



## Pennsylvania Envirothon

2017  
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**

### **Chair**

William Kahler – Director, Lycoming Conservation District

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Vince McCollum – Watershed Specialist, Cumberland Conservation District

### **Secretary**

Robert Sweitzer – District Manager, Centre Conservation District

### **Treasurer**

Christy Thomas – Administrative Assistant, Clearfield Conservation District

Mary Ann Bower – District Manager, Clinton Conservation District

Celina Seftas – District Manager, Huntingdon Conservation District

Corey Richmond – Watershed Specialist, Sullivan Conservation District

Erica Smith – Ag Conservation Technician, Mifflin Conservation District

Karen Books – Water Program Specialist, PA DEP/SCC

Michael Aucoin - Certification & Education Specialist, PDA/SCC

Jason Winey – Watershed Specialist, Snyder Conservation District

Maryruth Wagner – District Manager, Columbia Conservation District

Cathy Yeakel – District Manager, Bradford Conservation District

## **Associate Directors**

Greg Reineke – Education Coordinator, Fulton Conservation District

Andy Patterson – District Manager, Huntingdon Conservation District

Jackie Ritko – Resource Supervisor, Cambria Conservation District

Renee Swineford – Administrative Assistant, Snyder Conservation District

Teddi Stark – DCNR Bureau of Forestry/Western PA Conservancy

Hayley Book – PA Public Utilities Commission

Trudy Alexander – District Manager, Clarion Conservation District

Dianna Townsend – Administrative Assistant, Tioga Conservation District

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 2017 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 (2017 – ag soil and water conservation). 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 NCF-Envirothon, North America's largest natural resource education competition for high school students.

## 2017 Competition Summary

In 2017, more than 300 high-school students representing 64 counties participated in the 34<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Envirothon. The event was held on May 23 and 24 at the University of Pittsburgh Johnstown.



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. The Envirothon awards scholarships totaling over \$13,500 to the twenty-five students on the top five 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 – Erie County – North East High School

Fifth – Monroe County – Pleasant Valley High School

Sixth – Westmoreland County – Southmoreland High School

Seventh – Susquehanna County – Blue Ridge High School

Eighth – Luzerne County – MMI Preparatory High School

Ninth – York County – Central York High School

Tenth – Northampton County – Bangor Area High School

# Envirothon at a Glance



# Aquatic Ecology



# Current Issues



# Soil/Land Use





# Envirothon at a Glance



## Forestry



## Wildlife



## Oral Component



## 2017 Current Issue Theme

### **AGRICULTURAL SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP**

The Pennsylvania Farmer has played an important role in the efforts to clean up the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Pennsylvania makes up 35% of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The Susquehanna River is the largest tributary to the Bay and the actions of the farms in the Bay Watershed play a critical role in the health of its waters. This year's Current Environmental Issue focuses on Agricultural Soil and Water Conservation Stewardship.

Although great strides in reducing pollution have been made over the last decades, nearly one-quarter of Pennsylvania's rivers and streams currently suffer from pollution. Contaminated runoff from agricultural, urban, and suburban areas, sewage treatment plants, septic systems, and even air pollution contaminate Pennsylvania's streams and remain the leading sources of Pennsylvania's pollution to the Bay.



Envirothon participants will learn about Pennsylvania's natural resources and engage in hands-on training and testing. Students will learn the basic concepts of how agricultural Best Management Practices and all natural resource areas are interrelated. By providing a lifelong learning experience for these students, the Envirothon teaches the importance of maintaining a balance of the quality of life versus the quality of the environment specifically relating to agriculture. In addition, as part of the Envirothon program, students gain an understanding of the importance of promoting soil and water conservation stewardship.

## Pennsylvania Envirothon Board of Directors



**Pictured:** Vince McCollum, Lorelle Steach, Greg Reineke, Maryruth Wagner, Bill Kahler, Hayley Book, Teddi Stark, Jason Winey, Michael Aucoin, Eric Smith, Irvil Kear, Jackie Ritko, Mary Ann Bower, Kim Young, Cathy Yeakel, Corey Richmond, Renee Swineford, Dianna Townsend, Christy Thomas, Bob Sweitzer, Celina Seftas, Trudy Alexander, and Karen Books.

### 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**

Eco-Schools USA - Holly Shields, National Wildlife Federation; May Ann Boyer, Boyer Sudduth Environmental Consultants; Heidi Kunka, U.S. Green Building Council; Andrew Ellsworth and Guy McUmber, Green Building Alliance; Heather Cowley, PA Dept. of Environmental Protection; Lorna Rosenberg, US EPA Region

# Financial Sponsors



*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, UGI Utilities, 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.

### 2017 Financial Report - reported by Ritchey, Ritchey & Koontz CPA

#### Revenue

Donations	95,147.00	
Program Activities	184.00	
Government Grants	105,646.00	
Fundraising	3,262.00	
Interest	816.00	
Other	378.00	
Registration	<u>22,440.00</u>	
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>\$227,873.00</b>

#### Expenditures

Event Expense	48,648.00	
Outreach Expense	9,323.00	
Donations	12,800.00	
Grant expenses	69,748.00	
Depreciation	807.00	
Program Administration	<u>109,445.00</u>	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>		<b><u>(250,771.00)</u></b>

Change in Net Assets	(22,898.00)
Net Assets, January 1	<u>278,985.00</u>
Net Assets, December 31	256,087.00

## **2018 Envirothon Events**

The 35<sup>th</sup> annual Pennsylvania Envirothon will be held at the Susquehanna University and Camp Mount Luther on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 22 and 23, 2018.

The current issue focus for the 2018 Envirothon events will be “The Benefits of Grassland and Pastureland Management.”

The 30<sup>th</sup> NCF - Envirothon (International Envirothon) will be held at the University of Idaho, Pocatello, Idaho, July 22 - 28, 2018.

## **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.

**Pennsylvania Envirothon Inc.**

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