

PENNSYLVANIA ENVIROTHON

2020

Teacher Resource Booklet



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2020 Teacher Resource Booklet

For more than 36 years, high schools in Pennsylvania have been recognizing the value of the Envirothon experience. Students and their teachers become empowered by their own motivation as the Envirothon engages them in an exciting, multi-faceted study of natural resources. Students involved in the Envirothon often pursue further education in natural resource fields. Many Envirothon participants pursuing degrees in various natural resource studies have indicated that their education choice was partly due, or strengthened by, their Envirothon experience. Many Envirothon coaches credit the Envirothon with increasing student interest and involvement in natural resource and environmental sciences. To many people involved, the Envirothon is more than just a competition.

We hope that whether this is your first Envirothon or you are a veteran participant, you and your team are excited to learn about the environment, our relationship with it, and how we can each work towards its protection and conservation.

This year features “Water Resources Management: Local Control and Local Solutions” as the Current Environmental Issue. We have made an effort to link the other stations (Soils/Land Use, Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, and Wildlife) with the Current Issue in the Essential Topics and Learning Objectives.

This Teacher Resource Booklet is intended to help you and your teams become fluent in a broad range of natural resource topics. It outlines the program guidelines of the Envirothon, including the Learning Objectives and Reference Lists. Included are:

1. Envirothon Mission Statement and Objectives
2. Envirothon Sponsors, Partners, and Financial Contributors
3. General Information about the 2020 Pennsylvania and NCF Envirothon events
4. Brief History of the Envirothon
5. Overview of Station testing and a past current issue station test
6. Overview of state oral component and the 2019 scenario
7. Some Tips for Teaching Envirothon Material
8. Aquatic Ecology *
9. Current Issue – “Water Resources Management: Local Control and Local Solutions” *
10. Forestry *
11. Soil/Land Use *
12. Wildlife *

** The following are specified for each station:*

a) Essential Topics

b) Learning Objectives

- Each is correlated with the PDE Environment & Ecology and Science and Technology Standards

c) Reference Materials List - If you are missing any of these materials, contact your County Conservation District.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Pennsylvania Envirothon is to provide students with the knowledge and tools necessary to address the natural resource challenges facing today's world.

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.

OBJECTIVES

Awareness: The Envirothon will help students cultivate an awareness of the total environment and acquire sensitivity towards its limited natural resources.

Knowledge: The Envirothon will help students develop a basic understanding of the earth's ecological systems and the life-sustaining implication these systems have on all living things.

Attitudes: The Envirothon will help students develop attitudes, which embrace environmental sensitivity and instill the dedication to participate in activities geared towards protecting the environment.

Application: The Envirothon will help students develop skills needed to identify, investigate, and contribute to the resolution of environmental issues and problems.

PARTNERS and SPONSORS

Partners

Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts
Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission
Pennsylvania's sixty-six Conservation Districts
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of State Parks
Pennsylvania Department of Education
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
Pennsylvania Game Commission
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Corporate Sponsors

Shell Oil Company	UGI Utilities	The Hershey Company
Weis	EQT Foundation	Smithfield Foods
PPL Corporation	Chief Oil & Gas	

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ENVIROTHON

The Envirothon program began here in Pennsylvania as the "Envir-Olympics" in 1979 with three counties holding competitions. In 1984, the first State competition was held with six counties participating. 1988 marked an important year in our history: the event had grown to include thirty-eight teams; the program was officially changed to "Envirothon"; and Pennsylvania planned, hosted, and won the first National Envirothon, which is now an international competition. In Pennsylvania, more than 40,000 students participate each year and the program includes every county in the state.

2020 PENNSYLVANIA ENVIROTHON

What: Pennsylvania State Envirothon –37th Annual

Who: Teams of High School Students from all across Pennsylvania

When/Where: Tuesday and Wednesday, May 19 and 20, 2020 – Susquehanna University

Why: To test the students' knowledge of Pennsylvania's natural resources while providing them with the ability to address the complex environmental concerns facing today's world as well as the challenges of tomorrow.

How: Teams rotate through five stations.

<u>Station</u>	<u>Cooperating Agency</u>
Soil/Land Use	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Aquatic Ecology	PA Fish & Boat Commission
Forestry	PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry
Wildlife	PA Game Commission
* Water Resources Management: Local Control and Local Solutions	PA Envirothon

(* The fifth testing station is a Current Environmental Issue, which changes annually.)

Past Current Environmental Issues:

1984 – Acid Rain	2003 – Farmland Preservation & Conservation
1985 – Hazardous Waste	2004 – Natural Resource Management in the Urban Environment
1986 – Solid Waste Management	2005 – Managing Cultural Landscapes
1987 – Water Quality	2006 – Water Stewardship in a Changing Climate
1988 – Farmland Preservation	2007 – Alternative/renewable Energy
1989 – Recycling	2008 – Recreational Impacts on Natural Environments
1990 – Wetlands	2009 – Biodiversity in a Changing World
1991 – Energy Sustainability	2010 – Protection of Groundwater
1992 – Groundwater	2011 – Salt and Fresh Water Estuaries
1993 – Pesticides	2012 – NPS & Low Impact Development
1994 – Acid Rain	2013 – Grazing and Pastureland Management
1995 – Groundwater	2014 – Sustainable Agriculture/Buy Locally
1996 – Greenways	2015 – Urban and Community Forests
1997 – Pest Management	2016 – Invasive Species
1998 – Watersheds	2017 – Agricultural Soil and Water Conservation
1999 – Wildfire Management	2018 – Grassland and Pastureland Management
2000 – Wetland Management	2019 – Agriculture and the Environment: Knowledge and Technology to Feed the World
2001 – Urban Nonpoint Source Pollution	
2002 – Introduced Species	

2020 NCF-ENVIROTHON

The winning team of the Pennsylvania Envirothon will advance to the NCF-Envirothon being held July 26 – August 1, 2020 at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Over forty-seven states, nine Canadian provinces/territories, and two Chinese provinces are expected to participate in this international event!

OVERVIEW OF THE STATION TESTING

To prepare teams for the Pennsylvania Envirothon, most counties model their testing stations after the state competition.

Traditional state testing evaluates team performance in four universal areas (i.e., soils/land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife) and a different current environmental issue each year. At each station, written tests assess each team's knowledge of the specific resources at that site.

For example, the forestry station relates to forest ecology, forest structure and composition, regional tree and plant species, and silvicultural and forestry practices; the aquatic ecology station relates to aquatic ecosystems, species diversity, and aquatic resource management; the soils/land use station relates to land formation, use of a soil survey, and land management practices; and the wildlife station relates to wildlife ecology, conservation and management practices, regional wildlife species, and issues involving wildlife and society.

Station testing is designed to provide a challenging, hands-on opportunity for each team to demonstrate and apply its knowledge of environmental science and natural resource management.

As teams rotate through each of the five testing stations, they experience a variety of testing formats. Most tests include some type of identification, including wildlife tracks or mounts, bird calls, skins, fish, macroinvertebrates, trees, soil textures and soil horizons. The majority of the other questions will be in the format of matching and multiple-choice, with fill-in-the-blank and short answer questions. At each station, teams receive a brief introduction to the specific site. The test is usually administered by a natural resource professional with expertise in that field. Students spend 25-35 minutes at each testing station with a five minute period for questions and review, and a five minute period for travel between stations.

Sample Station Test

The following are questions taken from the **2019 Current Issue** station exam. This county level test was based on the theme "Agriculture and the Environment: Knowledge and Technology to Feed the World." These are examples of the types of questions you might experience at any given Envirothon competition.

