



UPDATES

Pennsylvania Envirothon Inc.

Fall 2011

2011 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.

Looking ahead to 2012—Current Environmental Issue

Going Green with LID Technology to Reduce Non-Point Source Pollution

Nonpoint source pollution, unlike pollution from industrial and sewage treatment plants, can come from many different sources. Stormwater runoff carries pollutants into our streams, rivers, reservoirs, and other bodies of water.

An estimated 60 percent of current water pollution is attributed to stormwater runoff. Nonpoint source pollution can contaminate drinking water, destroy wildlife habitat, close beaches, kill fish, and cause many other serious environmental and public health problems. Every year, millions of dollars

are spent to restore and protect areas damaged by nonpoint source pollutants. Stormwater has been identified as one of the leading sources of pollution for all waterbody types in the United States. Furthermore, the impacts of stormwater pollution are not static; they usually increase with more development and urbanization.

One of the most exciting new trends in managing stormwater runoff is the increased use of **Low Impact Development (LID)** to help protect and restore water quality. LID comprises a set of approaches and practices that are

designed to reduce runoff of water and pollutants from the site at which they are generated. By means of infiltration, evapotranspiration, and reuse of rainwater, LID techniques manage water and water pollutants at the source and thereby prevent or reduce the impact of development on rivers, streams, lakes, coastal waters, and ground water.

LID is an approach to land development (or re-development) that works with nature to manage stormwater as close to its source as possible. LID employs principles such as preserving and recreating natural landscape features

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Going Green with LID Technology to Reduce Non-Point Source Pollution

and minimizing effective imperviousness to create functional and appealing site drainage that treat stormwater as a resource rather than a waste product. There are many practices that have been used to adhere to these principles such as bio-retention facilities, rain gardens, vegetated rooftops, rain barrels, and permeable pavements. By implementing LID principles and practices, water can be managed in a way that reduces the impact of built areas and promotes the natural movement of water within an ecosystem or watershed. Applied on a broad watershed's hydrologic and ecological sustainable stormwater practice by the Water



Although the increase in application of these both the effectiveness of these practices and majority of cases, the U.S. Environmental implementing well-chosen LID practices and communities while protecting and restoring water quality.

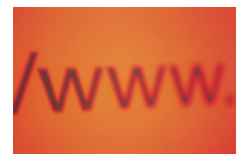
scale, LID can maintain or restore a functions. LID has been characterized as a Environment Research Foundation and others.

practices is growing rapidly, data regarding their costs remain limited. In the vast Protection Agency (EPA) has found that saves money for developers, property owners,

As water becomes an ever-increasing issue nationwide, managing our stormwater properly is not only a green technology, it becomes a necessity. And through the use of Low Impact Development strategies, properly managing stormwater is something all of us can do.

Teaching Tips for Envirothon topics

The Envirothon station partners have many materials available for educators. Most are fortunate to have volunteers who also provide services and training sessions for educators. Visit the following web sites to learn about available educational opportunities and resources.



Soil/Land Use—U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service—<http://soils.usda.gov/education/>

Aquatic Ecology — PA Fish & Boat Commission Learning Center for Educators: www.fishandboat.com/edind.htm or for Envirothon www.fishandboat.com/education/envirothon/envirothon.htm.

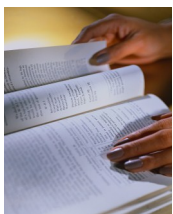
Forestry—PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry—www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/ei.aspx

Wildlife—PA Game Commission—www.pgc.state.pa.us

Watershed Management—PA DEP Bureau of Watershed Management—www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/watershed_management/10593

Bureau of State Parks—PA DCNR Bureau of State Parks—www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/

2012 Envirothon Resources



The Pennsylvania Envirothon Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the 2012 Envirothon resources will be available by late October. Teachers and students can review and download most of the information needed to prepare for the 2012 Envirothon competitions. Visit: www.envirothonpa.org and click on the sidebar category "Station Training."

Or...

The 2012 Teacher Resource Packets and new study resources will be delivered to your county's Envirothon Coordinator by the end of October. If you do not receive them, please contact your county Conservation District office or the Pennsylvania Envirothon office.

Celebrating 25 Years of Envirothon

Twenty-five years later, the Envirothon returns home to Pennsylvania, where it got its start. Originally called “Enviro-Olympics” in 1979, it began with only a few Pennsylvania counties competing against one another. It has since grown to include all 67 counties of Pennsylvania and also 46 states, 8 Canadian provinces, and one Canadian territory. What started as an idea for a fun way to get students to learn about our natural resources has now become North America’s largest high school natural resource competition, now known as Canon Envirothon!

