



# UPDATES

Pennsylvania Envirothon

Winter 2009-2010

## PPL Montour Preserve to Host 2010 Pennsylvania Envirothon

PPL, a long-time friend and supporter of the Pennsylvania Envirothon, is hosting the 2010 State competition at its Montour Preserve site on **Wednesday, May 26th**.

Nestled in a broad valley in the Appalachian foothills of north central Pennsylvania, PPL Montour Preserve is surrounded by two long, rolling ridges—Montour Ridge to the south and Muncy Hills to the north. PPL chose this low-lying valley, with its favorable environmental and economic conditions, as the site for the Montour power plant.

Built in 1972, the coal-fired power plant is located three miles south of the preserve.



In the center of the preserve is 165-acre Lake Chillisquaque, developed to provide a backup reservoir of cooling water for the power plant. The preserve now offers a variety of educational and recreational opportunities, including

hiking, nature observation, photography, birding, boating, and fishing, as well as hunting nearby.

The preserve is located in Montour County four miles northeast of Washingtonville, PA, and is accessible from Route 54.

For more information on the PPL Montour Preserve, visit its website at [www.pplweb.com/montour+preserve](http://www.pplweb.com/montour+preserve).

## 2010 Envirothon Resources Available

The Pennsylvania Envirothon Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the 2010 Envirothon resources are available.

Teachers and students can review and download most of the information

needed to prepare for the 2010 Envirothon competitions.

Visit: [www.envirothonpa.org](http://www.envirothonpa.org) and click on the sidebar category "**Resources.**"

**Or...**

The 2010 Teacher Resource Packets and new study resources have been delivered to your county's Envirothon Coordinator. If you have not received them, please contact your county conservation district office.

## Rules & Regulations Revised

For consistency and clarity, the Pennsylvania Envirothon Board of Directors updated its Rules & Regulations. Most of the revisions pertain to how county conservation districts or sponsoring organizations set up their events. The revisions that directly affect teams, of which teachers should be aware, include the following:

The previous Rules & Regulations stated, "Teams must consist of no fewer than three (3) and no more than five (5) members in order to participate." The current rules now state, "Teams must consist of five (5) members in order to participate in the Pennsylvania State Envirothon. All members must represent the same educational unit." This was revised in order to be consistent with the following rule: "The team representing Pennsylvania at the Canon Envirothon must consist of five (5) team members and two (2) adult advisors/chaperones."

A complete up-to-date copy of the Rules and Regulations can be found on the website at [www.envirothonpa.org](http://www.envirothonpa.org) or contact your county conservation district.



Don Baker — honored for 19 years of service to the Pennsylvania Envirothon.

---

## Don Baker—Honored for 19 years of Service

Don Baker, long-time Director and Friend of the Envirothon, was honored by the Pennsylvania Envirothon Board of Directors for 19 years of service. Don recently retired his position of serving as the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) representative, a position that is appointed by the PACD Executive Council.

Don is one the Envirothon's biggest advocates. He was a man who stepped in wherever he was needed — delivering lunches, parking busses, assisting at stations, raising tents. He never hesitated to share ideas during our board meetings and never missed an opportunity to talk about Envirothon with his peers.

Don remains active in conservation by serving as a director for the Mifflin County Conservation District as well as volunteering with many community organizations. Don, we'll miss you and we wish you the very best in all that you do.

## Running an Envirothon Competition on the Cheap!

By Donna Hays and Greg Reineke

Does the current fiscal situation have you in a jam? Are you wondering how to pull off your local Envirothon competition at a time when your purse strings are being cut? Well, the Fulton/Franklin County competition has been run for quite a few years on what most would consider a shoestring budget. Granted, we don't have a lot of bells and whistles and every team doesn't go home loaded down with goodies, but we conduct a competition, reward the top teams, and send our respective winning teams to the State competition.

