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ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE

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Kickapoo
Environmental Office

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DOWN TO EARTH!

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR—NESTORIA WRIGHT

Hello Everyone,

Thank you for reading our Down to Earth Newsletter, our goal is to keep the Kickapoo Community informed about our latest program updates, activities, events, and projects within the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) office. The Kickapoo Environmental Office (KEO) overall program goal is to develop a comprehensive environmental protection program to protect the natural, cultural, and human resources.

In the last three months our staff and personnel have re-established our KEO programs. Beginning on June 17-24, 2019 we began the Wetland Sampling Projects headed by Frank Norman and his staff from the Norman Ecological Company, with the partnership of the EPA Wetland Program officer Dr. Eliodora Chamberlain and KEO Staff, Swarada Nalgolkar, David Hebert, Moud Safadi; Andrea Jones, Christopher Fee, Jon Goslin and myself. The Wetland Program's mission is to protect and improve Kickapoo Nation's water quality and increase wildlife habitat. Protecting Delaware river, streams, ponds, wetlands, and groundwater quality keeps these waters safe for a multitude of beneficial uses such as drinking water, fish habitat, recreation and irrigation. This is accomplished by monitoring and assessing the existing wetlands, implementing best management practices to improve and restore existing and historic wetland sites, and providing outreach and education to the local community on the importance of wetlands.

I am very grateful and thankful in the last three months that we have completed our KEO personnel and Smart Environmental Specialists Team who are very supportive and cooperative to each other's EPA Programs. You are all truly Down to Earth people thank you for all your hard work and continuing support to each other. I am also very grateful to our Tribal Council and Community partners for all your support and encouragement to continue what we are doing to support and protect the whole Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas Environmental Community Population Health and well-being.



PLEASE
PLACE
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DOWN TO EARTH!

Tribal Response Word Search

AIR QUALITY UPDATE – Andrea Jones

I would like to take credit for this article, but it is already written and perfect for the amounts of rain we have received lately. Although it is from 2015, we are having severe flooding and water issues this spring and starting into summer. Please read the article about molds and clean-up.

From the EPA Blog, April 14, 2015 is:
WHEN IT RAINS, IT MOLDS - By – Marcia Anderson

When I went back home recently to visit my family, I noticed a number of mold spots on the ceiling in multiple rooms. A result of roof water damage from the winter ice and snow the northeast experienced this year. This prompted me to have an interview with Mark Berry, EPA's Indoor Air Quality Coordinator for Region 6 (serving Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and 66 Tribes). Here are his responses to some common questions about mold and moisture.

What is it that many people misunderstand about mold? It is important to view mold, not as a mold issue, but as a **moisture issue**. People think that mold is a hazardous material. Most people do not realize that mold and mold spores are all around us. Molds live in the soil, on plants, and on dead or decaying matter. Outdoors, molds play a key role in the breakdown of leaves, wood, and other plant debris. Molds produce tiny spores to reproduce, just as some plants produce seeds. These mold spores can be found in both indoor and outdoor air, and settled on indoor and outdoor surfaces. When mold spores land on a damp spot, they may begin growing. It is important not to provide the moist environment mold needs to grow. The solution to the problem is to find and eliminate the moisture source first, and not focus only on the mold. Removing the mold alone does not solve the problem. If the water remains, new mold will grow in the same area.

Should I use bleach to clean up my mold? In most cases using bleach isn't necessary. Soap and water will often do the trick. Using bleach or some other harsh chemical cleaners can create a breathing hazard for you. If you choose to use disinfectants or biocides, always follow manufacturer's directions, ventilate the area and exhaust the air to the outdoors. Never mix chlorine bleach solution with other cleaning solutions or detergents that contain ammonia because toxic fumes could be produced.

Can I just paint over the mold? Many people see mold, spray some chemical then paint over it, thinking that will solve the problem. Mold can grow between the paint and the wall in all directions. The paint merely acts as a temporary cover-up. The issue with the paint is that it traps moisture between the paint and the wall, further aiding and abetting the growth of mold. Fix the source of the moisture first, and then

take the appropriate steps to clean the affected area or remove it altogether.

What are your most compelling mold calls? Landlord / tenant disputes over mold are our most frequent calls. We attempt to educate and make suggestions for remediation that may be used or not used by the caller's choice. Callers need to consider the problem as both a building water issue as opposed to a mold issue. This strategy addresses the cause of the mold infestation and not the symptom. We try to get to the root cause of the problem and ease the caller's concerns. Mold is essentially the result of water damage.

Is there more mold in different parts of the country? Yes, and No. We have more mold inquiries in humid areas because the mold continually gets fed more moisture which allows it to flourish. However, mold can grow everywhere and can exist in a broad range of temperatures and humidity levels. Although moisture is necessary for growth there are molds which prefer drier environments and would need much less than other types to survive.

