



KWEN  
Quarterly

January 2015

IN THIS ISSUE

CONNECTING, INSPIRING & EMPOWERING ENVIRONMENTALLY MINDED WOMEN

## Moving the Mission Forward

### A note from the KWEN Leadership Team

This is an exciting time of year for most. Not only do we ring in a new year, we have the opportunity to welcome lawmakers back to the Capital with new data, reports and ideas for how best to serve the people of Kansas. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to tout our initiatives, and through our actions we hope to influence legislators, or at least remind them of the things we value most.

The Kansas Women’s Environmental Network continues to grow. As we update our contact information one thing has become abundantly clear: we are a diverse group of educated, organized and powerful women. Our group’s mission is to connect, inspire and empower environmentally minded women, like yourself. We decided to launch this newsletter as a means to continue moving that mission forward.

The first issue of KWEN Quarterly features stories relating to environmental policy in the state, and initiatives from group member organizations that target future policy outcome. Some of the highlighted projects do not impact policy directly, but educate and connect others to environmental issues – a necessary step in shaping the environmental future we all hope to see. All of these initiatives NEED YOUR HELP, so we

encourage you to read about them and get involved in the ones that resonate with you.

KWEN Quarterly will be published on our [website](#) just prior to our quarterly meetings and the content will be submissions based. We hope this will grow into an avenue for you to share the environmental work and events in your life that are exciting to you!

Our next quarterly meeting, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual KWEN Forum on Environmental Issues, is rapidly approaching. We are proud to host a discussion with four panelists: **Sharon Ashworth, Ph.D.**, an ecologist and Program Manager with the Kansas Natural Resources Council; **Jennifer Byer**, chair of the True Blue Women Environmental Committee; **Susan Stover**, a geologist with the Kansas Geological Survey; Douglas County Commissioner, **Nancy Thellman**. The event will take place on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> Please [RSVP](#) by Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>.

Please know that the KWEN Leadership Team is open to any of our members, and we encourage anyone who is interested! Our mission will only continue to move forward as long as new people are willing to bring ideas to the table. We hope you will be one of those people!



### Recycling Policy in Action

KWEN members tour the Lawrence Materials Recovery Facility and share what they learn.

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### The KRC Informs Environmental Policy in Kansas

Read about the Kansas Rural Center’s many legislative initiatives.

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# Recycling Policy in Action

## KWEN Visits Lawrence's New MRF

By Helen Alexander

On a wintery day (December 18, 2014), about 20 KWEN women visited the Hamm Material Recovery Facility to learn more about Lawrence's new recycling program. Mr. Charlie Sedlock gave us a very informative tour of the facility. We began by seeing the huge mounds of unsorted recycling materials that are transported to the facility in city trucks from all of our recycling bins. This material then goes to a "presort" area where workers remove materials that should not have been put in the bins in the first place and do some initial recycling. Items then go through a maze of moving belts and machines, including the ballistic separator (that separates 2D items, such as cardboard, from 3D items, such as cans) and the machine with an optical sorter that separates different kinds of plastics. In another part of the facility, glass is broken into small pieces to help in separating it from other kinds of items. At the end of the tour, we saw the large bailed blocks of sorted materials that

are sent all over the US (and eventually the world).

The facility is immense and is truly "state of the art" - this is the first facility of its kind in the US to use these types of Stadler machines from Germany. To keep these high technology machines working well, Mr. Sedlock reminded us to not include plastic bags, bottle caps (either loose or attached to bottles), or small prescription drug containers in recycling ....all these can cause the machines to jam. Shredded paper is another problem, but they can accept it if it is placed in a heavy clear plastic bag (the one situation where plastic bags are allowed). Also, best to not flatten cans. We also learned not to worry about plastic inserts in envelopes, grease stains on pizza boxes (just remove all the pizza and the white blotter), and that a simple rinsing of food containers is sufficient.