1. The development of _____ agriculture has been made possible by combining the use of Global Positioning System (GPS) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS)?
 - A. Production
 - B. Precision
 - C. Pesticide free
 - D. Predictive
2. Genetic engineering permits increased efficiency in developing new crop varieties with new and desirable traits. This ultimately occurs because there is a _____ transfer of genes.
 - A. Random
 - B. Highly targeted
 - C. Greater
 - D. Frequent

3. Plants that have genes from other organisms are referred to as what?
 - A. Transferred
 - B. Transgenic
 - C. Translated
 - D. Trans-compliant
4. Crops produced through genetic engineering are sometimes referred to as GMO. What does the acronym GMO stand for?
5. There are many types of native bees. Some common types of bees are named by their nest-building habits. Name two common bees reflecting their types of nests.
6. Project Integrated Crop Pollination (ICP) is conducting research on pollinator habitat enhancement and techniques for managing alternative bees for crop pollination. List two species of alternative bees that ICP.
7. If the soil texture of a field is such that the soil infiltration rate is undesirable, which management practice would be best for improving the infiltration rate?
 - A. Increase the degree of soil tillage
 - B. Decrease manure and fertilizer application
 - C. Increase soil organic matter content
 - D. Decrease use of continuous no-till
8. Soil organic matter serves all these functions except for one of the following?
 - A. Serves as a reservoir of nutrients for crops
 - B. Retaining moisture
 - C. Reducing water infiltration into soil
 - D. Reducing soil compaction

Using the provided word bank, answer the following.

9. The soil's ability to allow water movement into and through the soil profile.
10. The weight of dry soil per unit of volume.
11. The organic component of soil.
12. The stable organic fraction of soil organic matter.

ORAL COMPONENT

What is the Oral Component?

The Oral Component (OC) offers Envirothon teams a chance to address real-life environmental problems as presented through a written scenario. The OC challenges a team's ability to consider an environmental issue, discuss its likely ramifications and effects, develop possible solutions, and present their findings to a panel of judges and then answer the judges' questions during a 20-minute session. Participation in the OC is mandatory. The OC offers students a chance to hone their public speaking, problem solving, and presentation skills, and it also helps the students prepare for the upcoming testing stations.

How does it Work and What will it Teach My Students?

The 2020 scenario will be posted on the Pennsylvania Envirothon website (www.envirothonpa.org) on Monday, May 11th, the week prior to the event. Posting the scenario provides teams an opportunity to better prepare their oral presentation. Teams can utilize existing resources and research new information. Teams may also receive limited guidance (i.e., review score sheet, clarify scenario) from their advisors; advisors are encouraged to **NOT** prepare their team's presentation.

The OC consists of a 5 – 10-minute oral presentation and a 10-minute question/answer period to a panel of five to seven judges chosen by the Pennsylvania Envirothon Board. A total of five to seven judges constitute a panel in each room. Each team is asked questions based on their recommendations and scored accordingly by the panel of judges. On the day of competition prior to their scheduled presentation time, teams are allotted one hour to prepare any visuals they wish to use during their presentation. A schedule is provided closer to the event. The Pennsylvania Envirothon provides teams with all materials, which are permitted for use. No other materials are allowed. This list is included in the Oral Competition Rules and Guidelines. Also within this one hour timeframe, teams may practice their presentation before going in front of the judges.

The presentation usually consists of how the team's proposed idea will positively and/or negatively impact the land, water, air, wildlife, forests, and people of the area. Although a few resource materials might be provided, the majority of the team's proposal is based on the resources they've been studying throughout the year.

When participating in the Oral Component, **teams are asked to NOT wear attire** (hats, shirts, shorts, etc.) **that may indicate or include their county name or school name.** Anonymity is important when the students are presenting before a panel of judges; this helps to keep a level playing field for all teams.

This is a great opportunity for students to work together and apply the things they have learned while studying for the Envirothon competition. Teams discuss their findings prior to presentation time and decide which of their recommendations is feasible in a real life situation. They are asked to defend and explain their recommended actions. Students are not judged on what is "right" or "wrong", they are judged on their ability to think on their feet and incorporate their existing knowledge of Soil/Land Use, Aquatic Ecology, Wildlife, Forestry and the year's current issue. The scenario is based on the Current Issue theme each year when applicable.

When is it Held?

The Oral Component is held the day prior to the station testing. Team presentation times are randomly scheduled. Teams are encouraged to call the Envirothon office if they cannot make their scheduled time.

How Can My Team Prepare?

To help your county team prepare for the Oral Component experience, peruse the "Learning Enhancement" activities provided in this booklet. Many of the activities allow students to role-play in situations that affect various environmental areas. These role-playing extensions can be very valuable in preparing a team to think in terms of how all the station areas interconnect. Also, the Pennsylvania Envirothon offers training videos that highlight the Oral Component. These videos can be found on the Pennsylvania Envirothon – Station Training – Oral Component web page prior to the competition. Teams will need a password in order to access the videos. The password is found in the team registration packet. In addition, your teams can view the top presentations from previous NCF-Envirothon competitions by visiting the NCF-Envirothon web site – The Competition, Past Competition and Final Presentations. You may also view the presentations by following the YouTube link at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yIYJtlqpGMc&feature=youtu.be>.

The following scenario was used for the 2019 oral component. This provides an example of the types of issues you might be asked to address at any given Envirothon competition.

2019 Oral Component Scenario

The Scenario:

The Pennsylvania Association of Sustainable Agriculture (PASA) is holding a workshop for PASA member farmers, entitled "*Agriculture and the Environment: Knowledge and Technology to Feed the World.*"

Workshop attendees already believe that sustainable agriculture is a worthy investment, but are coming to this event to gain more knowledge about how they might make their farm operations more resilient, especially as they face the challenges of feeding a growing population, increasing severe weather events, and new pests.

The Presentation:

As an Envirothon team, you are a group of five experts hired by PASA to give a presentation at this workshop. As a group, you have diverse experiences in conservation, agricultural technology, and sustainable farming.

Your audience, the judges, is PASA member farmers who are attending your workshop.

Develop a 10-minute presentation to describe how these farmers will be able to feed the expanding human population while also protecting vital natural resources. Your presentation should discuss what practices farmers can begin adopting today that will have multiple impacts, addressing each of the following:

- I. **Reduce Inputs:** Explain ways that farmers can reduce fertilizers, pesticides, water, and energy while their farms maintain productivity.
- II. **Climate Change:** Describe farming techniques that can also serve as a source for climate change mitigation and how farms can be prepared for more frequent severe weather events.

- III. **Pollinators and Pests:** Present ways farmers can enhance pollinator populations and utilize pollinators to the farmers' benefit, while also building resilience to changing pests in their management systems.
- IV. **Utilize New Technologies:** Demonstrate available technologies (drones, GIS, precision ag, biotech, etc.) that farmers might utilize to increase production and decrease negative impacts of agriculture.
- V. **Economic Sustainability:** Describe how farmers can remain economically viable while implementing these new strategies, as outlined in Tasks I-IV.

While one agricultural practice might address multiple tasks, please describe that practice while addressing the solution for each. You may cross-reference practices that have multiple benefits during several parts of the presentation.

Incorporate/cite at least three (3) spoken, relevant, and reputable references as you present, such as a formal publication or information provided in the 2019 Current Issue resources.

Examples of references:

"According to _____'s publication entitled _____, [fact that supports scenario]."

"Research from [organization/agency/etc.] outlined in their article _____, suggests [fact that supports scenario]."

"An article entitled _____, on _____'s website, says [fact that supports scenario]."

