



UPDATES

Pennsylvania Envirothon

Fall 2019

Carmichaels Area High School won 3rd place at the 2019 NCF-Envirothon

On August 2, the five-member team of high school students from Carmichaels Area High School, Greene County Pennsylvania won 3rd place at the 2019 NCF-Envirothon held at North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC. The NCF-Envirothon is an international environmental education competition for high schoolers conducted by the National Conservation Foundation (NCF) and supported by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD).

The top three overall scoring teams received cash prizes sponsored by Smithfield Foods, the world's largest pork producer and processor. The top fourth through eighth placing teams received cash prizes from Idaho Envirothon, Soil Health Institute, and National Association of State Conservation Agencies. Other event sponsors included the National Association of Conservation Districts, the U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Sustainable Forestry Initiative, along with many partners from North Carolina and across the country.

At this year's event, 46 high schools from the U.S., five from Canada, and two from China participated in the NCF-Envirothon.

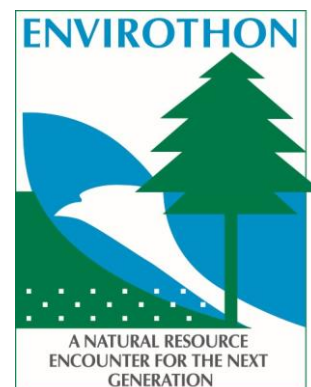
The Jamestown High School team from Virginia was named the champion of the 2019 National Conservation Foundation (NCF)-Envirothon and High Rock Home School from North Carolina placed second. For more information and photos, visit the [NCF-Envirothon](#) website.

The 2020 NCF-Envirothon will be hosted at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, July 26 – August 1. Students will be tested on the 2020 topic, "Water Resources Management: Local Control and Local Solutions."



Team Pennsylvania: Megan Patton (coach), Ryan Swartz, Joey Kurincak, Christina Adams, Stephen Zacoi, Jacob Hair, and Kevin Willis (coach).

*Thank you,
NCF-Envirothon and North Carolina 2019,
for a wonderful event!*



2020 Pennsylvania Envirothon State Competition

The 2020 Pennsylvania Envirothon competition will be held at Susquehanna University and Camp Mount Luther on May 19 and 20.

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.

The Pennsylvania Envirothon is excited to again partner with Camp Mount Luther as the site of 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.

2020 Envirothon Resources

The Pennsylvania Envirothon Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the 2020 Envirothon resources will be available by early October. Teachers and students can review and download most of the information needed to prepare for the 2020 Envirothon competitions. Visit the [Pennsylvania Envirothon](#) website and click on “Station Training.”

2020 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 water resources?

Pennsylvania Envirothon Extends THANKS to its Corporate Sponsors!

Envirothon is a program that draws the attention of many sponsors, and Pennsylvania Envirothon has been very fortunate to have secured support from so many corporations that are based, or have operations, in our great state.

Shell Oil sponsorship enabled us to: fund the Envirothon mini-grants; offer conservation district assistance grants; fund the oral presentation component; provide educational tools such as skulls, field guides, and wedge prisms; extend the scholarship awards; cover a portion of the registration costs; and award an all-expenses paid trip to the NCF Envirothon international competition.

EQT Foundation sponsorship helped us provide forestry measurement tools and educational resources for each county Envirothon program.

UGI Utilities EITC funding helped us provide educational resources for county Envirothon programs across the state.

Weis sparked many smiling faces by sponsoring the afternoon snack at this year's state competition as well as snacks for Tuesday's volunteers.

The Hershey Company proudly sponsored the regional Envirothon coordinator trainings.

Chief Oil & Gas helped sponsor lunch at this year's state competition.

Where Are They Now?

Hanusia Higgins, AmeriCorps - Project Conserve

Participating in Envirothon has had a tremendous impact on me and the trajectory of my life. Joining the Palmyra Area School District Envirothon team in seventh grade opened my eyes to the world of natural resource protection and solidified my love of plants (I "majored" in the Forestry topic). My wonderful Palmyra Envirothon advisor, Gina Mason, encouraged my interest in these topics and inspired me to pursue environmental conservation as a career path.

After participating in Envirothon all throughout middle and high school, I attended Washington University in St. Louis and received a bachelor's degree in Biology, Ecology & Evolution with a minor in Environmental Studies. My history with Envirothon allowed me to apply my new scientific training to the environmental topics I am passionate about.

Now, one year post-graduation, I am serving in an environmentally-focused AmeriCorps program called Project Conserve in Asheville, NC. My host site is the Hemlock Restoration Initiative of WNC Communities, and the goal of my service is protecting eastern and Carolina hemlock trees from the hemlock woolly adelgid, an invasive insect pest. I first learned about the woolly adelgid when studying for the Envirothon competition and the eastern hemlock is Pennsylvania's state tree, so this cause is especially meaningful to me.

After my AmeriCorps term ends this summer, I will begin graduate school at the University of Vermont. I am embarking on a master's of science degree in natural resources, with a concentration in forestry, and my master's research topic is another invasive insect pest that I first learned about in Envirothon: the emerald ash borer. I would not be where I am today without Envirothon and especially my amazing advisor, Gina Mason. The Pennsylvania Envirothon is responsible for some of my fondest memories from high school, and even more so, responsible for the environmentally conscientious path I have chosen in life.

Pennsylvania Envirothon Endowment!

The Pennsylvania Envirothon Endowment Fund has been established by the Envirothon with annual earnings provided to the organization for its own uses and purposes. The Pennsylvania Envirothon prepares students with the knowledge and tools necessary to address the natural resource challenges facing today's world.

When you give to the Pennsylvania Envirothon Endowment Fund, you help maintain the longevity of the program. Since only a portion of the fund is used, what you give grows, and what grows sustains our long-term goal of being self-supporting.

Your donation is tax deductible as the Endowment is a 501(c)(3). The Endowment Fund will be maintained by the [Community Foundation for the Alleghenies](#).

[Donate to the Pennsylvania Envirothon Fund.](#)

For more information about our Endowment Fund, contact the Pennsylvania Envirothon.

THANK YOU to Mifflin and the Northampton County Conservation Districts for contributing funds in memory of director, Don Baker, and staff member, Chrissy Buchman. Envirothon was held in high regard by both individuals.