In addition to a focus on environmental sustainability, Mr. Sedlock emphasized the need for economic sustainability. The facility is designed to be most efficient and economically sound with material coming from 500,000 people, which of course greatly exceeds the population of Lawrence. These comments and the tour itself prompted

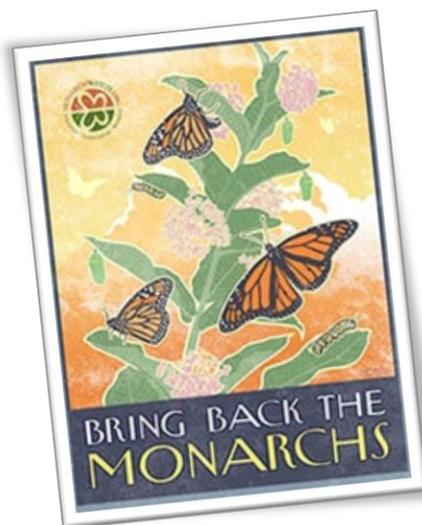


many discussions among KWEN women, both at Johnny's where some enjoyed a lunch after the tour, and via email. Many of us feel that we should work to enhance visibility of the recycling service, both in Lawrence and in the surrounding area.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Check out the city's website, where they list what can and cannot be recycled at the Hamm Facility:

[http://www.lawrenceks.org/swm/recycling\\_collection](http://www.lawrenceks.org/swm/recycling_collection)



## Help Monarch Watch Bring Back the Monarchs!

Monarch Watch is a nonprofit educational outreach program based at the University of Kansas that focuses on the monarch butterfly, its habitat, and its spectacular fall migration.

To restore habitats for monarchs, pollinators, and other wildlife, Monarch Watch has a nationwide landscape restoration program called "Bring Back The Monarchs." The goals are to restore 20 milkweed species to their native ranges throughout the United States and to encourage the planting of nectar-producing native flowers that support adult monarchs and other pollinators. This is being done through milkweed sales

(<http://goo.gl/forms/477vE4EfND>) and through our Free Milkweed Program. Free Milkweed for Non-profits and Schools: If your school or non-profit organization is interested in this conservation measure, we can help you create a habitat for monarchs and pollinators. Please apply using the online form: <http://monarchwatch.org/bring-back-the-monarchs/milkweed/free-milkweeds> If your organization qualifies, we will provide a free flat of 32 milkweed plugs as well as guidance on how to create a new habitat or enhance an existing garden. The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) has provided funds for this project.

# The Kansas Rural Center Informs Environmental Policy in Kansas

The Kansas Rural Center is a 35-year-old research, education and advocacy non-profit organization focusing on developing a sustainable food and farming system in Kansas. We provide a Weekly E-Update called Policy Watch during the state legislative session from January-May, and separate e-Action Alerts for calls or contacts to your legislator on an as needed basis. We also publish a quarterly newsletter, *Rural Papers*, and e-news updates and calendar items monthly to our contributors. Contact Joanna Voigt (at [jvoigt@kansasruralcenter.org](mailto:jvoigt@kansasruralcenter.org)) **to receive complimentary copies for 4 weeks** to decide if you want to donate and receive the full season of Updates.

During the 2015 legislative session, KRC will be covering the state budget crisis, school finance, tax debates, water and natural resource issues, and agricultural issues like changes to the corporate farm law, as well as presenting information to policymakers about our just released report *Feeding Kansas*, which includes recommendations for expanding Local Food and Farming opportunities in Kansas. KRC will also hold training sessions regionally to help citizens learn how to approach their legislators on food and farm issues.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact:  
Mary Fund, Interim Executive Director [msrc@rainbowtel.net](mailto:msrc@rainbowtel.net) for general policy and program inquiries

Joanna Voigt, Communications Coordinator ([jvoigt@kansasruralcenter.org](mailto:jvoigt@kansasruralcenter.org))

Cole Cottin ([ccottin@kansasruralcenter.org](mailto:ccottin@kansasruralcenter.org)) or Natalie Fullerton ([nfullerton@kansasruralcenter.org](mailto:nfullerton@kansasruralcenter.org)) for specific food and farming initiative questions.