SOME TIPS FOR TEACHING ENVIROTHON MATERIAL

1. **Arrange a visit to a local park or nature center!** Just one day or afternoon “in the field” can do wonders for bringing all of your team’s studying to life. Many environmental educators in parks and nature centers can lead hikes based around themes or concepts that *you* want covered with your students. Hands-on investigations, tree identification walks, stream investigations – all of these may be possible at sites near your school.
2. **Ask your Conservation District about tree and log scales, diameter tapes, wedge prisms, clinometers, aquatic specimens for identification, topographic maps, deer aging tools, soil pit profile posters, and other available educational resources and programs!** Many Conservation Districts have educational resources that you can borrow to assist with training your Envirothon teams. They also offer a variety of training workshops. Talk to your County Envirothon Coordinator about the possibilities of a school program or educational activity. This person(s) is your contact for a wide array of helpful services. Write or give them a call! A listing of contacts and phone numbers can be found on the Envirothon website.
3. **Follow environmental issues in your local newspapers!** This is a great way for your students to connect all of the environmental concepts the Envirothon covers with “real life.” In every spot in Pennsylvania on every day, something is happening which affects the health of our forest ecosystems and watersheds, the quality of living for local residents, and the use of our resources. There are success stories as well as hard lessons in economics, politics, and sociology. Following a current local event in the classroom is an effective way of engaging students in informed discussions and action.
4. **Check out Bay Journal!** This is a broad-reaching and informative monthly publication put out by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay that focuses on issues and updates on our downstream estuary. It would be a great addition to teacher reference materials for use in student research assignments, in-class discussions of current events, or a year-long monitoring of this critical ecosystem’s health.
5. **Last, but certainly not least: HAVE FUN!** One key to a meaningful natural resource and environmental education experience is *fun*. Reading up on your local ecosystems, having an energetic discussion about a wildlife issue, investigating a stream for water quality, measuring trees like professional foresters, even getting your hands “dirty” in an exposed soil profile, all of these can be fun and exciting adventures in learning. If it’s fun, you will not only get the students excited for more, but they will learn information that will stick with them for years to come. Have a great time with the Envirothon!

REFERENCE MATERIAL AVAILABLE ON THE PENNSYLVANIA ENVIROTHON WEBSITE

www.envirothonpa.org

For each station, the majority of the references listed are available on the Pennsylvania Envirothon website under the tab - **Station Training**.

Please visit the site at <http://www.envirothonpa.org>.

Some publications are not available in electronic format or via the internet. These publications are available in hard copy by contacting your County’s Envirothon Coordinator.

2020 AQUATIC ECOLOGY

Essential Topics

- I. Aquatic Ecology
 - a. Abiotic
 1. Influence of water's chemical properties on aquatic organisms
 2. Influence of water's physical properties on aquatic organisms
 3. Influence of the surrounding land on a stream
 4. Influence of the water cycle on the aquatic ecosystem
 5. Identification of watersheds and river systems in Pennsylvania
 6. Identification and comparison of stream order within a watershed
 - b. Biotic
 1. Identification of aquatic organisms
 2. Life cycles of aquatic organisms
 3. Adaptations of aquatic organisms
 4. Habitat needs of aquatic organisms
 - c. Community
 1. Identification of aquatic and wetland environments
 2. Functions and values of wetlands
 3. Physical, chemical, and biological changes in the stream continuum
 4. Functional feeding groups of aquatic organisms and their niche in the stream continuum
 5. Energy flow in aquatic food chains
- II. Aquatic Resource Issues
 - a. Human effects on the aquatic ecosystem
 - b. Impact of water pollution on aquatic communities
 - c. Threatened and endangered species and their impact on biodiversity
 - d. Introduced and invasive species and their effects on the aquatic ecosystem
- III. Aquatic Resource Management and Protection
 - a. Commission roles in management, conservation, and protection of aquatic resources
 - b. Regulations and how they protect aquatic animals and aquatic habitats
 - c. Water quality assessment
 - d. Water quality improvement
 - e. Aquatic habitat enhancement
 - f. Restoration of aquatic organisms
 - g. Aquatic resource protection at home and school

Learning Objectives

**Correlated with the Academic Standards and Assessment Anchors for Environment and Ecology*

After completing study on this issue, students will:

1. Aquatic Ecosystems

a. Abiotic

1. Determine pH, alkalinity, and dissolved oxygen percent saturation of a water sample with given information and explain how each property influences a particular aquatic organism.

**4.1 Ecology – 4.1.12.F*

**4.2 Watersheds and Wetlands – 4.2.10.A, B, C, D, 4.2.12.B, C, D*

2. Explain how water flow, water temperature, water turbidity, and surface tension influence a particular aquatic organism.

**4.2 Watersheds and Wetlands - 4.2.10.A, B, C, 4.2.12.C, D*

3. Explain how surrounding land influences water flow, channel shape, and habitat types in a stream.

**4.2 Watersheds and Wetlands - 4.2.10.A, B, 4.2.12.A*

4. Identify three specific parts of the water cycle and describe their influence on the aquatic ecosystem.

**4.2 Watersheds and Wetlands - 4.2.10.A, B*

5. Identify Pennsylvania's six watersheds and their related river systems and locate them on a map.

**4.2 Watersheds and Wetlands - 4.2.10.A*

6. Identify the stream order of three or more given watercourses in a particular watershed and compare or contrast the habitats and aquatic animals that are found in each of those ordered watercourses.

**4.2 Watersheds and Wetlands - 4.2.10.A, C*

b. Biotic

1. Identify (to include calls) common and significant aquatic animals from a give identification list.

**4.2 Watersheds and Wetlands - 4.2.10.C*

2. Describe the life cycle of three or more specific aquatic animals.

**4.2 Watersheds and Wetlands – 4.2.10.C*

3. List three adaptations of a specific aquatic animal and explain the advantage of each.

**4.1 Ecology – 4.1.10.D*

**4.2 Watersheds and Wetlands - 4.2.10.A, C*

4. Describe the habitat needs of three or more specific aquatic animals.

**4.2 Watersheds and Wetlands - 4.2.10.C*

c. Community

1. Identify six specific aquatic or wetland environments given their physical, chemical and biological characteristics.

**4.2 Watersheds and Wetlands – 4.2.10.B, D*

2. List three functions or values of wetlands.

**4.2 Watersheds and Wetlands - 4.2.7.B*

3. Compare and contrast physical, chemical, and biological differences found in a stream continuum from headwater to mouth.

**4.2 Watersheds and Wetlands - 4.2.10.A, C, D, 4.2.12.D*

4. Identify the functional feeding group of four or more aquatic macroinvertebrates and describe their niche in the stream continuum.

**4.2 Watersheds and Wetlands - 4.2.10.C*

5. Compare and contrast the flow of energy in two different aquatic food chains.

**4.1 Ecology - 4.1.7.A, 4.1.10.A*

2. Aquatic Resource Issues

- a. Explain the effects of three different human activities on the aquatic ecosystem.

**4.2 Watersheds and Wetlands - 4.2.10.A, B, D, 4.2.12.A, C*

**4.5 Humans and the Environment- 4.3.7.B, 4.3.10.B*

- b. List three types of water pollution, their sources and explain how they impact an aquatic community.

**4.2 Watersheds and Wetlands - 4.2.10.A*

**4.5 Humans and the Environment- 4.5.10.A, C*

- c. Identify at least six threatened or endangered species, give reasons for their status, and explain how their extirpation or extinction could impact biodiversity.

**4.1 Ecology – 4.1.10.A, D, E, 4.1.12,D, E, F*

- d. Identify at least six different invasive species and discuss their habitat, spread, distribution and environmental impacts.

**4.2 Watersheds and Wetlands – 4.2.10.C*

3. Aquatic Resource Management and Protection

- a. Explain three or more ways that the Commission manages, conserves, and protects aquatic resources.

