:** Rosetta Fackler, KY Division of  
Water, Frankfort, KY; and, Joe Mitchell, CP,  
Cathedral Heritage Foundation, Louisville, KY

**Session Abstract:** “There is no more powerful  
way to initiate change in the world than to  
convene a conversation. It is always like this.

*Real change begins with the simple act of  
people talking about what they care about.”*

*Margaret Wheatley* - This session will acquaint participants with a discussion course that provides an enjoyable, supportive setting in which to examine personal values and habits, engage in stimulating discussion, and make personal changes if desired. Session will outline the process for setting up a CTM group.

**Using Digital Imagery to Enhance  
Environmental Inquiry (4:00 - 4:45 p.m.)**

**Presenters:** Melinda Wilder, Division of  
Natural Areas, Eastern Kentucky University  
(EKU), and William Bennett, Center for  
Environmental Education ECU, Richmond,  
KY – **Parlor “C”**

**Session Abstract:** As teachers are facing the increasing inclusion of technology in the classroom, they are challenged to find compatible ways to integrate technology and environmental education. This presentation will describe use of digital imagery to enhance student environmental investigations in biodiversity. This presentation describes a workshop held at Eastern Kentucky University’s environmental education laboratory in which teachers learned to use digital cameras as well as motion-activated cameras to study biodiversity.

**Building a Wetland**

(Transportation furnished)

In this workshop, you will “learn by doing.” You will actually construct a wetland habitat at a local school. Be prepared to work! Session includes site selection and design, equipment and materials considerations, seeding and planting vegetation (native vs. exotic species), woody debris placement for Herpetofauna, avian nesting structures and bat roosting boxes, and an introduction to Project Webfoot activities. Includes a tour of the first LEED Certified School in Kentucky. Presenters: Tom Biebighauser, USDA Forest Service and Sharon Cross and Beth Davis, Twenhofel Middle School.

**ENVIROTHON!**

(Transportation furnished to Campbell County  
Environmental Education Center –  
indoor/outdoor facility)

Envirothon is a competitive, problem-solving, natural resources experience for students in grades 9 - 12. Teams of five students are tested on their knowledge of Kentucky’s natural resources at five “in the field” test stations: soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatics, and a current environmental issue (2007 issue is alternative/renewable energy). This session will help teachers and resource professionals prepare their teams by learning rules and regulations, how to put together a team, and what is expected at the Regional & State Competition. Session will include practice test involving all five sections with instructions and demonstrations from each testing site. Presenters include: Martin Bess and Mark Davis, Ky. Div. of Conservation; Jennifer Turner, Ky. Div. of Forestry; Paulette Akers, Ky. Div. of Water; Venita Bright, Ky. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Resources; and Karen P. Reagor, NEED Project.

2006 Exhibitors

Daniel Boone National Forest

Jefferson Memorial Forest

KY Department of Fish & Wildlife  
Resources

KY Division of Air Quality

Ohio River Foundation

Project Learning Tree

Simply Silver

## Saturday Session Strands

### Strand: Journey into EE

Sessions to help those who are beginning work or currently working in the field of EE and want to learn more about alignment to KERA and NAAEE standards, environmental education ethics, and ways to refresh their teaching skills.

#### *Weaving Environmental Education into Every Course (9:45-11:30 a.m.)*

**Presenter:** Sean Elkins, KY Department of Education, Frankfort, KY - **Commonwealth**  
**Session Abstract:** This session will assist teachers of traditional courses in incorporating the environmental standards contained in Kentucky's Education Standards into their traditionally non-environmental courses. Participants will break into grade or content-alike groups to actively construct units or course syllabi that incorporate the identified content standards in meaningful and seamless ways.

#### *Introducing Environmental Issues with Literature (9:45 – 11:30 a.m.)*

**Presenter:** Venita Bright, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Frankfort, KY – **Thoroughbred Room**  
**Session Abstract:** Need a new way to grab the students' interest in an environmental topic? Try literature. Nature lurks between the covers of many books; let's explore which might be a good fit for your environmental unit. Teachers will review several books at various reading levels. They will choose a book, write a plan for incorporating it into an existing environmental lesson, and will develop a journal entry prompt based on the book they choose. Materials will be provided to make a journal.

