



UPDATES

Pennsylvania Envirothon

Spring 2016

Thank You – Shell Oil Company!

Pennsylvania Envirothon received a generous grant from Shell Oil Company in the amount of \$50,000.

Shell is a leading oil and gas producer, a recognized pioneer in oil and gas exploration and production technology, and one of America's leading oil and natural gas producers, gasoline and natural gas marketers and petrochemical manufacturers. Shell takes great pride in the communities in which it has operations and is very supportive of civic and educational programs such as the Envirothon.

The grant from Shell Oil will enable the Pennsylvania Envirothon to offer Envirothon teacher trainings, which will allow natural resource professionals to provide resources, teaching tools and equipment, and hands-on applications that relate to the Envirothon stations. In addition, funding will be used to assist conservation districts, offset the state competition registration fee, increase the scholarship awards, and send Pennsylvania's representative team to the North American Envirothon.

Thank You – PPL!

Pennsylvania Envirothon received a generous grant from PPL in the amount of \$3,000.

PPL is committed to delivering high-quality, safe and reliable electric service to 1.4 million customers. Its commitment to communities PPL serves extend well beyond the electrical service it provides.

The PPL grant will help cover costs for the awards, site rental fee, and the energy station for the Pennsylvania Envirothon state competition.

Thank You – Philadelphia Insurance Companies and Weis for the EITC Contributions

Pennsylvania Envirothon recently received generous contributions from Philadelphia Insurance Companies and Weis through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program.

Philadelphia Insurance Companies generously contributed over \$13,200. Philadelphia Insurance Companies (PHLY) headquartered in Bala Cynwyd, PA, design, market, and underwrite commercial Property/Casualty and Professional Liability insurance products, incorporating value-added coverages and services for select industries. By maintaining a disciplined approach to business, they provide greater security for our policyholders and superior value for our shareholder.

Weis Markets, a leader in sustainability and social responsibility, generously contributed \$2,000. Weis Markets' mission closely matches that of the Pennsylvania Envirothon in that both strive to move toward a future of sustainability in order to minimize the impact on our natural resources for today as well as for tomorrow.

The EITC contributions will assist the program in providing a quality educational program that will enable conservation districts and teachers to address environmental education standards by providing them with educational resources and hands-on teaching tools. The Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program gives tax credits to eligible businesses contributing to an Educational Improvement Organization such as the Pennsylvania Envirothon.

Thank You – 2005 Canon Envirothon Champion Team from Penncrest High School

Pennsylvania Envirothon recently received a very generous “Friends of Envirothon” donation in the amount of \$1,100 from the members of the 2005 Canon Envirothon Champion Team from Penncrest High School, Delaware County. Those members included: Michelle Henry, Emily Moberg, Vic Janmey, Joe Walker, and Aimee Davis. The team was coached by Mark Samilenko and Chrissa Kuntz.

Congratulations on your Retirement, Ed Dix

"We're saddened but grateful for the opportunity to wish a fond farewell to Ed Dix, the Education Program Coordinator with DCNR who is retiring this year, and has been helping out with the Envirothon program since 1997. Ed has been an asset to the Pennsylvania Envirothon, creating a fun and challenging Forestry test for students at the state and county levels, as well as helping out with Oral Component judging and in a variety of other ways. Through his efforts, thousands of students across Pennsylvania have become more proficient in forestry skills that are uncommon but incredibly useful tools to have in one's knowledge arsenal.

Ed says he's noticed the effectiveness and efficiency of the Envirothon grow over the last 19 years, as he's bestowed tomorrow's leaders with forestry knowledge. "The most telling impact of the program I see is reflected in the large number of conservation and resource management professionals who tell me they were Envirothon competitors in high school. The experience of Envirothon deepened their commitment to nature and to careers in natural resource conservation" says Mr. Dix.

Ed sees a great future in the Envirothon program, as we continue to grow and reach more students each year, stating, "Hopefully school district administrations recognize the impact of program experiences outside the classroom and support teacher/advisors in providing this [program]." He adds, "I have always enjoyed my days serving at the Envirothon events and doing teacher and student workshops."

We have always enjoyed working with you as well, Ed! Thank you so much for the years of dedicated service. Congratulations on your retirement, and may you continue to share your love of trees and nature with others in all that you do."