**4.2 Watersheds and Wetlands – 4.2.12.A, B, C*

**4.5 Humans and the Environment - 4.5.12.C*

- b. Identify or list at least three specific fishing regulations from the current PA Fishing Summary and explain how each protects aquatic animals or aquatic habitats.

**4.1 Ecology – 4.1.12.A, E*

- c. Explain one or more methods to assess the water quality of a stream.
**4.2 Watersheds and Wetlands – 4.2.10.A, C, D*
- d. List and describe three or more ways to improve the water quality of a stream.
**4.2 Watersheds and Wetlands – 4.2.10.C*
- e. List and describe three or more ways to enhance aquatic habitats.
**4.2 Watersheds and Wetlands – 4.2.10.D, 4.2.12. D*
- f. Identify three or more migratory fish that the Commission is restoring and name the watershed in which each can be found.
**4.1 Ecology – 4.1.12.E*
- g. Discuss at least three ways that you can protect aquatic resources at home or school.
**4.1 Ecology – 4.1.10. D, E, 4.1.12.D, E*
**4.5 Humans and Environment*

Reference Materials List - 2020

The references are found on the PA Envirothon web site under *Station Training*.

1. Books:

Pennsylvania Fishes (ISBN 1-930369-01-8)

Pennsylvania Amphibians and Reptiles (ISBN 1-930369-00X)

Hard copy only, new teams should contact PA Envirothon to obtain a copy.

2. Fact Sheets

A River Flows Through It

Caddis Flies

Clams and Mussels

Dobsonfly

Dragons & Damsels

ENA & ELPA

Macroinvertebrate Feeding Frenzy

Mayflies

Phytoplankton

Pond/Stream Study Guide/Key to Macroinvertebrates

Snails

Stoneflies

Stream Reader

Water Walkers

Zooplankton

3. PLAY Issues and Select PLAY Pages

Crazy for Crayfish

Focus on Habitat: Largemouth Bass

Focus on Habitat: Wild Brook Trout

Freaky Fish of PA

Good Fishing Needs Good Habitat

H2O On the Go

PA's Most Mighty Migratory Fish

PA's FSI: Fish Scene Investigation

Six Legs Underwater

Water Flows Through Pennsylvania

Water Water Read All About It

4. Articles

A Fish and Livestock Tale

Ghosts of the Ohio River

PA's Threatened and Endangered Fishes

PA's Wild Trout Streams

State Wildlife Action Plan

State Wildlife Action Plan: Identifying Threats to PA's At Risk Aquatic Species

State Wildlife Action Plan: Identifying Conservation Actions to Protect PA's At-Risk Species

State Wildlife Action Plan; A Lifeline for the Commonwealth's Imperiled Species

Timbering and Trout

Wetlands: The Vital Link

5. Select pages from the *2020 Pennsylvania Fishing Summary* (available after December 2019):
 - General Regulations, Tackle and Bait
 - Unlawful Acts
 - All Fish Species - Inland Waters
 - Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted Bass
 - Pymatuning & Conowingo Reservoirs
 - Delaware River Fishing
 - Lake Erie Fishing
 - Muskellunge, Pike, Pickerel & Panfish
 - Reptiles, Amphibians, Endangered Species
 - Aquatic Invasive Species
 - Trout Fishing Regulations
 - Special Regulation Areas
 - Fish Consumption Advisory

6. *Frog and Toad Calls of Pennsylvania* - CD or Identifier (Fabulous Frogs card)

7. *Herp Sweet Home*

8. *Threatened & Endangered Species*
 - Current List of PA's Endangered, Threatened and Candidate Species
 - Endangered Species and the PFBC
 - Threatened & Endangered Species Pages*

Invertebrates	Fish	Amphibians & Reptiles
Clubshell Mussel	Atlantic Sturgeon	Eastern Spadefoot Toad
Dwarf Wedgemussel	Burbot	Northern Cricket Frog
Eastern Pearlshell Mussel	Hickory shad	Green Salamander
	Longear Sunfish	Eastern Redbelly Turtle
	Spotted Gar	Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake
		Rough Green Snake

*Participants are responsible for knowing the following Learning Objectives for each of these aquatic animals: 1.b.1 (including calls), 1.b.2, 1.b.3, 1.b.4, 2.c

9. *Aquatic Invasive Species*

PA's Field Guide to AIS (PA Sea Grant)

Introduction

Prevention

Aquatic Invasive Species Pages*

Plants	Invertebrates	Fish	Algae	Reptiles
Eurasian watermilfoil	Asian Clam	Common Carp	Didymo	Red-eared Slider
Hydrilla	New Zealand Mudsnaill	Flathead Catfish		
Water Chestnut	Rusty Crayfish	Northern Snakehead		
Common Reed	Spiny water Flea	Round Goby		
Purple Loosestrife	Zebra Mussel	Sea Lamprey		

* Participants are responsible for knowing the following Learning Objectives for each of these aquatic plants and animals: 1.b.1, 1.b.2, 1.b.3, 1.b.4, 2.d

Identification Study List

Fish	Amphibians*	Reptiles	Invertebrates*
American Eel	Eastern Gray Treefrog*	Common Snapping Turtle	Backswimmer (ENA, True bug)
American Shad	Eastern American Toad	Eastern Box Turtle	Blackfly (ELPA, True fly)
Blacknose dace	Fowler's Toad*	Midland Painted Turtle	Caddisfly (ELPA)
Bluegill	Northern Green Frog*	Spiny Softshell Turtle	Crayfish
Bowfin	Northern Leopard Frog*	Spotted Turtle	Cranefly/Tipulid (ELPA, True fly)
Brown Bullhead	Northern Spring Peeper*	Wood Turtle	Damselfly (ENA)
Brown Trout	Pickereel Frog*	Broadhead Skink	Dobsonfly/Fishfly (ELPA)
Brook Trout	Wood Frog*	Five-lined Skink	Dragonfly (ENA)
Chain Pickerel	Eastern Hellbender	Northern Coal Skink	Freshwater clam/mussel
Channel Catfish	Four-toed Salamander	Northern Fence Lizard	Freshwater snail
Crappie	Jefferson Salamander	Eastern Garter Snake	Giant Water Bug (ENA, True bug)
Creek Chub	Longtail Salamander	Eastern (Black) Rat Snake	Isopod/Aquatic Sowbug
Darter	Marbled Salamander	Eastern Hognose Snake	Mayfly (ENA)
Largemouth Bass	Mudpuppy	Eastern Milk Snake	Predaceous Diving Beetle (ELPA, Beetle)
Muskellunge	Northern Dusky Salamander	Northern Copperhead	Stonefly (ENA)
Northern Pike	Northern Spring Salamander	Northern Redbelly Snake	Water Scorpion (ENA, True bug)
Paddlefish	Northern Red Salamander	Northern Ringneck Snake	Water Strider (ENA, True bug)
Pumpkinseed	Redback Salamander	Northern Water Snake	Whirligig Beetle (ELPA, Beetle)
Rainbow Trout	Red-Spotted Newt/Red Eft	Queen Snake	Water Boatman (ENA, True bug)
Rock Bass	Slimy Salamander	Ribbon Snake	Water Penny (ELPA, Beetle)
Sculpin	Spotted Salamander	Smooth Earth Snake	
Smallmouth Bass		Timber Rattlesnake	
Striped Bass			Phytoplankton (group of various species)
Yellow Perch			
Walleye			Zooplankton (group of various species)
White Sucker			

*Must know frog/toad calls

Must know clam/mussel and snail life cycle

Must know insect life cycle as ENA (Egg, Nymph, Adult) or ELPA (Egg, Larva, Pupa, Adult)

- ENA (incomplete) – dragon/damselfly, mayfly, stonefly and true bugs
- ELPA (complete) – beetles, caddisfly, cranefly/tipulid, Dobson/fishfly and true flies

PA Fish & Boat Commission, Bureau of Outreach Education and Marketing

Northwest Region	11528 State Highway 98, Meadville, PA 16335	814-336-2426
Southwest Region	236 Lake Road, Somerset, PA 15501	814-443-9841
Northcentral	595 East Rolling Ridge Drive, Bellefonte, PA 16823	814-359-5127
Southcentral Region	1704 Pine Road, Newville, PA 17241	717-486-7352
Southeast Region	101 Swamp Road, Newtown, PA 18940	215-968-3631
Northeast Region	5566 Main Road, Sweet Valley, PA 18656	570-477-2206

Current Environmental Issue

“Water Resources Management: Local Control and Local Solutions”

Approximately 26 billion gallons of water are used every day in the United States alone. According to the United States Geological Survey, the average American uses between 80 and 100 gallons of water daily.

