



Pennsylvania Envirothon

2016
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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Board of Directors

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Teddi Stark – Watershed Specialist, Juniata Conservation District

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Greg Reineke – Education Coordinator, Fulton Conservation District

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Jackie Ritko – Resource Supervisor, Cambria Conservation District

Jan Hampton – District Manager, Cameron Conservation District

Renee Swineford – Administrative Assistant, Snyder Conservation District

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Christy Thomas – Administrative Assistant, Clearfield Conservation District

Hayley Book – PA Public Utilities Commission

Trudy Alexander – District Manager, Clarion Conservation District

Dianna Townsend – Administrative Assistant, Tioga Conservation District

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Irvil Kear – Volunteer, Schuylkill County

Staff

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 prompt 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 U.S. states, nine Canadian provinces/territories, and a Chinese province.

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 provide financial means enabling us to offer a quality education program, organize a meaningful 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 2016 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 (2016 – invasive species). 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.

2016 Competition Summary

In 2016, more than 300 high-school students representing 65 counties participated in the 33rd Pennsylvania Envirothon. The event was held on May 24 and 25 at Susquehanna University and Camp Mount Luther.



The state Envirothon is the outcome of 67 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 seven years, the Envirothon has awarded scholarships totaling over \$10,000 to the fifteen students on the top three teams. The scholarships were sponsored by Pennsylvania's County Conservation Districts and Shell Oil Company.



Pennsylvania's Top Ten Envirothon Teams

First – Delaware County – Penncrest High School

Second – Lebanon County – Palmyra Area High School

Third – Greene County – Carmichaels Area High School

Fourth – Bucks County – Neshaminy High School

Fifth – York County – YHSA Homeschoolers

Sixth – Erie County – North East High School

Seventh – Berks County – Oley Valley High School

Eighth – Cumberland County – Cumberland Valley High School

Ninth – Monroe County – Pleasant Valley High School

Tenth – Potter County – Coudersport High School

Envirothon at a Glance



Aquatic Ecology



Current Issues



Soil/Land Use



Envirothon at a Glance



Forestry



Wildlife



Oral Component



2016 Current Issue Theme

Invasive Species: A Challenge to the Environment, Economy and Society

Invasive species pose a serious threat to the stability of many North American ecosystems. Invasive species have been known to disrupt food webs, damage or destroy habitat and contribute to the decline of indigenous species at risk. In addition to their environmental impact, invasive species can have a significant impact on local economies; in the United States alone it is estimated that invading alien species cause major environmental damage and loss adding up to almost \$120 billion per year (Pimentel, Zuniga, Morrison – 2005).

The 19th and 20th centuries have seen an exponential increase in the number of invasive species being intentionally and unintentionally introduced to North America and around the world through a variety of methods. The vast majority of invasive species that have established themselves in North America did so through unnatural or “human-assisted” means, including being introduced by early settlers for agricultural purposes. However, many others have been inadvertently transported to North America through trade and travel, as stowaways on ships or in packaging materials, and through horticulture. With the expected increases in exports and trade in the future, we can likely expect greater challenges and introductions of new species not yet known to occur in North America.

Students learned about invasive species prevention, introduction, impact and management.

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. Missing from the photo: Jackie Ritko, Hayley Book, Trudy Alexander, Dianna Townsend, Michael Aucoin, Andy Patterson, and Kim Young.

Thank You

Pennsylvania's county conservation districts have made a commitment to organizing and hosting county level competitions as well as assisting with the state level competition. Thank you, Conservation Districts, for staff time, financial contributions, and endless hours of preparation and training. Your dedication has made the Envirothon one of the state's top natural resource education programs.

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

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

Energy – Jason Petlock, Southwestern Energy
Daria Fish, Chief Oil & Gas

Financial Sponsors



PENNSYLVANIA'S
67 COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

2005 CANON ENVIROTHON
CHAMPION TEAM
PENNCREST HIGH SCHOOL



FRIENDS OF ENVIROTHON
PENNSYLVANIA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
ANDY PATTERSON

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, Weis, PPL, EQT Foundation, Chief Oil & Gas, Southwestern Energy, and Philadelphia Insurance Companies. Additional private/corporate contributions are used to cover event costs. This report reflects the income and expenses needed to hold a two-day event.

2016 Financial Report - reported by Ritchey, Ritchey & Koontz CPA

Revenue

| | | |
|----------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Donations | 119,061.00 | |
| Program Activities | 909.00 | |
| Government Grants | 98,120.00 | |
| Fundraising | 3,962.00 | |
| Interest | 279.00 | |
| Other | 363.00 | |
| Registration | <u>22,126.00</u> | |
| Total Revenue | | \$244,820.00 |

Expenditures

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Event Expense | 29,954.00 | |
| Outreach Expense | 5,775.00 | |
| Donations | 10,650.00 | |
| Grant expenses | 57,896.00 | |
| Depreciation | 483.00 | |
| Program Administration | <u>110,163.00</u> | |
| Total Expenditures | | <u>(214,921.00)</u> |

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Change in Net Assets | 29,899.00 |
| Net Assets, January 1 | <u>249,086.00</u> |
| Net Assets, December 31 | 278,985.00 |

2017 Envirothon Events

The 34th annual Pennsylvania Envirothon will be held at the University of Pittsburgh Johnstown on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 23 and 24, 2017.

The current issue focus for the 2017 Envirothon events will be “Agricultural Soil and Water Conservation Stewardship.”

The 29th NCF - Envirothon (North American Envirothon) will be held at the Mount St. Mary's University, Emmitsburg, Maryland July 23 - 29, 2017.

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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