

# Pennsylvania Envirothon

2018 Annual Report

ACCEPT THE NATURAL CHALLENGE!

"Pennsylvania is the Founder of North America's largest high school natural resource education competition, the Envirothon."

#### **Our Mission**

The Pennsylvania Envirothon educates high school students in natural resources and environmental sciences. The program emphasizes the importance of environmental sensitivity while stressing a need to achieve a social, ecological, and economic balance. The learning objectives emphasize awareness, knowledge, and attitudes through outdoor hands-on applications while addressing the complex natural resource concerns facing today's world as well as the challenges of tomorrow.

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#### **Board of Directors**

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Vice-Chair

Vince McCollum - Watershed Specialist, Cumberland Conservation District

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Mary Ann Bower – District Manager, Clinton Conservation District

Celina Seftas – District Manager, Huntingdon Conservation District

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Erica Smith – Ag Conservation Technician, Mifflin Conservation District

Karen Books – Water Program Specialist, PA DEP/SCC

Michael Aucoin - Certification & Education Specialist, PDA/SCC

Jason Winey – Watershed Specialist, Snyder Conservation District

Renee Swineford – Administrative Assistant, Snyder Conservation District

Greg Bonsall - Environmental Education/ACT Tech, Union Conservation District

#### **Associate Directors**

Greg Reineke - Education Coordinator, Fulton Conservation District

Jackie Ritko – Resource Supervisor, Cambria Conservation District

Teddi Stark – DCNR Bureau of Forestry/Western PA Conservancy

Hayley Book - PA Public Utilities Commission

Trudy Alexander – District Manager, Clarion Conservation District

Maryruth Wagner – Volunteer, Columbia County

Irvil Kear - Volunteer, Schuylkill County

Evan Corondi – Mosquito-Borne Disease Control Program & Outreach Coordinator, Berks Conservation District

Kim Young – Education/Communications Coordinator, York Conservation District

#### Staff

Lorelle Steach - Executive Director

### Message from the Chairman

Dear Friends.

For more than 30 years, high school teachers have been recognizing the value of the Envirothon experience. The Envirothon, a product of Pennsylvania's conservation districts, is a natural resource competition that challenges students to think critically about the natural world and their role in it. Envirothon helps students develop the critical thinking skills they need for a lifetime of finding balanced solutions to complex issues.

Every year, hundreds of volunteers for the Envirothon program work together to deliver natural resource education to more than 15,000 high school-aged students across the Commonwealth. Thanks to the Envirothon, students in Pennsylvania have the opportunity to participate in hands-on learning activities and receive educational training in the areas of soils/land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife, and current environmental issues.

The Envirothon program is now offered to students in more than 47 U.S. states, nine Canadian provinces/territories, and two Chinese provinces.

Envirothon partners provide station resources, learning objectives, and exams for the Envirothon as well as offer their expertise, support, and enthusiasm

Envirothon sponsors provide financial means enabling us to offer a quality education program, organize a meaningful event, provide training measures and tools, and sustain an Envirothon staff person.

Our partners and sponsors make the Envirothon possible. A sincere congratulations and thanks are extended to everyone who helped make 2018 a successful Envirothon Year.

A special thanks goes out to all of the students and teachers who commit countless hours to preparing for the annual competitions.

William Kahler, Chairman

Pennsylvania Envirothon Board of Directors

# The Envirothon Experience 2018 Competition Summary

In 2018, more than 300 high-school students representing 65 counties participated in the 35<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Envirothon. The event was held on May 22 and 23 at Susquehanna University and Camp Mount Luther.



The State Envirothon is the outcome of 67 county competitions that take place during the months of April and May and involves more than 15,000 teenagers throughout the Commonwealth.

Awards were presented to the top ten high scoring teams. Envirothon awards scholarships totaling more than \$13,500 to each student on the top five teams. The scholarships were sponsored by Pennsylvania County



Conservation Districts and Shell Oil Company.

#### Pennsylvania's Top Ten Envirothon Teams

First Place – Carmichaels Area High School, Greene County
Second Place – Palmyra High School, Lebanon County
Third Place – Penncrest High School, Delaware County
Fourth Place – Bangor Area High School, Northampton County
Fifth Place – MMI Preparatory School, Luzerne County
Sixth Place – York Home School Association, York County
Seventh Place – Bradford Area High School, McKean County
Eighth Place – Blue Mountain High School, Schuylkill County
Ninth Place – Conneaut Area High School, Crawford County
Tenth Place – West Perry High School, Perry County

## **Envirothon at a Glance**



# Aquatic Ecology











**Current Issues** 





# **Envirothon at a Glance**



Forestry











Wildlife



Oral Component



#### 2018 Current Issue Theme

#### BENEFITS OF GRASSLAND AND PASTURELAND MANAGEMENT

Privately-owned grazing land is an important landscape feature in Pennsylvania. Many people identify pastoral settings with animals grazing on them as good farming practices that



are also good for the animals. Grazing and browsing animals are used to manage grasses, forbs, residues, and shrubs on pastures and other grasslands, crop fields, and forests. Well-managed pastures and hay fields provide valuable products, conservation of natural resources and valuable wildlife habitat, making them assets not only to private land users but also to the greater agricultural and rural community.

In Pennsylvania, the overall number of farms decreased by 6.5% between 2007 (63,163) and 2012 (59,309). The total number of farm acres in the state is 7,704,444. Of that total, permanent pasture constitutes 814,210 acres, and pastured cropland constitutes 118,049 acres. The number of farms in Pennsylvania with cropland used solely for grazing or pasture in 2012 was 4,962. The average dollar value per acre of pasture is \$2,600.00 (Source for all information above- 2012 Ag Census, NASS).