As the population of the United States, and the rest of the world, continues to grow, water and other natural resources are consumed at an increasing rate. As water resources are depleted, overuse of existing supplies often occurs. Water management has traditionally involved the manipulation of water supplies, rather than focusing on altering water demand. This has been done through dams, water conveyance structures and the location and development of new supplies. However, these methods will continually face economic, ecological, and hydrological concerns.

Access to clean and safe drinking water is essential to a healthy and thriving community. If a safe drinking water source is compromised or lost, there would be harmful consequences to human health, the environment, and the economy. These losses can be prevented or mitigated to protect current and future sources. Once groundwater is polluted, it will remain that way for decades. The potential for contamination and the high cost of treatment and expense of locating or developing alternate sources make it imperative for government entities to adopt and implement effective strategies for long-term protection. This is especially true for any area dependent on groundwater as its sole source for drinking water.

Many factors, including increasing populations and extensive development, put stresses on groundwater supplies. These include the use of pesticides, fertilizers, animal manure, and storm water runoff which contains metals, nutrients, salts and other chemicals that can leach into groundwater basins. Local governmental planning agencies generally focus on priorities such as land use development (e.g., residential and commercial), infrastructure needs (e.g., roads, wastewater treatment, etc.), the local economy, and a good jobs-per-housing ratio. Planning for groundwater protection often receives insufficient attention for addressing periods of drought, water conservation and efficiency, pollution prevention, recharge zones, storm water management, and future water needs.

Efforts to monitor and assess groundwater quality and quantity have typically been sporadic and, while successful in some local jurisdictions and watersheds, largely inadequate, due primarily to high cost. More reliable, consistent, and comprehensive data are needed to sufficiently characterize groundwater quality/quantity to support critical decisions and policies for use, protection, and management.

Policy makers at all levels of government will face the need to make difficult decisions regarding alternatives and trade-offs to planning future development and managing growth. Below is a list of considerations policy makers and you, as a citizen, should consider when making decisions about water resource management.

- How do public officials determine priority use when allocating a limited water supply?
- Should urban uses have priority over agriculture?
- Should agriculture have a higher priority which may preclude or limit urban growth?
- What considerations should be given to environmental uses such as maintaining in-stream flows, aquatic life and habitat?
- What is the role of storm water management?

- What is the link between threats to both surface and groundwater quality/quantity?
- How can they best be addressed?
- Who should have jurisdiction to oversee the protection and management of large groundwater basins for both quality and quantity (e.g., recharge)?
- What are the consequences of poor planning, unreasonable decisions, and lack of effective actions?
- How can public officials address future threats to groundwater resources?

Learning Objectives - 2020

After completing study on this issue, students will:

1. A QUICK GUIDE TO GROUNDWATER

- a. Analyze the principles of hydrology and define the basic components of groundwater
- b. Identify and describe human impacts on the water cycle
- c. Identify and describe the six major watersheds found in Pennsylvania
- d. Identify and describe the four types, their range, and the makeup of groundwater aquifers found in Pennsylvania
- e. Identify the main uses of groundwater in Pennsylvania and the United States
- f. Explain the sources and uses of groundwater and assess the value of water as a resource

2. WATER QUANTITY AND QUALITY

- a. Analyze how society's needs relate to demands on groundwater (contamination, aquifer recharge, overuse of water sources)
- b. Describe the process for incorporating water protection strategies into a comprehensive source protection plan, including the federal and state monitoring requirements, regulatory tools, and subdivision controls
- c. Describe strategies and technologies used to increase and replenish groundwater supplies
- d. Identify the affects that climate change has on water resources
- e. Explain how climate change affects water resources
- f. Evaluate the impact of energy production (mining and natural gas) on groundwater supplies

3. LAND USE PLANNING AND IT'S EFFECTS ON WATER RESOURCES

- a. Describe where groundwater depletion in Pennsylvania is occurring, the areas at risk in the future
- b. Explain how groundwater depletion is directly related to water demand and provide examples
- c. Analyze the impact of over pumping of groundwater and justify reasons why land use planning is necessary for groundwater management.
- d. Identify elements and tools that relate to groundwater protection when developing a comprehensive plan
- e. Describe the sources of groundwater contamination (nitrates, agriculture, development) and evaluate strategies for reducing water consumption and protecting water quality (low impact development, green infrastructure, water conservation, landscaping)

4. WATER RESOURCE PROTECTION

- a. Describe Best Management Practices (BMPs) used to protect groundwater
- b. Identify simple actions the homeowner can take
- c. Identify ways to use water efficiently

Reference Materials List – 2020

The references are found on the PA Envirothon web site at www.envirothonpa.org under *Station Training*.

1. 2020 Current Issue Resource Booklet PDF (general information)
2. Groundwater A Primer for Pennsylvanians
3. Nitrates in Drinking Water
4. Access and Allocation of Water in Pennsylvania
5. A Conservation Catalog
6. State Water Plan Principles – Executive Summary
7. Soil characteristics that influence nitrogen and water management
8. Streamside Forests: Riparian Forestry Buffers

FORESTRY

Learning Objectives - 2020

The basic resources for each objective are found on the Pennsylvania Envirothon web site under Station Training.

**Correlations with the Academic Standards for Environment and Ecology and Science and Technology are provided.*

After completing study on this issue, students will:

1. Trees

- a. Identify common species without a key and specific or unusual species of trees or shrubs using a botanical key. (Use of a botanical key is an important skill in many environmental professions. Practice with the Key to Some Common Trees of Pennsylvania provided.) Pay special attention to shade tolerance and soil moisture requirements of each tree species studied. Understand their timber and wildlife values.

**4.3 Natural Resources – 4.3.10.A*

- b. Explain typical tree growth and life cycle. Be able to describe the parts and tissues of a tree and their arrangements and functions. Recognize defects that effect a tree's health, quality and resource potential.

**4.3 Natural Resources*

**3.1 Biological Sciences – 3.1.10.A3*

- c. Explain the cause and effect relationships between environmental factors (light, soil and moisture), and tree growth. Be able to interpret these effects in the growth rings of a sample of wood (either a "tree cookie" or core taken with an increment borer).

**4.3 Natural Resources*

**3.1 Biological Sciences – 3.1.10.A3*

- d. List products and uses of the 10 important hardwoods grown in Pennsylvania cited in From the Woods Series: Ten Important Hardwoods resource and of the important conifers — White pine and Eastern hemlock — described in The Common Trees of Pennsylvania.

**4.3 Natural Resources – 4.3.10.A*

2. Forest Ecology

- a. Explain general forest typing based on the dominant tree species. Describe the most abundant forest types found in Pennsylvania. Analyze and type a specific forest site.

**4.3 Natural Resources – 4.3.10.A, C*

- b. Explain typical forest structure (canopy, understory and ground layers) and crown classes.

- c. Explain typical forest succession from open areas to closed canopy and back again. Analyze the successional stage of a specific forest site.

