

Summer 2016

# KEEC Legacy

A newsletter of the Kentucky Environmental Education Council

## **In This Issue**

### **KEEC Events**

- [Bring your friends and co-workers to the Earth Day event in Frankfort on April 21](#)
- [Register by April 15 for the 2016 KGHS and KY NEED Youth Summit and Awards Luncheon](#)
- [Register by May 11 for the "Kentucky Academic Standards and EE Connections" workshop series](#)
- [Register by June 10 for the "STEAMing up the Classroom with Water Education" workshop](#)
- [Apply now for the 2016-17 Professional Environmental Educator Certification course](#)

### **KEEC News**

- [KEEC mourns the passing of Council Vice Chair Cheryl Messenger](#)
- [Spotlight on Council Chairman Horace Brown](#)
- [KEEC thanks Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Kentucky for \\$9500 EE certification course grant](#)
- [Congratulations to Kentucky's newest Master Environmental Educators](#)
- [It's not too late to apply for recertification through the pilot Reinstatement Course](#)
- [For Earth Day this year, preorder your Let's Go Outside specialty license plate](#)
- [Grant opportunities for environmental educators](#)
- [Post your environmental education events and resources on EEinKentucky.org](#)
- [Follow KEEC and KAEE on Facebook and Twitter](#)

### **EE News from State Agencies**

- [Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission celebrates its 40th anniversary with guided hikes](#)
- [Morehead State University named Bee Campus USA](#)
- [KY EXCEL hosts environmental workshop for sports industry](#)
- [Local Foods Project survey closes May 1](#)
- [Kentucky FFA State Convention scheduled for June 7-9 in Lexington](#)

## **KEEC Events**

### **Apply now for the 2016-17 Professional Environmental Educator Certification course**

Join the Kentucky Environmental Education Council, and dedicated environmental educators from across the state of Kentucky, in the upcoming Professional Environmental Educator Certification course. The course will be held in four workshops from November 2016 to March 2017. Here are just a few of the reasons this will be a great year to participate:

- Thanks to a grant from Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Kentucky, \$5000 in scholarships are available to course participants.
- In 2015, the course earned national accreditation from the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE).
- It is one of only three NAAEE-accredited programs in North America.

This will be the tenth offering of the course. Since its launch in 2004, 187 participants have completed the course. KEEC continues to build on the foundation laid in those previous years, offering great ideas for activities to use in your own work and a thorough understanding of environmental education best practices. The course is based on the Guidelines for the Preparation and Professional Development of Environmental Educators, developed by NAAEE. The course also relates environmental education content to Kentucky Academic Standards.

A participant from the 2014-15 course told us, "I feel better prepared, more comfortable/confident, and more informed about EE. My overall work has improved and my lessons/programs are more EE focused. I am just super happy and excited to have the opportunity to meet like-minded individuals."

The [course application, syllabus, scholarship application, and course schedule](#) are available on the KEEC website. The deadline for submitting applications is July 15, 2016, but enrollment is limited to the first 25 applicants who send complete applications, including the \$200 registration fee. Scholarship recipients will be notified of their awards by August 8.

The switch to a biannual schedule and availability of scholarships have only increased interest in the course, so you will want to submit your application early to reserve your place. For more information, see [the course overview on the KEEC website](#) or write [wesley.bullock@ky.gov](mailto:wesley.bullock@ky.gov).

## **KEEC News**

### **KEEC mourns the passing of Council Vice Chair Cheryl Messenger**

Cheryl Messenger, beloved teacher, mentor, friend, and leader for environmental education in Kentucky, passed away in the presence of her loving family on February 26, 2016.

Cheryl was Vice-Chair of KEEC at the time of her passing, and served on the council from 2006-2016. Cheryl was a mentor to countless individuals aspiring to be professional environmental educators. She was a passionate advocate for the field of environmental education. Her dedication and boundless enthusiasm for the profession, and to Mammoth Cave National Park, will be genuinely missed. However, she built a strong foundation for the program, and for the field of environmental education in Kentucky, that will continue for generations to come.