#### *Getting to the “Core” of Elementary EE (9:45 – 11:30 a.m.)*

**Presenters:** Yvonne Meichtry, (NKU); Reeda Hart, NKU Center for Integrative Natural Sciences & Mathematics; and Cecilia Baker, NKU Center for Environmental Education. - **Parlor “A”**  
**Session Abstract:** Experience a new perspective for using PLT, LEP, FLP & other project-based curriculum to teach the core content/standards across the curriculum. Copies of “best lessons” complete with standards addressed, objectives, procedures, assessment ideas, and a resource list will be made available to participants. This session is for teachers, school administrators, and non-formal educators who work with elementary-aged students.

#### *What is EE Certification and how will it help my practice? (1:30 – 2:15 p.m.)*

**Presenter:** Jane Eller, Kentucky Environmental Education Council, Frankfort, KY - **Twain Room**  
**Session Abstract:** Kentucky now has 68 people who are certified environmental educators, with 18 more currently enrolled in the program. Come join us to learn more about this exciting and ground breaking endeavor. In this session, we will describe the advantages of becoming certified, and the actual process. Participants will also take the self-assessment, which is based on the National Guidelines for the Preparation and Professional Development

of Environmental Educators. An activity representative of those used in the program will be used to demonstrate how the activities are designed to teach the standards.

#### *Getting to the “Core” of Middle School & High School EE (1:30 – 3:15 p.m.)*

**Presenters:** Yvonne Meichtry, NKU, Highland Heights, KY; Cliff Hart and Pat Brownfield, Phillip Sharp Middle School, Pendleton County; Lynne Poston, Summit View Middle School, Kenton County; and Julie Whitis, Simon Kenton High School, Kenton County - **Parlor “A”**  
**Session Abstract:** Experience a new perspective for using PLT, LEP, FLP & other project-based curriculum to teach the core content/standards across the curriculum. Copies of “best lessons” complete with

standards addressed, objectives, procedures, assessment ideas, and a resource list, will be made available to participants. This session is geared towards teachers, school administrators, and non-formal educators who work with middle school or high school students.

#### *Getting Into Schools (4:00 – 4:45 p.m.)*

**Presenter:** Maxine B. Rudder, Bluegrass PRIDE, Lexington, KY – **Texas Room**  
**Session Abstract:** One of the obstacles faced by Environmental Educators is developing connections with classroom teachers. “Getting Into Schools” will focus on sharing ideas, activities, and plans for developing and maintaining these connections. This session will be an opportunity for both groups to discuss their concerns and areas where they can collaborate to benefit the schools, students, and the environment.

### Strand: Environmental Literacy

Sessions to give participants an in-depth look at content related to environmental issues to improve education about environmental issues and topics.

#### *Swamps, Bogs, and Marshes...OH MY! How to bring wetlands alive and into the classroom. (10:45 - 11:30 a.m.)*

**Presenters:** Bronwyn Mitchell and Karleen Vollherbst, Environmental Concern Inc., St. Michaels, MD - **Parlor “C”**  
**Session Abstract:** Wetlands are powerful and accessible teaching tools. Learn how to bring wetlands alive and into the classroom and across the curriculum with hands-on activities, direct exploration and the creation of schoolyard wetland habitats. The presentation will introduce participants to wetland ecology utilizing a variety of hands-on activities taken from the WOW! The Wonders of Wetlands curriculum guide, a recommended resource by both NAAEE and NSTA and its new

companion curriculum POW! The Planning of Wetlands, a guide to schoolyard habitats.

#### *Biofuels and Schools (1:30 – 3:15 p.m.)*

**Presenter:** Elizabeth Robb, KY Division for Air Quality, Frankfort, KY - **Parlor “C”**  
**Session Abstract:** Curious about the buzz surrounding biofuels? Learn biodiesel and ethanol basics – what they are and their potential impact on air quality, human health, and our energy future. Discover opportunities for your school to minimize health impacts from diesel fuel (from grants to initiatives). Geared primarily for teachers of grades 6-12 and non-formal educators.