Major benefits realized from grazing and pasture lands include 1) provision of feed and forage for livestock production, 2) reduction in soil erosion, 3) seasonal protection for nesting birds and wildlife habitat, 4) better water quality, 5) improved soil nutrient content and soil health, and 6) providing food and recreation. While grazing and pasture lands may have their own natural resource concerns, conversion of short rotation cropland and hayland to a grazing system may present excellent opportunities for livestock producers to distribute nutrients away from concentrated areas and reduce fuel inputs needed to produce feed. Converting short rotation cropland to

perennial grasses for producing cellulosic biomass also presents new opportunities for conserving natural resources.

In terms of planning, landowners incorporating pastures and grazing into their livestock operation have access to technical and financial assistance through USDA programs, but there is a need for increased management on the part of the producer which seems to be a prohibiting factor for overall success. While there is a reduced need for fuel and feed inputs, the producer needs to be able to rotate the livestock between pasture to ensure healthy plant growth. Grazing management is the key to healthy, productive pastures and healthy, productive pastures are the key to healthy, productive animals. Working with technical partners such as USDA/NRCS, conservation districts, and Penn State Extension, landowners can get the help they need to get started. There are also professional grazing groups such as Pennsylvania Grazing Lands Coalition and Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative or local producer groups that can advise and address the training and education need for producers.



Envirothon teams will learn how Best Management Practices are used to protect grazing and pasture lands, improve grazing management schemes, promote pest management, and improve habitat for nesting birds and other wildlife. Information provided will demonstrate the

importance of finding the optimum balance between natural resource protection and agricultural use on grazing and pasture lands.

# Pennsylvania Envirothon Board of Directors



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

#### Thank You

Pennsylvania's county conservation districts have made a commitment to organizing and hosting county level competitions as well as assisting with the state level competition. Thank you, Conservation Districts, for staff time, financial contributions, and endless hours of preparation and training. Your dedication has made the Envirothon one of the state's top natural resource education programs.

#### Partnerships and Sponsorships

The Pennsylvania Envirothon is very fortunate to have a group of environmentally sensitive partners and sponsors who provide the wherewithal to provide a sound educational program for thousands of high school-aged students.

#### **Partners**

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry and Bureau of State Parks

Pennsylvania Department of Education

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

Pennsylvania Game Commission

U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service

Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance (KEEA)

#### **Program Sponsors**

Pennsylvania's sixty-six Conservation Districts

Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission

Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts

#### **Tent/Station Sponsors**

Cargill and the Conservation Fund

**Dwight Lewis Lumber** 

The Hershey Company

Lewis Lumber Products

#### **Advisor Forum**

Recovery of the Peregrine Falcon – DEP Office of Environmental Education, Gilbert Myers

## **Financial Sponsors**

































# FRIENDS OF ENVIROTHON PENNSYLVANIA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICTS ANDY PATTERSON

## **Financial Report**

Funding for the Pennsylvania Envirothon is provided through a public/private partnership. Program administration and one staff position are supported through an environmental education grant received from the PA Department of Environmental Protection. Special projects are funded through grants sponsored by Shell, Weis, PPL, EQT Foundation, Chief Oil & Gas, and UGI Utilities. Additional private/corporate contributions are used to cover event costs. This report reflects the income and expenses needed to hold a two-day event.

#### 2018 Financial Report - reported by Ritchey, Ritchey & Koontz CPA

Revenue		
Donations	98,727.00	
Program Activities	128.00	
Government Grants	100,000.00	
Fundraising	8,500.00	
Interest	1,645.00	
Investment (loss)	(694.00)	
Other	734.00	
Registration	30,172.00	
Total Revenue		\$239,212.00
Expenditures		
Program Services	210,468.00	
Fundraising	7,032.00	
Administration	<u>7,053.00</u>	
Total Expenditures		(224,553.00)
Change in Net Assets		14,659.00
Net Assets, January 1		256,087.00
Net Assets, December 31		270,746.00

#### 2019 Envirothon Events

The 36<sup>th</sup> annual Pennsylvania Envirothon will be held at the University of Pittsburgh Johnstown and Windber Recreation Park on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 22 and 22, 2019.

The current issue focus for the 2019 Envirothon events will be ""Agriculture and the Environment: Knowledge and Technology to Feed the World."

The 31<sup>st</sup> NCF - Envirothon (international Envirothon) will be held at the North Carolina State University, Raleigh July 28 - August 2, 2019.

#### How to become involved with the Envirothon

The Pennsylvania Envirothon welcomes new sponsors and partners to become involved with the state competition. Whether funding a specific component of the event (i.e. one of the three meals, awards for the oral component, the teachers' training session, or a specific testing station) or volunteering to help at the event, we invite you to join us to educate our high school students about the environment and environmental issues. The Pennsylvania Envirothon also needs volunteers to assist with conducting the state event – and possibly with county events. The Envirothon continues to grow each year in Pennsylvania, and our partners, sponsors, and volunteers are critical to making the program the successful environmental competition that it is today.

If you would like additional information, please contact the Pennsylvania Envirothon office.

The Pennsylvania Envirothon is recognized as a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit organization by the Internal Revenue Service. In addition, the program is an approved organization by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development office to receive corporate contributions under the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program.

# Pennsylvania Envirothon Inc.

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