



Pennsylvania Envirothon

2010
Annual Report

ACCEPT THE NATURAL CHALLENGE!

"Pennsylvania is the Founder of North America's largest high school natural resource education competition, the Envirothon."

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Our Mission

The Pennsylvania Envirothon educates high school students in natural resources and environmental sciences. The program emphasizes the importance of environmental sensitivity while stressing a need to achieve a social, ecologic, and economic balance. The learning objectives emphasize awareness, knowledge, attitudes, and application. The Pennsylvania Envirothon provides future generations with the ability to be better equipped to address the complex natural resource concerns facing today's world as well as the challenges of tomorrow.

Board of Directors

Chair Andy Patterson – District Manager, Huntingdon Conservation District

Vice-Chair Leigh Beamesderfer – Forester/Naturalist,
Lebanon Conservation District

Secretary Robert Sweitzer – District Manager, Centre Conservation District

Treasurer Mary Ann Bower – District Manager, Clinton Conservation District

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Vince McCollum – Watershed Specialist, Cumberland Conservation District

Jan Hampton – District Manager, Cameron Conservation District

Corey Richmond – Watershed Specialist, Sullivan Conservation District

Erica Smith – Ag Conservation Technician, Mifflin Conservation District

Cheryl Brobst – Director/PACD Representative,
Columbia Conservation District

Richard Stumpf – Director/PACD Representative,
Indiana Conservation District

William Kahler – Conservation Program Specialist/SCC Representative,
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Karen Ely – Water Program Specialist/SCC Representative,
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Associate Directors

Angie Foltz – Natural Resources Program Coordinator,
Lebanon Conservation District

Craig Bingman – District Manager, Snyder Conservation District

Greg Reineke – Education Coordinator, Fulton Conservation District

Celina Seftas – Watershed Specialist, Huntingdon Conservation District

Staff

Lorelle Steach – Program Coordinator

Message from the Chairman

It's about challenging our youth! The future of the earth depends on the youth of today. Soon they will be making decisions about what kind of car to drive, what detergent to buy, and whether to use paper, plastic, or cloth bags at the store. All of these decisions affect the environment and prompted the need for such education.

Pennsylvania Conservation Districts created North America's largest environmental education program/competition – The Envirothon – in 1979. Every year, volunteers for the Envirothon program work together to deliver environmental education to more than 15,000 high school-aged students across the Commonwealth. Thanks to the Envirothon, students in Pennsylvania have the opportunity to participate in hands-on learning activities and receive educational training in the areas of soils/land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife, and current environmental issues.

The Envirothon program is now offered to students in more than 45 states and nine Canadian provinces. The winning team from this year's State Envirothon represented Pennsylvania at the 2010 Canon Envirothon held August 1 – 6 at the California State University, Fresno. Pennsylvania continues to lead the nation in the number of competitions won, with eleven of 23 Canon Envirothon titles (North American level), and placing among the top five ninety percent of the time.

For over 27 years, the Pennsylvania Envirothon has been preparing the Commonwealth's youth to live in a green, more environmentally responsible manner.

Envirothon partners provide station resources, learning objectives, and tests for the Envirothon – as well as their expertise, support, and enthusiasm.

Envirothon sponsors provide financial means to provide a quality educational program, to organize a worthwhile event, and to sustain a program coordinator.

Our partners and sponsors make the Envirothon possible. A sincere congratulations and thanks are extended to everyone who helped make 2010 a successful Envirothon year.

Andy Patterson, Chairman
Pennsylvania Envirothon Board of Directors

The Envirothon Experience

For over 27 years, high school teachers have been recognizing the value of the Envirothon experience. The Envirothon is the only competition in the nation that challenges students to think critically about the natural world and their role in it.



It's also the only competition that helps students develop the critical thinking skills they will need for a lifetime of finding balanced solutions to complex issues, such as how to encourage economic development and still preserve open space.

With such pressing long-term issues as water quality and quantity, sustainable energy, watershed management, and agriculture, to name a few, the Envirothon shows tomorrow's leaders the positive and negative effects that individual actions have on the environment. Understanding the difference between renewable and nonrenewable resources, realizing environmental interactions and interdependencies, and becoming conscious of how each of us contributes to the overall quality of life is all part of the Envirothon experience.

The Envirothon is comprised of five areas on which students focus their study. As a team, written questions are answered in the subject areas of: soil/land use, forestry, aquatic ecology, wildlife, and current environmental issues (2010 – protection of groundwater). A discovery station (non-testing) provides an opportunity for students to learn about other disciplines.

Team answers are evaluated by practicing natural resource professionals – foresters, aquatic and wildlife biologists, soil scientists, and conservationists – who themselves deal with similar complex issues every day.

The team that scores the greatest number of points wins their respective county competition and moves onto the state Envirothon. The winning team of the state competition moves onto the Canon Envirothon, North America's largest natural resource education competition for high school students.