2016 Pennsylvania Envirothon State Competition Hosts

Susquehanna University and Camp Mount Luther

The 2016 Pennsylvania Envirothon competition will be held at Susquehanna University and Camp Mount Luther.

Susquehanna University (SU) is a nationally known liberal arts college. The university is located in Selinsgrove, PA, a town of about 5,000 situated on the banks of the Susquehanna River, 50 miles north

of Harrisburg. SU will serve as the location for event registration, oral component competition, and team lodging. Check out [Susquehanna University](#) for more information.

The Pennsylvania Envirothon is excited to partner with Camp Mount Luther, a new site for the field station testing. Camp Mount Luther serves the church and the community as a location for outdoor ministry and education. Whether a summer camp program, an educational school learning experience, an adult retreat or conference, Mount Luther serves as a year-round setting for growth and learning about environmental concerns and conservation. The Camp is located in central Pennsylvania in Union County near Mifflinburg, which is a 40-minute drive from Susquehanna University. Click here for more information on [Camp Mount Luther](#).

Volunteers Needed for the 2016 State Envirothon!

The Envirothon is seeking volunteers to help with the 33rd annual Pennsylvania Envirothon state competition being held on May 24 and 25, 2016. We invite all conservation districts, partners, sponsors, agencies, organizations, and friends to volunteer.

Over 100 volunteers are needed to assist with the oral presentation component and the station testing competition. Volunteers serve as oral component presentation judges, team escorts, station judges, score runners, lunch deliverers, social media coordinators, and other tasks.

To receive information on how you can volunteer for the 2016 Pennsylvania Envirothon, please contact your county conservation district, Lorelle Steach, Pennsylvania Envirothon Executive Director; or visit the Pennsylvania Envirothon's website [Registration](#) page. Look for volunteer information and registration.

We hope to see you at the 2016 Pennsylvania Envirothon.

2016 NCF-Envirothon North American Event

Forests Ontario and the NCF-Envirothon will welcome teams from across Canada and the United States as they arrive at Trent University located in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada to compete in the 28th North American Envirothon. The competition will take place during the week of July 24 – 29, 2016. Approximately fifty-five teams will compete in the weeklong event for cash awards sponsored by Smithfield Foods and the National Conservation Foundation (NCF).

Training Opportunity for Pennsylvania Teachers

Two-day workshops available for individual schools or districts.

Learn to connect your school and community with local rivers and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. A two-day workshop will include scientific and social studies about our streams, rivers, and the Chesapeake Bay watershed as a whole. Participants will do hands-on activities and take home interdisciplinary lessons that integrate the environment and Common Core with classroom curriculum.

To Register: Contact *Chesapeake Classrooms* at chesapeakeclassrooms@cbf.org with questions, or if you are interested in scheduling a course for your team of teachers or your entire staff.

Investigating Our Watershed with the PA Envirothon: a 2-Day Workshop

[Register](#)

June 22-23

This two-day workshop is designed specifically for Envirothon team teachers.

Learn to connect your school and community with local rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. This two-day workshop designed specifically for Envirothon team teachers will include scientific field investigations that tie the station topics to our streams, rivers, and the Chesapeake Bay watershed as a whole. Participants will do hands-on field experiences directly related to soils, forestry, aquatic ecology, and wildlife. Participants will take home interdisciplinary lessons that integrate the environment with classroom curriculum to inspire students to take action. Overnight camping option is provided at Shawnee State Park. Please indicate your interest on the registration form.

Length & Location: *2 days/1 night at Shawnee State Park.*

Cost: There is a \$25 resource fee, which will be refunded at the end of the workshop.

Camping Option: We will have a group camp site. If you are interested in joining us overnight, please note that on your registration.

To Register: [Register online](#) | [Register by mail/fax](#)

New Opportunity for Use of Envirothon Education Scholarship

The Pennsylvania Envirothon now provides two options for Envirothon Education Scholarship recipients to utilize their education scholarship. As always, the Pennsylvania Envirothon Education Scholarship money may be used for college/university education after high school graduation.

A new option for use of the Envirothon Education Scholarships is for an educational opportunity such as an internship, a summer conservation camp, natural resource/environmental leadership program, training session, or other educational opportunities that help the student further their interest and involvement in the conservation of our natural resources. For this option, students may apply for to use the scholarship money prior to high school graduation.