Kansas Rural Center  
866-579-5469

[www.kansasruralcenter.org](http://www.kansasruralcenter.org)

[info@kansasruralcenter.org](mailto:info@kansasruralcenter.org)

## KRC asks that you:

1. CHECK OUT OUR POLICY WATCH BY SIGNING UP FOR 4 OF COMPLIMENTARY ISSUES TO, THEN DONATE TO KRC HELP US OFFSET THE COSTS. FOLLOW OUR ACTION ALERTS FOR CALLS TO CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR.
2. READ FEEDING KANSAS: STATEWIDE FARM & FOOD SYSTEM ASSESSMENT WITH A PLAN FOR PUBLIC ACTION. TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK OR PARTICIPATE IN THIS INITIATIVE, CONTACT NATALIE FULLERTON (AT [nfullerton@kansasruralcenter.org](mailto:nfullerton@kansasruralcenter.org) OR (866) 579-5469).
3. ATTEND A LOCAL FOOD AND FARM TASK FORCE MEETING TO ADDRESS LOCAL FOOD AND FARMING INITIATIVES, INCLUDING THE RESEARCH PRESENTED IN FEEDING KANSAS. THE NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN TOPEKA AT NOON ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 23. FOR MORE DETAILS, CONTACT KERRY WEFALD AT [kerry.wedflad@kda.ks.gov](mailto:kerry.wedflad@kda.ks.gov).
3. STAY TUNED TO KRC'S CALENDAR FOR THE REGIONAL UPCOMING WOMEN MANAGING THE FARM WORKSHOPS TO BE HELD AROUND THE STATE STARTING IN MARCH 2015.

UPCOMING EVENTS



THE NEXT GREEN DRINKS LAWRENCE GATHERING, HOSTED BY KWEN, WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18 AT THE MERCHANT'S PUB & PLATE BAR, FROM 5-7PM. BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE FACEBOOK PAGE ([HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GREENDRINKSLAWRENCE](https://www.facebook.com/greendrinksLawrence))



Hikers "Walk the Talk" at the Hidden Valley hike in November. Photo taken by Jenica Nelson.



## Monthly Hikes Lead to Networking Opportunities

...and They're Fun!

By Durand Reiber

During the breakout sessions at the October quarterly meeting, the Natural Resources group was having too much fun sharing their projects and ideas to stop. Hence, the idea of monthly "Walk the Talk" meetings was hatched to continue the conversations and networking. An added benefit of course is the opportunity to get some fresh air, exercise, and to discover and explore natural areas in and around town.

Initiated by Julie Coleman and Olga Khakova, the first hike was in the center of town, at Hidden Valley Camp. Led by Camp Manager, Durand Reiber, 12 hikers braved a cold November day exploring 2 miles of trails, learning its' history, discussing pollinator initiatives and identifying plants. After 2 hours of rather freezing weather, which no one seemed to mind too much, we warmed up with hot cocoa and peppermint sticks compliments of Kim Bellemere!

The December 13 hike was at the KU Field Station north of the airport, on the Jan and Stan Roth Trail and the Rockefeller Nature Prairie Trail. Five participants hiked through the woods and prairie to an overlook with fascinating views of Lawrence and the valley below. Although all was dormant, we found an abundance of interesting plants, pods, fungi, scat and more to examine, discuss and photograph.

Our next hike will be at the new Lawrence Nature Park, off Folks Road, on Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup> (TBD). The 40- acre park is part of nearly 100 acres acquired by the City of Lawrence through a partnership with the Kansas Land Trust, and features trails that wind through native woods, rocky hillsides and across streams, giving Lawrence residents a quick way to access nature at its' best.

Future hikes will include trails through the Fitch property at the KU Field Station, and some longer field trips later in the year. If you would like to recommend a great hike

in and around Lawrence, please let us know by contacting Julie Coleman at [jumars6941@att.net](mailto:jumars6941@att.net).



Hikers couldn't resist climbing the tree house built by older Girl Scouts. Photo taken by Jenica Nelson.