What are your most frequent calls? "I've got mold problems can you do something to help me?" EPA Region 6's Indoor Air Quality program (IAQ) is a voluntary program primarily responsible for conducting outreach and educating the public about indoor environmental issues, including health risks and the means by which human exposures can be reduced. IAQ educates the public about indoor environmental pollutants and sources of pollution, including mold. However, EPA does not have any regulatory authority to control mold in private residences nor do we have the resources to inspect individual homes.

The EPA does not conduct mold cleanups, but we do provide the education necessary to give people the strategy and empowerment needed to solve the problem. We recognize the health danger to schools, homes and places of work. The EPA is the technical lead in mold research from which many states and local agencies borrow.

Is testing for mold necessary? In most cases, if visible mold is present, sampling is not necessary. Since no EPA or other federal limits have been set for mold or mold spores, sampling cannot be used to check a building's compliance with federal mold standards. Remember that mold and mold spores are natural in the environment so any sampling will result in finding mold. For more information on controlling mold and moisture, visit www.epa.gov/mold

About the Author: Marcia is with EPA's Center of Expertise for School IPM in Dallas, Texas. She holds a PhD in Environmental Management from Montclair State University along with degrees in

G O L D F I N C H P N E Q A B
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Word Bank:

Kickapoo	Kansas	Goldfinch	EPA
Brownfields	Environment	Dogwood	FEMA
Emergency	Assessment	Coyote	Pollution
Spill	Acres	Horton	Pesticides
Dewberry	KTIK	Contamination	Mold



COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE

The challenges to a garden are many as either man or mother nature turns everything upside down. Had to take a huge step back and evaluate what products could be harvested this year since we started so late. With some trial and error and moving back into the greenhouse, we have many tomato plants, tomatillo plants, various pepper plants, eggplants, cauliflower, green beans, various squashes and watermelons coming on. I still have more to plant and am getting to that throughout the week.

The purchase of plastic for refitting the greenhouse is in the garden shed along with other items such as growing pots for spring, vermiculite to start seeds in, more soaker

hoses and frost blankets to produce food over the winter time. (I am truly excited about that)

I will need volunteers soon to put the plastic back on the greenhouse to complete that project.

If you see the pictures to the left, that is of a mowed field of tall grass. Collecting this and putting it on the garden not only helps with soil retention and moisture, it actually keeps the temperature of the soil cooler than the surface. That helps the plant stay happy and healthy to produce good food for us to eat. Think about the next time you cut your lawn and have excess clippings. They can be put to great use.

CLEANUP AT THE GARDEN

We have taken great strides to clean up the debris from the garden area. Most was discarded from the greenhouse or from the acre garden plot but an eyesore nonetheless. We were able to salvage a lot of items for reuse which is always a money saver. It is always good to look around and see what can be repurposed for another use. Less we put in the landfill the better we are going to be to the Earth.

Currently I will be upcycling tires to use for strawberry beds. They are perfect for their containment as strawberry plants will go just about everywhere they want to go to sur-



Solid Waste—Sonny Fee

Hello this year's community cleanup was a very busy one due to all the rain that slowed people from getting things out to the curb 5, 30 yard roll offs where filled in this cleanup we also had trouble getting the roll offs exchanged on time. reminder to folks who may be dumping furniture and other large items this is illegal to dump unwanted furniture or beds at the community building and behind the K.E.O. building or any other places. Also, it is not ok to dump anything that is too big to fit in a dumpster it is not ok to dump it on the ground besides the dumpster. This has been an ongoing problem so the K.E.O will be installing cameras at several different locations to stop the illegal dumping. The brown county landfill will take large items is open Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 and Saturday until 11:30 am. Phone number is (785)-547-3415.

Tribal Response Program 128 (a) – Moud Safadi

GAS LEAK AT THE TRADING POST:

The Kickapoo Trading Post has experienced a gas leak from its Premium Gasoline holding tank in the ground. The Kickapoo Environmental Office (KEO) was informed of the leak on May 30th, 2019. From observation and with the help of the Kickapoo Trading Post documentation, the gasoline tank did not release a large volume into the subsurface (according to EPA). However, the leak has produced a rather large area of dead vegetation and possibly killed two trees.

The KEO have removed and recycled the remaining fuel on site and have notified the Kickapoo Tribal Council, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). The KEO have also notified the Kickapoo Roads Department and Environmental Remediation & Monitoring (ER&M) company (who will excavate the spill area). The KEO will also work with ER&M to conduct pre and post soil samples of the affected area to see how far down the contamination is and if additional remediation is needed.