**4.1.Ecology – 4.1.10.E*

**4.3 Natural Resources – 4.3.10.C*

- d. Explain how wildlife habitat relates to the forest plant community (i.e. tree species present, age structure, snags and dead-and-down trees, availability of food and riparian zones).

**4.1 Ecology – 4.1.10.C, D*

- e. Explain what effects a specific species increase or decrease might have on the forest ecosystem.
**4.1 Ecology – 4.1.10.E, 4.1.12.E*
**3.1 Biological Sciences – 3.1.10.A3*
- f. Evaluate species diversity and its importance. Explain biological diversity as an indicator of a healthy environment as well as analyze the effects of species extinction on the health of an ecosystem.
**4.1 Ecology – 4.1.10.A, 4.1.12.A*

3. Forest Resource Management and Protection

- a. Study *Forests of Pennsylvania 2017*. This is a summary of the most current data available describing Pennsylvania’s forest resources. Particularly note the patterns of forestland ownership, area of forests, distribution of age and size classes and of tree species, wood volume statistics and regeneration issues.
- b. Describe values and benefits of forests for recreation, wildlife and watershed quality.
**4.1 Ecology – 4.1.10.A*
- c. Explain the uses of silviculture techniques in even-aged and uneven-aged forest management: thinning, clear-cutting, seed-tree method, shelter wood method, and selection method. Describe the practices of “high grading” and “diameter limit” cutting.
**4.3 Natural Resources – 4.3.10.A, C, 4.3.12.C*
- d. Summarize State and local regulations and programs pertaining to timber management including PA Code Chapter 102 Erosion & Sedimentation Control regulations, waterways management regulations–PA Code Chapter 105.
**4.2 Watersheds and Wetlands – 4.1.12.A*
**4.3 Natural Resources – 4.3.10.B*
- e. Explain how forests grow, describe steps to planning for their management, and understand how to sell and market trees.
**4.3 Natural Resources – 4.3.10.A*
**4.5 Humans and the Environment – 4.5.10.C, 4.5.12.C*
- f. Demonstrate the use of common forestry equipment (Biltmore stick, diameter tape, wedge prism, and clinometer), to measure tree diameter and height. Be able to calculate wood volume.
- g. Identify and describe the life cycle and impacts of common forest pests and invasive plants. Research integrated pest management strategies for selected pests.
**4.5 Humans and the Environment – 4.5.10.B, 4.5.12.B*
- h. Predict how human or natural action can produce change to which an organism cannot adapt (Gypsy Moth, Chestnut blight, invasive species, etc.)
**4.1 Ecology – 4.1.10.A, 4.1.12.A*
- i. Explain the role of fire in forest ecosystems. Describe the basic principles of wildfire prevention and control. Explain the use of prescribed fire.
**4.1 Ecology – 4.1.10.E*

Reference Materials List - 2020

Most of these references materials are excerpted from publications produced by the Pennsylvania DCNR Bureau of Forestry, Pennsylvania State University, or the USDA Forest Service. Many topics are covered more than once in different ways. So the volume of material is not as overwhelming as it might appear.

The references are found on the Pennsylvania Envirothon web site under *Station Training*.

1. Trees
 - 1.1. Common Trees of Pennsylvania
 - 1.2. From the Woods Series: Ten Important Hardwoods
 - 1.3. Penn State School of Forest Resources: Identifying PA Trees Program
 - 1.4. Key to Some Trees of Pennsylvania
2. Forest Ecology
 - 2.1. Forest Types of Pennsylvania
 - 2.2. Forest Succession and Wildlife
 - 2.3. Habitat Adaptations of Some Common Trees of Pennsylvania
 - 2.4. Forest Stewardship #5 - Wildlife
3. Forest Resources, Management and Protection
 - 3.1. Forest Stewardship Best Management Practices for Pennsylvania Forests
 - 3.2. Forests of Pennsylvania, 2017
 - 3.3. Agricultural Alternatives – Managing Small Woodlots
 - 3.4. Wildfire and Prescribed Fire in Pennsylvania
 - 3.5. Forest Stewardship Teaching Youth about Forest Stewardship
 - 3.6. Just Say No to High-grading, Selective Cutting, and Diameter Limit Cutting
 - 3.7. Insect Threats - 1. Asian Longhorn Beetle; 2. Emerald Ash Borer; 3. Gypsy Moth; 4. Hemlock Woolly Adelgid; 5. Spotted Lantern Fly
 - 3.8. What is an Invasive Plant?
 - 3.9. Invasive Plants - 1. Autumn-olive; 2. Bush honeysuckle; 3. Garlic mustard; 4. Japanese barberry; 5. Japanese knotweed; 6. Multiflora-rose; 7. Tree-of-heaven
 - 3.10. Pennsylvania Envirothon Forest Measurements and Management 2019
 - 3.11. Basal Area: A Measure Made for Management

Bureau of Forestry Service Foresters can help coaches prepare for local Envirothon events. See the Bureau's web site for the service forester assigned to your county.

Learning Enhancements:

1. **i-Tree** - i-Tree is a state-of-the-art, peer-reviewed software suite from the USDA Forest Service that provides urban forestry analysis and benefits assessment tools.
2. **leafsnap** - Leafsnap is a series of electronic field guides being developed by researchers from Columbia University, the University of Maryland, and the Smithsonian Institution. The free mobile apps use visual recognition software to help identify tree species from photographs of their leaves.

SOIL/LAND USE

Essential Topics

I. Basic Soils Knowledge

- a. Formation
- b. Water in soils
- c. Soil horizons
- d. Hands-on investigations
- e. Soil quality, fertility, and chemistry
- f. Soil biology and diversity

II. Understanding Maps, Surveys and Landforms

- a. Soil survey maps and data tables: **Websoilsurvey**
- b. Topographic maps
- c. Land forms and geologic terms

III. Land Use

- a. Agriculture and conservation practices
- b. Current environmental concerns and land use issues
- c. Soils and history
- d. Pollution remediation
- e. Identification and benefits of wetlands
- f. Carbon sequestration

IV. Decision-Making and Protection of Soils

- a. Scenarios
- b. Actions at home and at school

Learning Objectives

The basic resources for each objective are found on the Pennsylvania Envirothon web site under Station Training.

**Correlated with the Academic Standards and Assessment Anchors for Environment and Ecology*

After completing study on this issue, students will:

1. Describe the relationship between soil formation and the movement of water both within the soil and across the landscape.
**4.4 Agriculture and Society – 4.4.10.C*
2. Describe how soil characteristics are affected by water, and how to control water movement to prevent erosion and pollution. Understand how topography, stream movement, and drainage are related.
**4.2 Watersheds and Wetlands – 4.2.10.A*