## Environmental Educators Needed

By Melissa Arthur

The Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE) promotes and provides effective, non-biased and science-based environmental education for all Kansans.

KACEE's vision is an environmentally literate Kansas citizenry, with KACEE as the recognized leader of the state's conservation and environmental education network:

*To serve as a medium for the exchange of information among member agencies and organizations interested or working in environmental and resource-use education*

*To provide a medium through which programs may be cooperatively developed to promote and encourage the teaching of an understanding of the environment and responsible use of resources.*

*To serve through our Board of Directors as an advisory council to the Kansas State Board of Education.*

*Continued from previous page*

## KACEE needs:

Educators (both formal and non-formal) who want to participate in environmental education professional development.

Schools who are interested in participating in the Kansas Green Schools Recognition program and, of course, funding!

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact : Melissa Arthur

Education Programs & Outreach  
Director

Kansas Association for Conservation &  
Environmental Education (KACEE)

[785-597-5452](tel:785-597-5452)

[marthur@kacee.org](mailto:marthur@kacee.org)

[www.kacee.org](http://www.kacee.org)

# The Waters of Kansas

A film project that features the water resources in Kansas, and the people who depend on them.

*By Sharon Ashworth*

## About The Waters of Kansas project

The Ogallala aquifer, backbone of agriculture in western Kansas, is 30% gone. Nearly all the major perennial streams in the western third of our state are now classified as historic. The state's reservoirs are silting in and increasingly subject to toxic blue-green algae blooms. The time is ripe for a statewide conversation about our relationship to water – how we've used it building and sustaining Kansas, how most of us take it for granted now, and our struggle to account for future generations. Over the next year we will facilitate a community conversation through personal narratives and film, specifically a series of short documentaries spanning the state that tell the story of water in Kansas.

The films and accompanying website will feature water resources and people from across Kansas who casually and intimately interact with groundwater or surface water, reservoirs or rivers. Ultimately we hope to produce multiple short films, ten to twenty minutes long, that cover the story of water border to border. Our three initial films, featuring the Ogallala and northwest Kansas, Cheyenne Bottoms, and the John Redmond reservoir will be screened in January and February this year.

## About the Kansas Natural Resource Council

The Kansas Natural Resource Council is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote environmentally responsible practices and sustainable natural resource policies to ensure the quality and abundance of these resources for future generations of Kansans. For more information, visit <http://www.knrc.weebly.com>.

## Our ask

We could use help with website development, film editing, and grant writing to extend this project beyond the initial three films.



**Kansas Natural  
Resource Council**

## Let's Connect!

*When: Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>, 5-7pm*

*Where: Merchants Pub & Plate*

Green Drinks is a global network for people who work, study, volunteer, and are interested in the environmental field. We have a lively mixture of people from NGOs, academia, government and business.

These events are very simple and unstructured, but many people have found employment, made friends, developed new ideas, done deals and had moments of serendipity.

Green Drinks Lawrence is organized by the Kansas Women's Environmental Network and will meet once every month on Wednesdays from 5-7 p.m. Gatherings are always agenda free and in Lawrence, KS. Green Drinks Lawrence is open to any and all--we hope to see you soon!



# Free State Prairie Restoration Project Unites Environmental Education, Research and Outreach

Free State Prairie Restoration Project Coordinators, Julie Schwarting and Helen Alexander describe the project and address the need for volunteers

To accomplish our goals, we have set up two large projects at Free State High School that focus on prairie restoration, community ecology, and environmental education and outreach. First, we have established a 1.4 acre prairie restoration and community ecology experiment on the school campus. This site was seeded with prairie grasses and wildflowers in spring 2014. Over the summer of 2014, prairie plants have successfully established, however it will take several years before it resembles a native prairie (weedy plants currently dominate, as expected for this stage of the project). Second, we established a "prairie demonstration site" with plants that students grew from seed in the Free State greenhouse. Our goal for this site (2500 sq. ft.) is to create an "instant" prairie that can be used for education and outreach. Both projects have involved Free State High School students and teachers, researchers at KU, and many community volunteers.