From the Fulton County perspective: We historically have not solicited major sponsors for our event. Part of that decision was philosophical, but a larger part is that Fulton County flat out does not have much business/industry from which to solicit assistance. We have, over the years, been able to

obtain "awards", in the shape of savings bonds, for the first place team from our local bank(s). The first place team members also receive a T-shirt. These are purchased through Environmental Education funds. Those funds are raised through the Conservation District's yearly tree sale. While many Counties provide T-shirts to all participants, Fulton County does not - as noted, only to the winning team. The top three teams receive medallions, which are also paid for out of the Environmental Education fund. The only other cost that the District incurs is for food/drink the day of the competition, and that is for cooperating agencies and staff only, not for student participants. However, a small snack is provided to students late in the morning during the competition. Schools are asked to bring their own lunches. Given that

both Fulton and Franklin County hold their competition together, we are able to split the cost of providing lunch, snacks, etc. to our staff and cooperating agency folks.

From the Franklin County perspective: In Franklin County, the budget item under Envirothon was always very low. However, we always managed to put on a first rate event on a "shoestring" budget. We never set out to solicit sponsors for our event - it just sort of fell into our laps. Valley Quarries, Inc. contacted me about providing awards at our local Envirothon. Thanks to Valley Quarries' offer, our first place team members each receive a \$100 savings bond. An added bonus is that Valley Quarries also provides their Public Relations officer to attend our event and he takes the photos and does the news release for both Franklin and Fulton Counties. Two years ago, we fell into

another wonderful offer. Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc. contacted me and offered a check for \$500 to help defray expenses to supply each participant with a T-shirt. As many of you know, \$500 was not going to cover those costs. Again, Valley Quarries stepped in and provided more financial assistance for us to buy T-shirts. We have truly been blessed by the generosity of these two companies - Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Valley Quarries, Inc.

Never had a joint Envirothon with a neighboring county??? There are many benefits to doing this: (1) cuts the costs of the event in half, (2) provides more manpower at the event, and (3) the best thing of all - lightens the workload of preparing for the event. In light of the current economy, this is something all of you might want to consider for 2010.

## “Note of Thanks”



*The Essence of Achievement...The credit belongs to those people who are actually in the arena...who know the great enthusiasms, the great devotions to a worthy cause; who at best, know the triumph of high achievement; and who, at worst, fail while daring greatly, so that their place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.*

These words spoken by Theodore Roosevelt perfectly describe the commitment put forth by the Pennsylvania Envirothon Board of Directors who make the Envirothon a successful, quality educational program. **Thank you for all that you do!**

### Thank you to our Partners and Sponsors!

- ◆ Conservation Districts
- ◆ State Conservation Commission
- ◆ Association of Conservation Districts
- ◆ Department of Agriculture
- ◆ Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources Bureaus of Forestry and State Parks
- ◆ Department of Environmental Protection
- ◆ Fish & Boat Commission
- ◆ Game Commission
- ◆ U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service
- ◆ Air Products
- ◆ EXCO North Coast Energy
- ◆ Nestle Water North America
- ◆ PPL Corporation
- ◆ Bayer HealthCare Consumer Care
- ◆ The Hershey Company
- ◆ Dwight Lewis Lumber
- ◆ Lewis Lumber Products
- ◆ Cargill
- ◆ Dutch Mill Bulbs
- ◆ PA Outdoor Writers Association
- ◆ Woodstream Corporation

*Lorelle Steach, Program Coordinator*

### PENNSYLVANIA ENVIROTHON

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Andy Patterson, Chairman  
 Leigh Beamesderfer, Vice-Chair  
 Robert Sweitzer, Secretary  
 Mary Ann Bower, Treasurer  
 Donna Hays  
 Vince McCollum  
 Corey Richmond  
 Jan Hampton  
 Erica Smith  
 Richard Stumpf  
 Cheryl Brobst  
 William Kahler  
 Karen Ely

#### ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Craig Bingman  
 Angie Foltz  
 Rich Gulyas  
 Greg Reineke  
 Celina Seftas

## Become a Friend of the Pennsylvania Envirothon

**Pennsylvania Youth**

**Accept the Natural Challenge**

Become a “Friend of the Envirothon”  
Your support can make a difference

You can show you care about our natural resources and conservation education by helping the Pennsylvania Envirothon educate high school students about protecting, managing, and wisely using our natural resources.

