



Pennsylvania Envirothon

2011
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

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Teddi Stark – Watershed Specialist, Juniata Conservation District

Jackie Ritko – Resource Supervisor, Cambria 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 2011 Canon Envirothon held July 24 – 29 at the Mount Allison University, Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada. Pennsylvania continues to lead the nation in the number of competitions won, with eleven of twenty-four Canon Envirothon titles (North American level), and placing among the top five ninety percent of the time.

For over twenty-eight 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 offer financial means for 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 2011 a successful Envirothon year.

William Kahler, Chairman
Pennsylvania Envirothon Board of Director

The Envirothon Experience

For over twenty-eight 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 about 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 are 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 (2011 – estuaries). 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 its respective county competition and moves on to 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



Oral Component

2011 Competition Summary



First Place

**Penncrest High School
Delaware County**



Second Place

**York Homeschoolers
York County**



Third Place

**Blue Mountain High School
Schuylkill County**

In 2011, more than 300 high-school students representing 66 counties participated in the twenty-seventh Pennsylvania Envirothon. The event was held on May 24 & 25 at the Susquehanna University and Shikellamy State Park.

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 ten high scoring teams. For the past six years, the Envirothon awarded scholarships totaling over \$9,000 for fifteen students on the top three teams. The scholarships are sponsored by The Hershey Company and EXCO Resources (PA). To date, we have awarded over \$60,000 in scholarships to more than 100 students.

Rounding out the Top Ten

Fourth – Greene County – Carmichaels Area High School

Fifth – Luzerne County – MMI Preparatory

Sixth – Centre County – Bald Eagle High School

Seventh – Warren County – Warren Area High School

Eighth – Berks County – Oley Valley High School

Ninth – Lehigh County – Emmaus High School

Tenth – Lebanon County – Palmyra High School

2011 Current Issue Theme

“Salt and Fresh Water Estuaries”

An estuary is a partially enclosed coastal body of water where freshwater from the land measurably dilutes saltwater from the ocean. This mixture of water types creates a unique environment that is critical for the survival of many species of fish, birds, and other wildlife. Estuaries provide safe spawning grounds and nurseries for fish and shellfish, ideal resting and refueling places for migratory birds, and habitat for many reptiles, amphibians, and mammals. Marshes and other wetlands, which often fringe estuaries, protect marine life and water quality by filtering sediment and pollution from upstream sources. Estuaries also create natural protection to coasts and shorelines from damaging storm waves and floods.

Estuaries are important parts of our lives; interconnected to our economy, hobbies and culture, and an important part of our coastal and ocean ecosystems. Estuaries provide commercial economic benefit to the U.S. in the form of seafood sales and jobs. They provide recreational activities such as fishing, birding, boating and hiking, which are enjoyed by millions of Americans each year in estuaries bringing income to coastal communities. Estuaries offer cultural importance to Americans. They are often city and trade centers, they are an important source of food, the buffer communities from storm surges, and they have a long history of cultural use by Native Americans. Estuaries are vital ecosystems providing diverse habitat and nursery areas for many important organisms.

Because we are all connected to the nation’s coasts, our activities have many effects on estuaries. Do you live in the high mountains, arid deserts, or near fertile farm fields? Wherever you live, your actions affect estuaries. Everything that drains from the land feeds into many different estuaries and the oceans. Everyone lives in the watershed of an estuary. A watershed is the land area that drains into a stream, river, lake, estuary, or coastal zone.

Estuaries require everyone’s help and hard work to keep them clean and safe. There are many things you can do to help protect estuaries and to conserve the valuable natural resource in estuarine ecosystems.

Canon Envirothon

A five-member team of high school students from Swan Valley Regional Secondary School, Manitoba, Canada, beat out more than 50 other teams to win the 2011 Canon Envirothon, a week-long North American environmental education competition sponsored by Canon U.S.A., Inc. The winning team was announced on Thursday, July 28th, during the closing ceremonies at Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada.



The 54 teams representing 45 U.S. states, eight Canadian provinces and one Canadian territory tested their knowledge on various environmental issues and resource conservation, while competing for a share of over \$125,000 in scholarships and Canon products.

Pennsylvania, represented by Penncrest High School located in Media, Delaware County, respectively placed 13th.



Since 1997, Canon U.S.A. has been the title sponsor of this annual competition. The Canon Envirothon is the culmination of a series

of competitions that began during the past school year and involved more than 500,000 high school students throughout North America. In written tests and oral presentations, starting at the local level, winning teams from schools and organizations competed for the distinction of representing their state, province, or territory at the Canon Envirothon.

Celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2012, the competition will be held at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania.

For more information and photos, visit the Canon Envirothon website at www.envirothon.org.

Accomplishments

State Competition – A very successful two-day event was held this year. The oral presentation was incorporated back into the competition as well as the overall score. At this year’s event, students learned about estuaries as they studied for the current issue topic.

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 will be 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 entered life as young adults.

Act 48 Credit Hours for Educators – Envirothon team teachers and advisors participated in a “PA Land Choices” educational training during the state Envirothon competition. PA Land Choices is a comprehensive educational program to engage and enlighten citizens and stakeholders regarding the importance of civic responsibility and the power of citizens in planning the future of a community. PA Land Choices is a collection of sequential activities that provide a simple and engaging approach to community involvement. Each activity guides the learner to understand the power of choice by first analyzing the forces that create change in a community and region. The program facilitates discussion, focusing on a key question: “What defines a good community?” and guides learners to identify positive and negative impacts of community elements. It identifies the importance of natural resources, green spaces, public lands and public spaces.

2012 Canon Envirothon Planning – Pennsylvania’s 2012 Canon Envirothon Committee and many volunteers are making preparations to host the 25th anniversary of the North American competition which first began in Pennsylvania.

Partnerships and Sponsorships

The Pennsylvania Envirothon is very fortunate to have 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 – 2011 Focus “PA Land Choices”

PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Shikellamy State Park

Financial Sponsors

EXCO – North Coast Energy



PPL Corporation



Nestle Waters North America



Air Products Foundation



Bayer HealthCare



PA Outdoor Writers Association



The Hershey Company



PA Trappers Association



Canon Envirothon



Talisman Energy USA



Talisman Energy USA

Friends of Envirothon

Sean Reineke Family

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Fulton Co. Commissioner Cutchall

Pennsylvania Conservation Districts

Financial Report

Funding for the Pennsylvania Envirothon is provided through a public/private partnership. Program administration and one staff position are supported through grants received from the PA Department of Environmental Protection and 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 with an oral presentation component.

2011 Financial Report - reported by Ritchey, Ritchey & Koontz CPA

Revenue

Donations	39,295.00	
Government Donations	72,770.00	
Program Activities	188.00	
Fundraising	5,030.00	
Interest	29.00	
Registration	<u>24,000.00</u>	
Total Revenue		\$153,812.00

Expenditures

Event Expense	75,709.00	
Outreach Expense	7,566.00	
Donations	9,100.00	
Program Administration	<u>51,365.00</u>	
Total Expenditures		<u>(143,740.00)</u>

Change in Net Assets	10,072.00
Net Assets, January 1	<u>137,672.00</u>
Net Assets, December 31	147,744.00

2012 Envirothon Events

The 29th annual Pennsylvania State Envirothon will be held at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 22nd and 23rd, 2012.

The 25th annual Canon Envirothon will be held at the Susquehanna University located in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania during the week of July 22 – 27, 2012.

The current issue focus for the 2012 Envirothon events will be “Non-Point Source Pollution – Low Impact Development.”

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 teachers’ training session, or a specific testing station) or volunteering to help at the event, we invite you to join us 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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