Remediation of the contaminated soil will include the removal of approximately 8-10 inches of soil in the affected areas. Investigation and disposal of the soil will need to be funded by the Kickapoo Trading Post, according to EPA.

At this point, the KEO believes, with its preliminary observations that water contamination will not occur. The remediation is expected to occur in the first week of July.

Moud Safadi

Pictures are of the effects of leaking fuel on the eco-system as the two trees die out from the fuel leak

Water Quality Update- David Hebert

Kansas State University Kansas Forest Service Water Quality Forester, Jarran Tindle, approached our office a few weeks ago and talked to Nestoria about a streambank revegetation project along the Delaware River just north of where it intersects 130th St. on the Kickapoo Reservation. Jarran asked if there would be anyone in the office interested in helping with the project and David Hebert volunteered. Yesterday, (6.25.19) the project went underway. Below is a summary of the overall goal, objectives and work involved in the project. Overall Goal: To stop the streambank from eroding and delivering sediment downstream. To restore the streambank to its natural condition. To allow the streambank to continue to provide habitat to wildlife. To promote active root growth in the streambank soil. Objectives: To plant the eroding streambank with about 4,000 American sycamore and swamp white oak seedlings that have been grown from seed to about 2 feet in length and about 1/4 inch DBH (diameter at breast height). Work Involved: Jarran built a 90psi water probe that uses a gasoline engine to pump water from the river through a 4 foot probe. This probe is shoved into the soil and makes room for a seedling. The user then plants the seedling by hand once the cylindrical area has been excavated. Other parts of the river were so muddy that hand planting was possible (without the water probe). The conditions were very muddy and required wading pants and boots.



KEO Projects Up Date Section

Quality Assurance Project Plan for Wetland Soil Sampling 2019

By Nestoria Wright

The Kickapoo Environmental Office (KEO) of the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas (KTIK) planned to monitor and assess wetland on around the reservation through the collection and laboratory Analysis of soil samples. In June 17-28, 2019, the Norman Ecological Consulting Group oversees the project and provide quality control reviews.

This project is under the supervision of Frank Norman Ecological Consulting Group, his staff and Dr. Eliodora Chamberlain Region 7 EPA Wetland Program Offices with the participation of the Kickapoo Environmental Director, Wetland Program Coordinator, Water Quality Program Coordinator, Brown-field/TRP Program Coordinator, Air Quality Program Coordinator, and Waste Water Technician. The lead of the project Frank Norman and his personnel conducted some training and demonstration on how to collect the soil and chlorophyll sampling effectively and appropriately to all the KEO Staff. The analysis of the soil samples will be performed by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and at the EPA Regional Laboratory Office.

Background of the Project

The KEO recognizes the importance that Wetland can play in reducing, pollution, maintaining properly watersheds and increasing ecosystem health, However, a lack of up to date information stands between the KEO and better management practices. In order to manage the limited water resources available to the Kickapoo Tribe, knowing where wetlands on the Kickapoo Reservation perform. The purpose of this project is to gain a better understanding of the amount of pollution contained in the soils of wetland on the reservation.

Project Task Description

The wetland sites for the soil sampling will be selected by the Environmental Specialists and the Contracted Ecological Consulting Group from the different separate Wetlands. Each site, samples will be collected from the soil pit within the reservation wetland area. Sites have been selected based on their representation of all reservation wetlands as a whole. The collection of the soil samples will allow the KEO to gain understanding of the amount of pollution contained in the soil of wetlands on the reservation. The concentration of heavy metals in the soil will be compared to the concentrations to determine the health of the wetland relative to the metal in the soil.

Data Quality Objectives

The quality of this project will generate valid information about the wetland soils. The information will be gained through appropriate effective sampling techniques through examination of the laboratory report and results. The information is important is important in determining the existing wetland quality condition and provides a valuable resource to KEO. The field sampling and laboratory sample processing will be performed by qualified environmental specialist staff. The training covers proper maintenance, calibration, and operational equipment, data collection, data management and recordkeeping.

Documentation and Records

During the course of the projects, the Wetland Environmental Specialist and KEO Director will maintain the raw data, field logs, and problems encountered in the documents whenever sampling is done. The KEO will maintain and keep the following project records and documents:

- Laboratory Reports
- Filed Data
- Chain of Custody records
- Quality Assurance Project Plan with supporting documents
- Project Progress Reports
- Assessment reports
- GPS Location

Field Data will include soil type based on the NRCS data, hydric soil color and type based on the Munsell soil color book, soil sampling depth. All the data document should be included in the data reports (soil pit refers to the hole that is dug to extract soil samples and determine soil color). The quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) has been prepared to ensure that accurate and reliable data is generated.