Please show your concern by pledging your support for the Pennsylvania Envirothon by becoming a “Friend of the Envirothon.” By becoming a partner you will receive our UPDATES newsletter to keep you up-to-date on the Envirothon program. Diamond and Gold sponsors will be recognized in all print media, on our t-shirts, and on a sponsor board. Silver and Bronze sponsors will be recognized in all print media.

You can also visit our website at [www.envirothonpa.org](http://www.envirothonpa.org). All contributions are 501 (c) (3) tax deductible and should be made payable to Pennsylvania Envirothon, Inc. N.P.

Please select your pledge amount and complete and mail this form along with payment to: Pennsylvania Envirothon, Inc. N.P. 702 West Pitt Street, Suite 3, Bedford, PA 15522.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Diamond Sponsor	_____ \$5,001 - 10,000
Gold Sponsor	_____ \$2,001 - 5,000
Silver Sponsor	_____ \$1,001 - 2,000
Bronze Sponsor	_____ \$ 500 - 1,000
Other	_____ \$ _____

## Establishing a Middle School/Elementary Envirothon



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle  
Do your part to conserve  
our natural resources.  
View the UPDATES  
newsletter on-line by  
visiting our web site:  
[www.envirothonpa.org](http://www.envirothonpa.org).

Since the late 1970's, Pennsylvania's county conservation districts have provided an Envirothon program for thousands of high school-aged students. Now because of the success of this natural resource, conservation, environmental education team-oriented competition, many middle school and elementary teachers are catching the Envirothon buzz and would like to get involved.

**But, who to call first...**is the number one question faced by teachers who want to get information about or become involved in an Envirothon program, at any level. Since the Envirothon is a conservation district led program in most counties, the first call should go to your local county conservation district. Contact information can be found in your local phone directory or by visiting the Pennsylvania Envirothon website – Contacts page: <http://www.envirothonpa.org/Contact-Us.shtml>.

Your county conservation district can provide you with information about the different levels of Envirothon programs they offer. If they don't organize an event for a lower grade level, perhaps with some encouragement, they will consider it. At the high school level, resource guides and reference materials are provided, free of charge, for county Envirothon events by the Pennsylvania State Envirothon. Conservation districts that organize lower level Envirothon programs develop and provide study references and resource guides specifically designed for their county's event.

Many counties have found that the advantage to having multiple age groups is more students get exposed to the Envirothon at an earlier age and continue to move up in the ranks. These enhanced skills encourage the potential of becoming a state winner, even a North American champion. If you are interested in how to get involved in an Envirothon program, please call your county conservation district.

## Upcoming Events at a Glance

### April / May, 2010

County Envirothon events are held in all 67 counties.

### May 26, 2010

Twenty-seventh annual Pennsylvania State Envirothon will be held at the PPL Montour Preserve. **NOTE**—the testing day is being held on a **Wednesday**, which was normally held on a Tuesday.

### August 2–6, 2010

Twenty-third annual Canon Envirothon will be held at the California State University, Fresno.

### 2011

Twenty-fourth annual Canon Envirothon will be held at the Mount Allison University, Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada.

### 2012

Twenty-fifth annual Canon Envirothon will be held at the Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania.



Mark your Calendars!

## Pennsylvania Envirothon Mission

The Envirothon is an environmental education program made available to Pennsylvania Conservation Districts in partnership with related state and federal agencies and other organizations. The Envirothon program is designed to test high school students' knowledge of Pennsylvania's natural resources and environmental sciences. The program emphasizes the importance of environmental sensitivity while stressing a need to achieve a social, ecological, and economic balance. The Pennsylvania Envirothon provides future generations with the ability to be better equipped to address the complex natural resource concerns facing today's world as well as the challenges of tomorrow.



### For more information:

Pennsylvania Envirothon  
702 West Pitt Street, Suite 3  
Bedford, PA 15522  
Phone: 814-623-7900 ext. 111  
Email: [paenvirothon@pennswoods.net](mailto:paenvirothon@pennswoods.net)  
website: [www.envirothonpa.org](http://www.envirothonpa.org)