Envirothon at a Glance



Aquatic Ecology



Current Issues



Soil/Land Use



Envirothon at a Glance



Forestry



Wildlife



Discovery



2010 Competition Summary



First Place
Penncrest High School
Delaware County



Second Place
Carmichaels Area High School
Greene County



Third Place
North East High School
Erie County

In 2010, more than 300 high-school students representing 65 counties participated in the twenty-seventh Pennsylvania Envirothon. The event was held on May 26th at the PPL Montour Preserve located in Danville.

The State Envirothon is the outcome of 66 county competitions that take place during the months of April and May and involves more than 15,000 teenagers throughout the Commonwealth.

Awards were presented to the top 10 high scoring teams. For the past six years, the Envirothon awarded scholarships totaling over \$9,000 for 15 students on the top three teams. The scholarships are sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and the State Conservation Commission. To date, we have awarded over \$53,000 in scholarships to more than 90 students.

Rounding out the Top Ten

- Fourth – Warren County – Warren Area High School
- Fifth – York County – Homeschoolers
- Sixth – Schuylkill County – Blue Mountain High School
- Seventh – Lehigh County – Emmaus High School
- Eighth – Berks County – Oley Valley High School
- Ninth – Centre County – Bald Eagle Area High School
- Tenth – Adams County – Littlestown High School

Top Station Scores

- Delaware County – Aquatic Ecology, Current Environmental Issues, Forestry, and Soil/Land Use
- Greene County – Wildlife

2010 Current Issue Theme

“Protection of Groundwater through Urban, Agricultural, and Environmental Planning”

Approximately 26 billion gallons of water are used every day in the United States alone. According to the United States Geological Survey, the average American uses between 80 and 100 gallons of water daily.

As the population of the United States, and the rest of the world, continues to grow, water and other natural resources are consumed at an increasing rate. As water resources are depleted, overuse of existing supplies often occurs. Water management has traditionally involved the manipulation of water supplies, rather than focusing on altering water demand. This has been done through dams, water conveyance structures and the location and development of new supplies. However, these methods will continually face economic, ecological, and hydrological concerns.

Access to clean and safe drinking water is essential to a healthy and thriving community. If a safe drinking water source is compromised or lost, there would be harmful consequences to human health, the environment, and the economy. These losses can be prevented or mitigated to protect current and future sources. Once groundwater is polluted, it will remain that way for decades. The potential for contamination and the high cost of treatment and expense of locating or developing alternate sources make it imperative for government entities to adopt and implement effective strategies for long-term protection. This is especially true for any area dependent on groundwater as its sole source for drinking water.

Many factors, including increasing populations and extensive development, put stresses on groundwater supplies. These include the use of pesticides, fertilizers, animal manure, and storm water runoff which contains metals, nutrients, salts and other chemicals that can leach into groundwater basins. Local governmental planning agencies generally focus on priorities such as land use development (e.g., residential and commercial), infrastructure needs (e.g., roads, wastewater treatment, etc.), the local economy, and a good jobs-per-housing ratio. Planning for groundwater protection often receives insufficient attention for addressing periods of drought, water conservation and efficiency, pollution prevention, recharge zones, storm water management, and future water needs.

Canon Envirothon

A five-member team of Pennsylvania high school students from Penncrest High School took fifth place honors at the 2010 Canon Envirothon. This was announced on Friday, August 6th, during the closing ceremony of the weeklong North American environmental education competition held at the California State University, Fresno, and sponsored by Canon U.S.A., Inc.



More than 265 teenagers from 45 U.S. states and seven Canadian provinces studied environmental issues and resource conservation, while competing for a share of more than \$125,000 in scholarships and Canon products.

The first place California team received a total of \$25,000 in Canon Envirothon scholarships along with Canon equipment for their advisor and sponsoring agency. Delaware (\$20,000) and Minnesota (\$15,000) placed second and third respectively. The fourth place team from Florida received \$10,000. The fifth place team from Pennsylvania received \$7,500. The Pennsylvania team was also recognized for receiving the highest scores at the forestry and current issue stations. For more 2010 competition information, visit the Canon Envirothon website - www.envirothon.org.

The Canon Envirothon team pictured below includes: Mark Samilenko and Amanda Meltz, advisors, Nick Kandrak, Barbara Munin, Alek Korzeniowski, Katie Ferguson, and Jennifer Walker.



Accomplishments

State Competition – A very successful one-day event was held this year in order to lessen the stress on everyone’s (Envirothon’s, school districts’, conservation districts’) budgets. It is our goal to provide a quality event, whether it is a one or two-day event. At this year’s event students learned about biodiversity issues as they studied for the current issue topic and about Marcellus shale and natural gas drilling at the Discovery station.

Helping students make wise choices – High school students make dozens of choices that – for better or worse – affect the natural resources on which we depend. Today, the impact of those choices might seem fairly minor. But before too long, the choices these students make will become more complex; the ramifications more far-reaching as they begin to choose their career paths. Envirothon students are becoming doctors, conservationists, communication specialists, wildlife biologists, and leaders in our communities. Many former Envirothon students proclaim the Envirothon was the tool that helped them to make wise choices and balanced decisions as they enter life as young adults.