Pennsylvania is excited to be hosting the 2012 Canon Envirothon, July 22-27, where more than 260 teenagers from the United States and Canada will embark upon the Susquehanna University.

Pennsylvania, translated, means Penn’s Woods, named after William Penn. Pennsylvania was created on March 4, 1681, by King Charles II of England, who granted William Penn a large tract of land west of the Delaware River to repay a debt owed Penn’s father, Admiral William Penn. Penn realized that much of this land was held by the Delaware (Lenni Lenape) Indians and sought to pay them a fair value for its use by settlers. Pennsylvania later became known as the Quaker State and the Keystone State, the latter name suggesting its position in the arch of the 13 original colonies.

As more people settled the colony in the late 1800’s, Pennsylvania became the nation’s greatest source of lumber. Millions of logs from chestnut, oak, maple, hemlock, and various other species floated down the Susquehanna River to sawmills in Williamsport and

south. The Commonwealth was also a leading producer of leather.

In addition to lumber and leather, Pennsylvania was also well known for its steel manufacturing and coal mining. These were the leading industries in the 19th and 20th centuries, contributing to the Industrial Revolution. Mining anthracite and bituminous coal continues today, but on a lesser scale. The focus has now changed to reclaiming these mines and mining for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale region.

Today, about 60% (17 million acres) of Pennsylvania is forested. The Commonwealth remains the nation’s largest producer of hardwood lumber (over 1 billion board feet per year). Individuals and families own about 75% of the forested land and provide 80% of Pennsylvania’s timber products. Economic pressures to convert forest land to residential or commercial uses threaten the conservation of private forests. These forests, as well as the Chesapeake Bay, are now in jeopardy because of natural gas extraction and urban sprawl.

Logging and mining are only a part of Pennsylvania’s history. Pennsylvania is home to Valley Forge, the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall, the places where our founding fathers fought for our freedom from England and created all men equal when they wrote the U.S. Constitution. It is home to Gettysburg National Battlefield, one of the nation’s bloodiest battles and President Lincoln’s famous speech—The Gettysburg Address.

The state is rich in history, natural resources, and recreational opportunities. From the wooded resorts and Lehigh Valley Gorge in the Pocono

Mountains to the “Sweetest Place on Earth” - Hershey Chocolate World - Pennsylvania offers a wide array of activities for everyone.

The 2012 Canon Envirothon Host Committee extends an invitation to all teams, advisors, volunteers, and Canon Envirothon Committee folks to join us in 2012 in celebration of twenty-five years of natural resource education for our youth. Come and explore Penn’s Woods. Come and enjoy our Pennsylvania Dutch cooking and hospitality. And come take The Natural Challenge with us!

For more information about the Canon Envirothon, visit the Canon Envirothon website at www.envirothon.org. If you would like to volunteer for or attend the 2012 event, visit the Pennsylvania Envirothon website at www.envirothonpa.org in the New Year. Volunteer roles and duties, volunteer registration, current issue background information, and host site information will be posted in January.



2012 PSSA Testing Calendar

Every Pennsylvania student in grades 3–8 and grade 11 is assessed in reading and math. Every Pennsylvania student in grades 5, 8, and 11 is assessed in writing. Every Pennsylvania student in grades 4, 8, and 11 is assessed in science.

Below is a 2012 PSSA testing calendar, which may be helpful to Conservation Districts and Envirothon Coordinators when scheduling your county Envirothon events.

Assessment	Dates	Grade(s)
PSSA Math and Reading	March 12–23	3–8, 11
PSSA–M Math and Reading		4–8, 11
PSSA Writing	April 16–20	5, 8, 11
PSSA Science	April 23–27	4, 8, 11
PSSA M-Science		8, 11

Upcoming Events at a Glance

September–November 2011

- Coordinators begin contacting and recruiting Envirothon teams and advisors.
- 2012 Teacher Resource Packets will be available in October.
- Envirothon Coordinator's meeting via a Webinar. Date to be announced.

April–May 2012

County Envirothon events sponsored in Pennsylvania's 67 counties.

May 22 & 23, 2012

Pennsylvania State Envirothon – University of Pittsburgh Johnstown, Cambria County.

July 22–27, 2012

Canon Envirothon – Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania.

2013

Canon Envirothon – Montana.

2014

Canon Envirothon – Georgia.



Mark your calendars!

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Pennsylvania Envirothon Mission

The Envirothon is an environmental education program made available to Pennsylvania Conservation Districts in partnership with related state and federal agencies and other organizations. The Envirothon program is designed to test high school students' knowledge of Pennsylvania's natural resources and environmental sciences. The program emphasizes the importance of environmental sensitivity while stressing a need to achieve a social, ecological, and economic balance. 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.



For more information:

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