



Pennsylvania Envirothon

2014
Annual Report

ACCEPT THE NATURAL CHALLENGE!

“Pennsylvania is the Founder of North America’s largest high school natural resource education competition, the Envirothon.”

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, ecological, and economic balance. The learning objectives emphasize awareness, knowledge, and attitudes through outdoor hands-on applications while addressing the complex natural resource concerns facing today's world as well as the challenges of tomorrow.

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Lorelle Steach – Executive Director

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 natural resource education program/competition – Envirothon – in 1979. Every year, volunteers for the Envirothon program work together to deliver natural resource 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 47 states and nine Canadian provinces/territories.

For more than thirty years, the Pennsylvania Envirothon has been preparing the Commonwealth's youth to live in a conservation minded manner.

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

Envirothon sponsors offer a financial mean, which enables us to offer a quality education program, organize a worthwhile event, provide training measures and tools, and sustain an Envirothon staff person.

Our partners and sponsors make the Envirothon possible. A sincere congratulations and thanks are extended to everyone who helped make 2014 a successful Envirothon Year.

William Kahler, Chairman

Pennsylvania Envirothon Board of Directors

The Envirothon Experience

For over thirty 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 (2014 – sustainable agriculture/locally grown). A discovering energy 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 North American Envirothon, North America's largest natural resource education competition for high school students.

2014 Competition Summary

In 2014, more than 300 high-school students representing 64 counties participated in the thirty-first Pennsylvania Envirothon. The event was held on May 20 and 21 at Susquehanna University and the PPL Montour Preserve.



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 has awarded scholarships totaling over \$9,000 to the fifteen students on the top three teams. The scholarships were sponsored by Pennsylvania's County Conservation Districts.



Pennsylvania's Top Ten Envirothon Teams

First – Delaware County – Penncrest High School

Second – York County – York County Homeschool

Third – Greene County – Carmichaels Area High School

Fourth – Lebanon County – Palmyra Area High School

Fifth – Chester County – Downingtown East High School

Sixth – Clarion County – Redbank Valley High School

Seventh – Bucks County – Neshaminy High School

Eighth – Beaver County – Central Valley High School

Ninth – Schuylkill County – Blue Mountain High School

Tenth – Union County – Lewisburg High School

Envirothon at a Glance



Aquatic Ecology



Current Issues



Soil/Land Use



Envirothon at a Glance



Forestry



Wildlife



Oral Component

2014 Current Issue Theme

“Sustainable Agriculture/Locally Grown”

In recent years a strong movement has emerged to redefine agriculture from the perspective of its sustainability (ability to be productively replicated in future generations) and its interconnection with its immediate environment. The movement has brought focus not only to these connections but to the profitability of small farms, the practicality of individuals growing their own food, and the environmental and economic benefits of obtaining food that has been produced locally.

According to the 1990 U.S. Farm Bill, sustainable agriculture should hold to these basic tenets: satisfy human food and fiber needs and farmers and ranchers profit over the long term; enhance environmental quality and the natural resource base upon which the agricultural economy depends; make the most efficient use of nonrenewable resources and on-farm resources and integrate natural biological cycles and controls; sustain the economic viability of farm operations; and enhance the quality of life for farmers, ranchers and society as a whole.

Although the farm has long been a place where much thought has been given to stewardship of the earth, it has also been a battleground of principles where large scale economies often fight for position in front of solid conservation practices. While food and fiber production has soared due to new technologies, mechanization, increased chemical use, specialization, and government policies that favored maximizing production, there have been significant environmental and social costs. Prominent among these are topsoil depletion, groundwater contamination, decline of family farms, increasing production costs, intensified use of fossil fuel sources, and degradation of economic and social conditions in rural communities. The growing sustainable agriculture movement of the last two decades has focused on methodologies that address these concerns without damaging the economic viability of the farm.

Sustainability rests on the principle that we must meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. While this can possibly be done with large scale operations, the focus of this topic will address smaller scale, family farm level operations.

Current Environmental Issue Station Award

In Memory of Donna Hays



In July 2013, the Envirothon lost a dear friend, Donna Hays. Many of you knew Donna as the person who answered your questions and walked you through the Envirothon registration process. Donna was a member of the Pennsylvania State Envirothon for more than 20 years and the environmental educator at the Franklin County Conservation District for more than 40 years. To celebrate her commitment and passion for the Envirothon, the high score current issue station award is being presented as the Donna Hays Memorial Award. Donna is greatly missed by her Envirothon family and friends.

Pennsylvania Envirothon Board of Directors



Pictured L to R: Corey Richmond, Bob Sweitzer, Jan Hampton, Teddi Stark, Renee Swineford, Erica Smith, Christy Thomas, Lorelle Steach, Celina Seftas, Jason Winey, Karen Books, Vince McCollum, Cathy Yeakel, Mary Ann Bower, Greg Reineke, Maryruth Wagner, Bill Kahler, Craig Bingman, Cheryl Brobst, and Irvil Kear.

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

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

Pennsylvania Game Commission

U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service

Pennsylvania Farmers Union

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

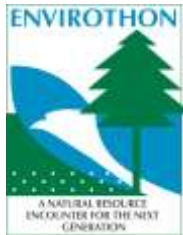
The Hershey Company

Lewis Lumber Products

Advisor Forum

PA Sea Grant

Financial Sponsors



FRIENDS OF ENVIROTHON
PENNSYLVANIA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
ANDY PATTERSON
WOLF FARMS INC.

Financial Report

Funding for the Pennsylvania Envirothon is provided through a public/private partnership. Program administration and one staff position are supported through an environmental education grant received from the PA Department of Environmental Protection. Special projects are funded through grants sponsored by Shell Exploration and Production, Weis Markets, PPL, Marcellus Shale Coalition, PA Trappers Association, and PA Outdoor Writers Association. Additional private/corporate contributions are used to cover event costs. This report reflects the income and expenses needed to hold a two-day event.

2014 Financial Report - reported by Ritchey, Ritchey & Koontz CPA

Revenue

Donations	73,124.00	
Government Grants	48,021.00	
Fundraising	3,834.00	
Interest	37.00	
Other	344.00	
Registration	<u>28,575.00</u>	
Total Revenue		\$153,935.00

Expenditures

Event Expense	34,840.00	
Outreach Expense	3,802.00	
Donations	12,200.00	
Grant expenses	3,000.00	
Depreciation	550.00	
Program Administration	<u>113,259.00</u>	
Total Expenditures		<u>(167,651.00)</u>

Change in Net Assets	(13,716.00)
Net Assets, January 1	<u>226,744.00</u>
Net Assets, December 31	213,028.00

2015 Envirothon Events

The 32nd annual Pennsylvania Envirothon will be held at the University of Pittsburgh Johnstown and Windber Recreation Park on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 19 and 20, 2015.

The current issue focus for the 2015 Envirothon events will be “Urban Forestry.”

The 27th NCF - Envirothon (North American Envirothon) will be held at the Missouri State University, Springfield July 27 - August 2, 2015.

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. In addition, the program is an approved organization by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development office to receive corporate contributions under the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program

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