## Our request:

We are particularly interested in seeking volunteers to help with 1) maintenance of the demonstration site (i.e. weeding of nonnatives), 2) outreach opportunities (both development and implementation).

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Julie Schwarting ([jaschwar@usd497.org](mailto:jaschwar@usd497.org)) or Helen Alexander ([halexander@ku.edu](mailto:halexander@ku.edu))

## A Call to Action from Friends of the Kaw

As a member of the Waterkeepers' Alliance, Friends of the Kaw employs the Kansas Riverkeeper to act as a watchdog presence on the river, reporting pollution, illegal dumping, and other problems to the appropriate government agencies. For the past twenty years, FOK has worked to support a sustainable sand industry in the Kaw River Valley – we want to end in-river dredging and move the industry to sustainably-sited, off-river sand pit mines that can later be converted to recreational lakes, parks, and wildlife habitat. Our goal is not just to fight abuses of the river—our goal is also to build a powerful grassroots constituency who can appreciate and speak up for this habitat. The main way we have done this is to get people outdoors on the Kansas River and have them experience its beauty for themselves. With immense volunteer support and even support from state government, we have constructed more than seventeen access ramps on the Kaw, for a total of twenty. River recreation has become a growing industry.

### Needs:

We will need individuals to write comments to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers when the new Environmental Impact Statement is released on public comment at in the fall of 2015. We need volunteers to

assist us with cleanups on the Kansas River, planning of the Wild and Scenic Film Festival that we will be hosting on April 30 and May 1, 2015 and experienced paddlers with their own boat and equipment to assist us with our group educational float trips. The best way to learn about volunteer activities is to sign up for our email newsletter via our web site at [www.kansasriver.org](http://www.kansasriver.org).



### FRIENDS OF THE KAW'S MISSION:

TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE KANSAS RIVER FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

TO ADVOCATE THE REHABILITATION OF THE KANSAS RIVER'S ENVIRONS, INCLUDING ITS WATER QUALITY AND WILDLIFE HABITAT.

TO PROMOTE COMPATIBLE PUBLIC RECREATIONAL USES OF THE KANSAS RIVER AND ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF ADEQUATE PUBLIC ACCESS.

TO THESE ENDS WE SHALL SEEK TO COOPERATE WITH OTHER PERSONS, ORGANIZATIONS AND PUBLIC AGENCIES.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please Contact:  
 Laura Calwell, Kansas Riverkeeper  
 P.O. Box 1612, Lawrence, KS  
 66044  
[785-312-7200](tel:785-312-7200)  
[riverkeeper@kansasriver.org](mailto:riverkeeper@kansasriver.org)  
[www.kansasriver.org](http://www.kansasriver.org)

# The Kansas Women's Environmental Network connects, inspires and empowers environmentally minded women

Established in 2013, KWEN maintains political neutrality to serve the diverse audience of Kansas women interested in environmental topics. Meetings take place in Lawrence, KS.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT KWEN

For general questions, please feel free to contact the KWEN leadership group at [KWENleadership@gmail.com](mailto:KWENleadership@gmail.com)

You can also check out our website:

<https://kansawomensenvironmentalnetwork.wordpress.com/>

For questions regarding the following:

Green Drinks

Contact Jenica Nelson

[lawrence.greendrinks@gmail.com](mailto:lawrence.greendrinks@gmail.com)

Walk the Talk Hikes

Contact Julie Coleman

[jumars6941@att.net](mailto:jumars6941@att.net)

KWEN Quarterly Newsletter

Contact Chavis Lickvar-Armstrong

[clickvar@ku.edu](mailto:clickvar@ku.edu)

## QUARTERLY MEETINGS

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual KWEN Forum on Environmental Issues will take place on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> from 7-8:30pm. Arrive at 6:30 for dinner and networking – a \$15 donation is requested. Please email the leadership for more information at [KWENleadership@gmail.com](mailto:KWENleadership@gmail.com)

The following meeting will take place in April, marking KWEN's 2 year anniversary! It will be a potluck gathering with time for networking and celebration!