3. Explain the importance of wetlands and how to recognize potential wetland areas and hydric soils.
**4.2 Watersheds and Wetlands – 4.2.10.B, D 4.2.12.D*
4. Explain the importance of soils as a natural resource which must be managed properly in order to sustain a healthy society. Understand that soils are in some ways nonrenewable, and what effects gross mismanagement of soils has had historically.
**4.3 Natural Resources – 4.3.10.A, B, 4.3.12.B*
5. Describe the effects of human activity on soils and how soils can be used to clean up pollutants or can become a major pollutant.
**4.5 Humans and the Environment – 4.5.10.A, C, 4.5.12.C*
6. Describe basic soil chemical and physical properties and how they interact with other variables to determine soil fertility or the ability of a soil to remediate pollution and improve environmental health.
**4.5 Humans and the Environment – 4.5.10.E*
7. Explain how soil is alive, and how biological diversity is important for soil health and hence human, plant, and environmental health.
**4.1 Ecology – 4.1.10.B, D, E*
8. Explain the soil food web and the different roles and survival strategies that various soil microbial organisms develop within the soil environment.
**4.1 Ecology – 4.1.10.C, D, 4.1.12.C*
9. Understand and be able to describe the importance of soils to agriculture and soil quality properties. Describe current research findings on best management practices to maximize agricultural production, maintain and build soil health, and prevent soil loss and pollution.
**4.4 Agriculture and Society – 4.4.10.A, B, C, D*
10. Use the soil survey to evaluate the best crops to grow in a given area and what limitations certain soils have to agricultural productivity. Also identify areas of prime farmland that should be preserved.
**4.4 Agriculture and Society – 4.4.10.C, D*
**3.4 Technology and Engineering Education – 3.4.12.E2*
11. Describe the hydrologic, carbon, and nutrient cycles and how soil management relates to those processes.
**4.1 Ecology – 4.1.10.B*
**3.3 Earth and Space Education – 3.3.10.A2*
12. Explain how societal needs, economic forces, and natural forces affect soil resources and how we can ensure long term sustainability of soil health.
**4.4 Agriculture and Society – 4.4.10.B, C, D*
**4.5 Humans and the Environment – 4.5.10.A*
13. Explain historical events that led to the creation of the soil conservation service.
14. Explain in detail the role that geology plays in soil formation, the kinds of soils that are formed, and their basic characteristics including texture, pH, color, and structure.
**4.1 Ecology – 4.1.10.F, 4.1.12.D*

15. Describe the basic geological features and rocks of the state of Pennsylvania and how they were formed.
 - *4.1 Ecology – 4.1.10.F*
 - *3.3 Earth and Space Education – 3.3.10.A1*
16. Understand and interpret geographical and geological information from topographic maps. Be able to make some basic assumptions about appropriate land use from topographic and geologic maps and information.
 - *4.1 Ecology – 4.1.10.F, 4.1.12.F*
 - *3.4 Technology and Engineering Education – 3.4.10 and 12.E2*
17. Use a soil survey or web-soil survey data to evaluate land use in Pennsylvania. Show how information in soil surveys can help the land user predict or avoid problems like sinkholes, or regions prone to landslides, flooding, drought, or soil instability.
 - *4.1 Ecology – 4.1.10.F, 4.1.12.F*
 - *3.4 Technology and Engineering Education – 3.4.10 and 12.B2, 3.4.10 and 12.E2*
18. Compare different kinds of land uses and conservation practices on erosion and sedimentation.
 - *4.4 Agriculture and Society – 4.4.10.E*
19. Explain how climate is a major soil forming factor through its effect on vegetation, organisms, water, and weathering.
 - *4.3 Natural Resources – 4.3.10.C, 4.3.12.C*
20. Explain how soils and soil management are integral to maintaining clean water and a healthy aquatic environment.
 - *4.2 Watersheds and Wetlands – 4.2.12.A*
 - *4.5 Humans and the Environment – 4.5.10.C*

Reference Materials List - 2020

The references are found on the Pennsylvania Envirothon web site under *Station Training*.

1. An Introduction to Soils of Pennsylvania
2. Websoilsurvey: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>
3. Websoilsurvey: Introduction to soils part 1
4. Websoilsurvey: Introduction to soils part 2
5. Soil Quality
 - a. Bulk Density Moisture/Aeration - pp. 1-4 (The measuring soil bulk density section is optional.)
 - b. Infiltration - pp. 1-3 (The measuring infiltration section is optional.)
 - c. Organic Matter - pp. 1-4 (The measuring soil organic matter section is optional.)
 - d. pH - pp. 1-6 (Use Cornell soil pH kit to measure pH, or whatever pH kit you have available.)
 - e. Soil Health Nuggets
 - f. Soil Health – What is soil health? Why should I care?
 - g. Soil Health Matters: Make Your Soil Healthy
6. From the Surface Down 2nd Edition (New for 2020)
7. Topographic Map Symbols
8. Soil Biology Primer – pp. 4-17 only
9. Soil References for Landforms and Geologic Terms
 “Soil Structure” and “Soil Texture Triangle”
10. Cornell Soil pH kits
11. Do You Dig Wetland Soils?
12. The Color of Soil
13. Soil Carbon Sequestration Fundamentals
14. How Does Your Garden Grow? Some information on soil fertility. NASA soil science website about soil fertility and NPK

Learning Enhancements (not required)

The YouTube videos found on the Pennsylvania Envirothon website are courtesy John Chibirka, U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Scientist, and the Lancaster County Conservation District.

- Envirothon Soils Study Session 1
- Envirothon Soils Study Session 2
- Envirothon Soils Study Session 3

WILDLIFE STATION

Essential Topics

1. Knowledge of Birds and Mammals
 - a. Bird and mammal identification
 - b. Natural history of birds and mammals
 - c. Pennsylvania Wildlife Habitats and Ecosystems

- II. Understanding Wildlife Ecology
 - a. Managing the requirements of Wildlife
 - b. Ecosystem dynamics:
 - Predator-prey relationships
 - How energy moves through the food chain
 - Succession
 - c. Adaptations
 - d. Population Dynamics
 - e. Biodiversity
 - Levels of biodiversity
 - Values of biodiversity

- III. Conservation and Wildlife Management
 - a. Pennsylvania Game Commission
 - b. Hunting and Trapping regulations
 - d. Pennsylvania Game and Wildlife code
 - e. Wildlife Management
 - f. Improving/managing habitat for wildlife

- IV. Issues Involving Wildlife and Society
 - a. Invasive Species
 - b. Habitat loss and fragmentation
 - c. Endangered and threatened species
 - d. Managing Wildlife and People
 - e. Reintroduction of native species
 - f. Wildlife Diseases
 - g. Human Impact on Biodiversity

Learning Objectives

The basic resources for each objective are found on the Pennsylvania Envirothon web site under *Station Training*.

**Correlated with the Academic Standards and Assessment Anchors for Environment and Ecology*

After completing study on this issue, students will:

1. Knowledge of Wild Birds and Mammals
 - a. Identify wildlife species using mounted specimens, skins/pelts, pictures, skulls, silhouettes, decoys, wings (waterfowl), scats, tracks, eggs, animal sounds, or other common signs. Animal tracks may be original or molds made of the prints. Wildlife signs may be real or reproduced.
 - b. Identify wildlife species or signs. Wildlife species or signs may be presented in any form as described above.
 - c. Identify general food habits (herbivore, omnivore, carnivore), habitats (terrestrial, aquatic, fossorial), and habits (diurnal, nocturnal) using skull morphology and/or teeth.
 - d. Answer questions concerning the natural history of wild bird and mammal species and identify birds and mammals if given natural history information.
 - e. Identify and be able to group animals that would be associated with specific ecosystems.
 - f. Evaluate a specific habitat and select or list species most likely to live there.
 - g. Describe various niches of birds and mammals in their ecosystems and be able to cite examples.
2. Understanding Wildlife Ecology
 - a. Know the meaning of "habitat," and be able to name the habitat requirements for wildlife and the factors that affect wildlife suitability.
 - b. Know and understand basic ecological concepts and terminology. Define and explain basic ecological concepts and terminology, e.g., limiting factor, biological carrying capacity, cultural carrying capacity, territory, home range, population, community, succession, forest fragmentation, etc.
**4.1 Ecology – 4.1.10.A*
 - c. Understand the difference between an ecosystem, community and population. Be able to explain how communities interact with their non-living surroundings to form ecosystems.
 - d. Understand wildlife population dynamics such as birth, mortality, age-structure, sex ratio, and mating systems. Understand the impact of limiting and decimating factors of common wildlife species on wildlife management. Define and explain terms associated with wildlife biology and wildlife populations, e.g., natality, mortality, precocial, altricial, crepuscular, nocturnal, delayed implantation, carnivore, niche, herbivore, insectivore, omnivore, producer, primary consumer, secondary consumer, etc.
**4.1 Ecology – 4.1.10.A*
 - e. Recognize that all living things must be well-adapted to their native environment in order to survive. Be able to identify, describe and explain the advantages of specific anatomical, physiological and/or behavioral adaptations of wildlife to their environment.
 - f. Know the meaning of the term "Biodiversity," and understand why biodiversity is important to people and wildlife.
**4.1 Ecology – 4.1.12.A*
 - g. Understand the importance of the 3 levels of biodiversity: genetics, species, and ecosystem or community, and understand the implications of biodiversity loss at each level.

