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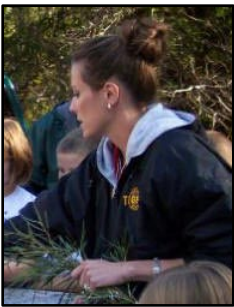
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Information about awards event, Laura Downey, ldowney@kacee.org or 785-532-3322; or Jolene Amtower, jamtower@kacee.org or 785-532-1902

KATIE MILLER, TWIN LAKES WRAPS, RECEIVES RISING STAR AWARD

The Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE) is pleased to announce that Katie S. Miller of the Twin Lakes Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy in Council Grove is one of the recipients of the 2009 Excellence in Conservation and Environmental Education Awards. Nominated by their peers, these awardees exhibit outstanding leadership and achievement, as well as collaboration and cooperation within the environmental education field. "We are thrilled to honor these deserving individuals and organizations, who give so much of their time and are so dedicated to environmental education in Kansas," said KACEE President Schanee' Anderson, of the Sedgwick County Zoo.



The **Rising Star Award** recognizes individuals who are new to the EE field in Kansas, but are already making an impact. Over and over, **Katie Miller** is described as a "go-getter." As project coordinator of the Twin Lakes Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS), she works to inform, educate, and promote water quality in the Neosho watershed. Her job includes putting on the successful Twin Lakes Water Festival, which educates students to explore our natural resources through a multi-sensory, hands-on learning approach. The festival has educated approximately 2,700 students in the past 3 years. Katie also provides technical assistance to landowners and operators working to install best management practices in the watershed to protect or improve water quality, and establishes partnerships to achieve the goals of the Twin Lakes Water Quality Project.

Other recipients of this year's KACEE Awards include Tim Oberhelman, Olathe South High School; Denise Scribner and Marylee Ramsay, Goddard High School; Kansas Environmental Leadership Program, Manhattan; Roberta Spencer, Jackson County Conservation District, and Jim Mason, Great Plains Nature Center. Three schools will receive the Kansas Green School of the Year Award: Starside Elementary School, DeSoto; Buhler High School; and Wyandotte High School, Kansas City, Kansas. Rex Buchanan of the Kansas Geological Survey will receive the John K. Strickler Award. This award, named after one of KACEE's founders and first executive director John Strickler, honors the lifetime achievements, contributions, and leadership of individuals in the Kansas conservation and environmental education field. Rex is located in Lawrence.

Awardees will be recognized on Friday, 3 April 2009, at the Kansas Museum of History in Topeka. Rex Buchanan will be the featured speaker. For more information on the awards celebration event, visit www.kacee.org or call 785-532-3322.

KACEE is a non-profit organization whose members form a public/private partnership dedicated to promoting and providing quality, non-biased environmental education. With more than 300 members from the education, government, business, and non-profit sectors, KACEE provides all of its members with opportunities for professional development and networking. Founded in 1969, KACEE is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. For more information, go to www.kacee.org.