MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

6300 Outdoor Learning Kits

MEEA facilitated this project to provide hands-on activity kits to families in need via the COVID-19 food relief efforts of Operation Food Search and the St. Louis County Library. The St. Louis Zoo provided space to store and assemble the materials, as well as staff time to assist with assembly.

- 3 themes: Nature Play, Observation & Nature Journaling, Food & Pollinators
- 20 partners curated, assembled, and delivered 6300 kits
Re-branding MEEA and MGS

- New websites for MEEA and Missouri Green Schools
  - MGS website embedded in MEEA website
  - MGS old URL set to redirect to current site
- New logos for MEEA and MGS
  - MGS logo set includes badges for each recognition level
Missouri Green Schools: Continuing as EDGRS Conduit and Statewide Program Launch

- 3 Missouri schools selected for the US Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (EDGRS) award
- Official Launch of statewide recognition program, 6 schools enrolled
- 4 Americorps VISTAs joined the team to provide support for under-resourced schools
- Partner Network development in progress
  - held meetings 2 and 3 (out of four development meetings total)
    - both virtual, average of 35 participants at each meeting
  - began collecting partner survey data for searchable resource database to be housed on the MGS website

The MGS team is comprised of MEEA staff, a US Green Building Council Missouri Gateway Chapter staff member, the VISTAs, and an active committee. Because of this group of folks, many of the pieces of the "Mind Map" below are in progress or completed.
Our First Virtual Conference

2020 Kansas & Missouri Environmental Education Conference

Two Neighboring States Collaborating

- Sponsors: 20
- Exhibitors: 19
- Presenters: 41
- Attendees: 146

79,941 Students impacted by our attendees each year!

"Incredible people doing incredible things for education, with amazing resources, that truly want to help you do the same!"

Relevant

- 100% of attendees say the conference was relevant to their professional development needs
- "I enjoyed learning about the various projects and programs happening around Kansas and Missouri that impact our youth, communities, and environment in a positive way!"

Fun

- 5 Socials
- A variety of nightly social events from an educational Escape Room challenge to a movie screening to a Forager's Cooking Class
- Thank you for making time in front of the computer worth the time and effort. The social events were a fantastic addition!

Enriching

- "The KACEE/MEEA Conference this year has been an absolute high point in being able to connect with environmental educators across two states. In a year that has lacked so much connection with others, this was one of the few times that it was really easy to remember that we are not alone in our work."

I LOVE THE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS!!!! They turned my outlook around for 2021. I can’t even explain the difference they made in my personal outlook.

Parker McMullen Bushman
Founder
EcoInclusive, KWEEN Werk, and Co-Founder of Inclusive Journeys

Judy Braus
Director
The North American Association for Environmental Education
Conference (Cont'd)

96% of attendees want us to repeat this collaboration
So we are thinking we'll do it every third year!

See you at our next "Conference Collab" in 2023!

Special thanks to our sponsors for helping to make this event affordable to educators!

City of Springfield Dept. of Environmental Services
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism
Evergy Green Team ~ Greenscapes Gardens ~ Kansas Department of Agriculture
Kansas Department of Health & Environment, Bureau of Environmental Field Services,
Watershed Management Section
Kansas Forest Service ~ Kansas State University, The GeoCat Project
Acorn Naturalists ~ Franklin County Conservation District
Friends of the KAW ~ Kansas Water Office
Integrated Facility Services ~ Missouri Master Naturalists
Trailnet ~ Wilson County Conservation District
Butler County Conservation District ~ Cowley County Conservation District
Kansas Grassfed Beef Company
**HOW DID WE DO ALL THIS?**

**2 BOARDS**

Board of Directors--working board, each member assists on at least one committee

Advisory Board--formed in 2020, tasked with creation and implementation of Fund Development Plan, priorities can shift as needed

**2 STAFF MEMBERS**

Lesli Moylan, Executive Director, .75 FTE

Nick Speed, Outreach Coordinator, .15 FTE
- Nick joined the team in August 2020

**4 AMERICORPS VISTAS**

Began in September 2020

Missouri Green Schools program development and one-on-one support for under-resourced schools enrolled in the program

**1 WORK GROUP**

COVID-19 response to provide Outdoor Learning Kits to families needing emergency food relief. It is our hope that these projects introduced the many benefits of nature to families in crisis.

**3 COMMITTEES**

- Missouri Green Schools
- Conference
- Website

**64 VOLUNTEERS**

Over 2000 hours logged. This is an underestimate, and we plan to do a better job of tracking this in 2021!

What we know for sure--we couldn't have done any of this without our amazing volunteers!
AND A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN MISSOURI!

Anonymous Donors
City of Springfield Environmental Services
Community Foundation of St. Louis
Deborah Barker
Susan Flowers
Friends of the Zoo
Gateway Greening
Greenscape Gardens
Erin Graves
Sarah Holmes
Integrated Facilities Services
Nikki Lemley
Kate Mazejka
Connie McPheeters
Jenny and Alex McPheeters
Katherine McPheeters
Missouri Foundation for Health
Missouri Master Naturalists--Springfield Plateau Chapter
Kyle and Lesli Moylan
NAAEE
Wilford Pinkney
Lizzy and Dave Rickard
Bill and Joan Ruppert
Nancy Sanders
Laura Seger
St. Louis County Libraries Foundation
St. Louis Zoo
Sugar creek Gardens
Jan Weaver
Amy Wood

Our membership has grown to include more than 650 individuals and 16 organizations. We are proud to serve and support you, and we look forward to continued collaborative efforts in 2021!