Act 48 Credit Hours for Educators – Envirothon team teachers/advisors participated in a “Sustainable Energy” educational training during the state Envirothon competition. In this Sustainable Energy workshop teachers explored the history and future of energy resources in the United States and, specifically, the issues and advancement in electric power generation. They explored the mix of sources that satisfy our nation’s growing energy demand including traditional, alternative and renewable. The workshop included hands-on demonstrations that could be used in the classroom. Participants received a variety of classroom materials and prepared curricula, including a copy of the new “Energy Thinking” curriculum from the Pennsylvania Department of Education’s Office of Environmental and Ecology. The Pennsylvania Department of Education provided Act 48 Credit Hours for those teachers who participated in the day’s activities.

2012 Canon Envirothon Planning Begins – Pennsylvania’s 2012 Canon Envirothon Committee and many volunteers are beginning to make preparations to host the 25th anniversary of the North American competition which first began in Pennsylvania. If you would like to be a part of this historical event, contact the Pennsylvania Envirothon office.

Partnerships and Sponsorships

The Pennsylvania Envirothon is very fortunate to have such a group of environmentally sensitive partners and sponsors who provide the wherewithal to provide a sound educational program for thousands of high school-aged students.

Partners

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources,
Bureau of Forestry and Bureau of State Parks
Pennsylvania Department of Education,
Office of Environment and Ecology
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
Pennsylvania Game Commission
U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service

Program Sponsors

Pennsylvania's Sixty-six Conservation Districts
Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission
Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts

Tent/Station Sponsors

Cargill and the Conservation Fund
Dwight Lewis Lumber
The Hershey Company
Lewis Lumber Products

Advisor Forum – 2010 Focus “Sustainable Energy”

PPL Montour Preserve

Financial Sponsors

EXCO – North Coast Energy



PPL Corporation



Nestle Waters North America



Air Products Foundation



Bayer HealthCare



PA Outdoor Writers Association



Woodstream Corporation



PA Trappers Association



Canon Envirothon



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Blair County

Bucks County

Cambria County

Carbon County

Centre County

Chester County

Clearfield County

Clinton County

Columbia County

Cumberland County

Erie County

Franklin County

Greene County

Huntingdon County

Indiana County

Lawrence County

Lebanon County

Lehigh County

Luzerne County

Lycoming County

McKean County

Montour County

Northampton County

Northumberland

County

Perry County

Potter County

Snyder County

Somerset County

Sullivan County

Union County

Warren County

Washington County

Wayne County

Wyoming County

York County

Financial Report

Funding for the Pennsylvania Envirothon is provided through a public/private partnership. Program administration and one staff position is supported through grants received from the PA Department of Environmental Protection, PA Department of Community and Economic Development. Special projects are funded through grants sponsored by the PA Department of Agriculture/State Conservation Commission, PA Fish and Boat Commission, and Canon Envirothon. Private/corporate contributions are used to cover event costs. This report reflects the income and expenses needed to hold a two-day event without an oral presentation component, which costs an additional \$30,000.

2010 Financial Report - reported by Ritchey, Ritchey & Koontz CPA

Revenue

Donations	25,439.00	
Government Donations	16,000.00	
Program Activities	1,099.00	
Fundraising	4,817.00	
Government Grants	50,776.00	
Interest	110.00	
Registration	9,950.00	
Other	<u>85.00</u>	
Total Revenue		\$108,813.00

Expenditures

Event Expense	23,413.00	
Outreach Expense	5,326.00	
Donations	6,100.00	
Program Administration	<u>64,091.00</u>	
Total Expenditures		<u>(98,930.00)</u>

Change in Net Assets	9,883.00
Net Assets, January 1	<u>127,789.00</u>
Net Assets, December 31	137,672.00

In-Kind Volunteer Contributions \$48,350.00

2011 Envirothon Events

The 28th annual Pennsylvania State Envirothon will be held at the Susquehanna University and Shikellamy State Park on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 24th and 25th, 2011. This will be the first time the State Envirothon event has been hosted in this area.

The 24th annual Canon Envirothon will be held at the Mount Allison University located in Sackville, New Brunswick during the week of July 24 – 29, 2011.

The current issue focus for the 2011 Envirothon events will be “Salt and Fresh Water Estuaries.”

How to become involved with the Envirothon

The Pennsylvania Envirothon welcomes new sponsors and partners to become involved with the state competition. Whether funding a specific component of the event (i.e. one of the three meals, awards for the oral component, the teacher’s training session, or a specific testing station) or volunteering to help at the event, we invite you to join us and our mission to educate our high school students about the environment and environmental issues. The Pennsylvania Envirothon also needs volunteers to assist with conducting the state event – and possibly with county events. The Envirothon continues to grow each year in Pennsylvania and our partners, sponsors, and volunteers are critical to making the program the successful environmental competition that it is today.

If you would like additional information, please contact the Pennsylvania Envirothon office.

The Pennsylvania Envirothon is recognized as a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit organization by the Internal Revenue Service.

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