You can read more about her work in EE at [keec.ky.gov/AboutUs/Pages/In-Memoriam-Cheryl-Messenger.aspx](http://keec.ky.gov/AboutUs/Pages/In-Memoriam-Cheryl-Messenger.aspx) and in the interview she gave to KEEC for the Winter 2016 KEEC Legacy newsletter at [keec.ky.gov/Publications/Pages/Newsletters.aspx](http://keec.ky.gov/Publications/Pages/Newsletters.aspx).

### **Spotlight on Council Chairman Horace Brown**

KEEC Chairman, Horace Brown, was appointed to the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) in 1980 by Governor John Y. Brown, where he served for nearly two decades. At an annual EQC retreat, the group was brainstorming about how to prevent environmental problems, rather than only reacting to them. The group agreed that one way to prevent environmental problems was to have a more educated public, and the idea for the Kentucky Environmental Education Council was born. The EQC helped write the bills that formed the Heritage Land Conservation Fund and the KEEC at the same time, and the bills were passed by the legislature in 1990.

Mr. Brown has served on the Council since 1992, and has been Chairman for nearly all of those years. His favorite thing about being on the Council is working with the staff and other Council members, along with agency partners. He loves working with others who believe that environmental education and environmental conservation are important.

The Chairman became interested in environmental education after helping form a nonprofit called the Kentucky Wildlife Rescue and Release Assc, Incorporated. He and his son would rescue birds of prey and worked closely with Dr. Bill Foster, the vet at the Louisville Zoo, to introduce the birds back into the wild. At that time his surveying business was quiet in the winter and so he would use his time to take rehabilitating birds of prey to students and school groups all over central Kentucky, and talk with them about protecting and taking care of wildlife. One visit was scheduled right before spring break, and the students were so anxious to start their break but they were also very excited about the bird of prey. One small boy raised his hand and Mr. Brown walked back the aisle to have the student repeat his question and the student

said, “thank you for coming.” The student was so appreciative, and that was the beginning of the Chairman’s passion for environmental education. He spoke with several thousand children each year during this time in his life.

His favorite aspect of KEEC’s work is the Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools program. “Everything that we do is good, of course, but I think it is so amazing that this very small state agency received a national award from the U.S. Green Building Council for the program, and I think the program helps a lot of people,” he said.

As far as his vision for the future of environmental education in Kentucky, Mr. Brown said, “We are very fortunate in that we have had three people from Kentucky serve as presidents of the North American Association for Environmental Education. People are becoming more aware that environmental education is important in schools. It’s grown from nothing and is blossoming more every day. I think the future looks bright and we just need to work with our state leaders to ensure funding that will support the future viability of EE in Kentucky.”

### **KEEC thanks Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Kentucky for \$9500 EE certification course grant**

Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Kentucky (TMMK) has awarded a grant of \$9500 to KEEC for the 2016-17 Professional Environmental Educator Certification course. The grant will provide support for course expenses and scholarships to course participants. The main purpose of the scholarships is to increase the size and diversity of the student audience served by Certified Professional Environmental Educators in Kentucky. The scholarships are also intended to assist participants who could not otherwise afford to attend the course.

“At Toyota, we believe environmental education is one of the keys to building better communities where we live, work and serve, and we are pleased to support the Council’s 2016-17 Professional Environmental Educator Certification Course, ” Rick Hesterberg, the manager for external affairs at TMMK, said about the grant funding. TMMK also provided a grant for scholarships and course materials to KEEC for the last certification course offered in 2014-15.

KEEC thanks TMMK for their consistent and vital support of environmental educator certification in Kentucky.