**4.1 Ecology – 4.1.10.A*

- h. Describe and be able to model food chains, food webs, trophic levels.

**4.1 Ecology – 4.1.10.C*

3. Conservation and Management of Wildlife

- a. Know the preferred habitat types and specific habitat requirements of common wildlife species. Understand how this knowledge helps us better protect both the land and the wildlife species that depend on it.
- b. Understand the difference between biological and cultural carrying capacity, and be able to identify social and ecological considerations where human use of land conflicts with wildlife habitat needs.
- c. Identify common wildlife management practices and methods that are being used to manage and improve wildlife habitat.
- d. Understand the role of the Game Commission as the agency responsible for the protection, conservation, and management of wild birds and mammals of Pennsylvania.

**4.1 Ecology – 4.1.12.A*

- e. Know the Game Commission as the agency responsible for hunting and trapping regulations and upholding the Game and Wildlife code in the state of Pennsylvania.
- f. Answer questions concerning hunting and trapping regulations - related to pages indicated in the Reference section.
- g. Describe ways each person can help in the protection, conservation management, and enhancement of wild bird and mammal populations.

**4.1 Ecology – 4.1.12.A*

4. Issues Involving Wildlife and Society

- a. Understand how non-native (exotic), invasive species threaten our environment and the biodiversity of many wildlife species. Understand that non-native (exotic), invasive plants impact wildlife habitat and thus have a tremendous impact on native wildlife.
- b. Learn about the complexities of decision-making in making land use decisions that affect wildlife, and understand that wildlife resources are under constant pressure caused by human population growth, environmental degradation, and habitat reduction.
- c. Know that wildlife species are subject to diseases resulting from exposure to microbes, parasites, toxins, and other biological and physical agents.
- d. Understand the terminology and factors that affect threatened and endangered wildlife species. Know the meaning of extinct, extirpated, endangered, threatened, candidate species, and reintroduction.
- e. Identify the characteristics that many extinct and endangered species possess, and be able to identify many species of wildlife that are endangered and threatened.
- f. Understand the role of the Endangered Species Act in helping to conserve endangered and threatened species. Know the organizations and agencies responsible for listing and protecting endangered species on global, federal, state, and provincial levels.
- g. Describe major causes of habitat loss in Pennsylvania and how habitat loss affects wildlife.

- h. Identify and explain the major causes of loss of biodiversity in our state and worldwide. Describe specific impacts of people on biodiversity – both negative and positive, for example:
- Negative impacts include but are not limited to:
 - Fragmentation of habitat due to roads and trails, buildings, etc.
 - Disturbance of wildlife in nesting seasons due to human activity and noise.
 - Destruction of habitat due to vehicles.
 - Death and/or injury of species by vehicle collision.
 - Trash interfering with wildlife health through food intake or causing injury to wildlife.
 - Pesticides or other changes to environment to make areas more comfortable.
 - Positive impacts include but are not limited to:
 - Enhancement of wildlife habitat in order to attract wildlife for viewing.
 - Increase knowledge of wildlife through visiting wildlife and natural areas.
 - Increase appreciation of wildlife and the importance of the natural world.
 - Funding for wildlife management.

**4.1 Ecology – 4.1.10.D*

- i. Identify and describe examples of wildlife species and adaptations that enable them to survive in an urban environment creating possible issues for people. (for example raccoon, opossum, skunk, red fox, robin, house finch, house sparrow, little and big brown bats, white-tailed deer)

**4.1. Ecology – 4.1.7.10.A, D*

- j. Understand the characteristics, symptoms, effects, and what measures are being taken to discover outbreaks and prevent spread of Chronic Wasting Disease, Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD), and West Nile Virus (required for the 2020 Envirothon).

**4.1 – Ecology – 4.1.10.D*

Reference Materials List - 2020

The references are found on the Pennsylvania Envirothon web site under *Station Training*.

1. Pennsylvania Species, Ecosystems & Biodiversity
2. Helping Wildlife: Working with Nature booklet
3. Envirothon Skull Reference Resource
4. 2019 – 2020 Pennsylvania Digest of Hunting and Trapping (For your reference, this link provides you with the entire guide. The following bulleted sections are required for the Envirothon competition.)
 - a. Fluorescent Orange Requirements
 - b. Wildlife Classifications – found on page 7 of the Digest
 - c. State Game lands Regulations
 - d. Mentored Youth Hunting Program and Youth Hunting Opportunities
 - e. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) pages 57-60
5. Doves (PDF from PGC website)
6. North American Model of Wildlife Conservation (Project WILD)
7. Aging Deer Jawbones
8. Deer Aging (PA Game Commission YouTube video)
9. Wildlife Diseases (PA Game Commission website)
 - a. EHD – Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease
 - b. Chronic Wasting Disease
 - c. West Nile Virus
10. Wildlife Profile 2020 – Envirothon students will be able to identify, describe the natural history, determine the wildlife biology, and evaluate habitat for the animals listed in the profile. Identification signs can include: a picture, skull, replica, decoy, fur, hair, feather, gnawing, rubbing, pellet, nest, scat, track, song or sound. Students should review the Pennsylvania Game Commission Wildlife Notes, sounds, songs, tracks, etc. which correlate to the 27 animals designated in the Wildlife Profile.

Wildlife Profile 2020

Canada Goose	Mink
White-tailed Deer	Mourning Dove
Bobcat	Owls (Snowy, Short-eared, Barn, Screech, Great-horned, Saw-whet, Long-eared, Barred)
Foxes (Red and Gray)	Heron Family (Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Great Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Yellow-Crowned Night Heron, Least Bittern, American Bittern)
Snowshoe Hare	
Weasels (Ermine, Least, Long-Tailed)	Ruffed Grouse

- a. Mammal Sounds – visit [The Cornell Lab of Ornithology Macaulay Library](#)
- b. Bird Songs – Utilize the Identifier or visit [The Cornell Lab of Ornithology All About Birds](#)

****The ten Bird Songs that are required for the 2020 Envirothon include:**

Bird	Identifier Card
Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose	Lakes & Rivers
American Bittern, Green Heron	Marsh & Wetlands
Mourning Dove	Yard Birds One
Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Eastern Screech Owl, Barn Owl	Birds of the Night
Ruffed Grouse	Forest

All of these bird songs can be found on the Identifier (card identified), which is typically what the PA Game Commission uses during the wildlife test.

- c. Animal Tracks – [iTrack wildlife](#) (Animal tracks App), [MyNature The handheld nature guide](#), and the Envirothon Animal Track Sheet. Additional resources to review: Pocket Guide to PA Animal Tracks by the Pennsylvania Trappers Association and Mammal Tracks and Scat: Life-Size Pocket Guide by Lynn Levine.

Learning Enhancements – Information is not required.

Wildlife Station Training videos/webinars produced by the PA Game Commission and Lancaster County Conservation District are found on the PA Envirothon website.

- Wildlife Training Video – Session 1
- Wildlife Training Video – Session 2
- Wildlife Training Video – Session 3

Deer Aging Tool (available from county Conservation District)