### **Congratulations to Kentucky’s newest Master Environmental Educators**

Join KEEC in welcoming four additions to the growing number of Master Environmental Educators in Kentucky:

- Elizabeth McNulty, Franklin County
- Blake Newton, Fayette County
- Kennetha Sanders, Barren County
- Liz Thomas, Barren County

Master Environmental Educators are Certified Professional Environmental Educators that have documented at least six years of continuing education and continue to maintain their certification annually. There are currently 17 Master Environmental Educators, including previous recipients Jennifer Adler, Billy Bennett, Amanda Gumbert, April Haight, Jenny Howard Owen, Peggy Nims, Ashley Osborne, Amanda Patrick, Elizabeth Schmitz, Deb Spillman, Melinda Wilder, Sonya Wood Mahler, and Martha Yount. KEEC thanks you for your continued dedication to excellence in environmental education.

### **It’s not too late to apply for recertification through the pilot Reinstatement Course**

KEEC has rolled out a Reinstatement Course pilot for Professional Environmental Educator Certification (PEEC) course graduates whose certification has lapsed. The goal of the course is to engage our highly qualified community of graduates in contributing to the needs in the field of environmental education. In addition to completing your annual renewal requirements, you will spend 20 hours working on evaluating an EE program or implementing a component of Kentucky’s five-year EE master plan. The application is available under the “Lapsed Certification” heading at [keec.ky.gov/EECertification/Pages/CER.aspx](http://keec.ky.gov/EECertification/Pages/CER.aspx). Seven graduates have already enrolled.

During the pilot in 2015 and 2016, all graduates of the PEEC course will be eligible for reinstatement. The Reinstatement Course fee is \$25. After 2017, only graduates whose certification has lapsed for three years or less will be eligible for

reinstatement. At that time, the Reinstatement Course fee will be \$25 for those whose certification has been lapsed for one year, \$50 for two years, and \$75 for three years.

The deadline for completing the Reinstatement Course is January 31, 2017, so apply now to get started. Contact [wesley.bullock@ky.gov](mailto:wesley.bullock@ky.gov) for more information.

### **For Earth Day this year, preorder your Let's Go Outside specialty license plate**

What better way to celebrate Earth Day than with a show of support for the "Let's Go Outside" license plate! KEEC needs your help to meet our goal of 900 applications by April 2017. Please submit an application and pass them along to your friends! Applications are available at [keec.ky.gov/LetsGoOutside](http://keec.ky.gov/LetsGoOutside) and can be submitted to KEEC with a \$25 check that will be credited toward your future registration for the plate. Not only will the plates provide financial support to KEEC, they will be mobile advertisements for EE in Kentucky.

### **Grant opportunities for environmental educators**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) compiles an approximately 20-page email newsletter, including grants and other resources for science educators and environmental educators, called the "Information Exchange for Marine Educators." You can subscribe to the newsletter by contacting [phyllis.dermer@noaa.gov](mailto:phyllis.dermer@noaa.gov). The list often includes opportunities that close in the upcoming month, so please note the imminent deadline dates.

### **Post your environmental education events and resources on EEinKentucky.org**

[EEinKentucky.org](http://EEinKentucky.org) is the place to go for environmental education events and resources in Kentucky. Post your upcoming events, grant opportunities, and job openings, and search others' posts. Events are listed on the homepage calendar. Use the "News" menu to find other resources. For help with using the site, contact [Elizabeth.Schmitz@ky.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Schmitz@ky.gov).

### **Follow KEEC and KAEE on Facebook and Twitter**

Keep up with the latest news from KEEC by following us on Facebook ([facebook.com/kyeecouncil](https://facebook.com/kyeecouncil)) and Twitter ([twitter.com/kyeecouncil](https://twitter.com/kyeecouncil)).

You can also learn about the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education (KAEE), Kentucky's statewide EE nonprofit organization, by following KAEE at [facebook.com/KY4EnvEd](https://facebook.com/KY4EnvEd) and [twitter.com/KY4EnvEd](https://twitter.com/KY4EnvEd).

## **EE News from State Agencies**

### **Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with guided hikes**

This year marks the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission's 40th anniversary! To celebrate this milestone, various KSNPC staff members and friends will be hosting guided hikes at many state nature preserves throughout the year. Please visit the events page on the KSNPC website at [naturepreserves.ky.gov/news/Pages/default.aspx](http://naturepreserves.ky.gov/news/Pages/default.aspx) or the KSNPC Facebook page at [facebook.com/ksnpc](https://facebook.com/ksnpc) for updated event information.

### **Morehead State University named Bee Campus USA**

Bee Campus USA announced March 4 that Morehead State University is the fifth institution of higher education in the nation and the first in Kentucky to be certified as an affiliate of the Bee Campus USA program, designed to marshal the strengths of educational campuses for the benefit of pollinators. MSU is celebrating its Bee Campus USA certification with activities including planting native trees and other plants in the new Carbon Pocket Park outdoor classroom adjacent to

the Space Science Center, installing new educational signage about protecting pollinators, and showing the movie "Vanishing of the Bees." The last activity is scheduled for April 16. See more at: [http://www.moreheadstate.edu/News/2016/March/MSU\\_named\\_Nation\\_s\\_Fifth\\_Bee\\_Campus\\_USA\\_/#sthash.i7GwBz9P.dpuf](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/News/2016/March/MSU_named_Nation_s_Fifth_Bee_Campus_USA_/#sthash.i7GwBz9P.dpuf).

### **KY EXCEL hosts environmental workshop for sports industry**

KY EXCEL is partnering with the Kentucky Pollution Prevention Center to host a one-day workshop for greening sporting events and venues at small colleges and large high schools. The workshop will be held at Papa John's Cardinal Stadium in Louisville, on April 28, 2016. This specialized workshop will be beneficial for anyone involved in the sports industry, including small colleges and universities, high schools, operations managers, energy managers, public outreach personnel, environmental managers and any representatives of sporting venues. To see an agenda and register for the event, please visit <http://dca.ticketleap.com/>.

### **Local Foods Project survey closes May 1**

The Division of Compliance Assistance in the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet is working to develop some tools for local farmers and educators to help explain the link between foods and the environment. They have developed a simple survey where people can let us know their opinions about what kinds of tools would be the most helpful to them: <http://FoodLoop.speedsurvey.com>. It will remain open until May 1st. Please let Paulette Akers ([Paulette.Akers@ky.gov](mailto:Paulette.Akers@ky.gov)) know if you have any questions.

### **Kentucky FFA State Convention scheduled for June 7-9 in Lexington**

The Kentucky FFA State Convention will be held June 7-9 in Lexington, Kentucky. Over 2500 FFA members, advisors, and guests are expected to attend the organization's 87th Convention. Attendees will participate in state contest finals, leadership workshops, general sessions, an agriculture career Expo, a Day of Service, and various other activities.

### **Kentucky Environmental Education Council**

Education and Workforce Development Cabinet Secretary:  
Hal Heiner

Council Members:  
Horace Brown, KEEC chair  
Lona Brewer  
Karin Ceralde  
Gordon Garner  
Billie Hardin  
Greg Higdon  
Marc Norton  
Karen Reagor

KEEC Staff:  
Elizabeth Schmitz, executive director  
Wesley Bullock, administrative specialist

Contact:  
500 Mero St., Capital Plaza Tower, Rm. 1901  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
Phone: (502) 564-5937/ (800) 882-5271  
Fax: (502) 564-6784  
[keec.ky.gov](http://keec.ky.gov)  
[facebook.com/KyEECouncil](https://www.facebook.com/KyEECouncil)

[@KyEECouncil](#)  
[youtube.com/KyEECouncil](https://www.youtube.com/KyEECouncil)  
[greenschools.ky.gov](https://www.greenschools.ky.gov)  
[facebook.com/KyGHS](https://www.facebook.com/KyGHS)  
[EinKentucky.org](https://www.EinKentucky.org)

To unsubscribe, send a reply message with “unsubscribe” in the subject line or text.

