



# Pennsylvania Envirothon

2019  
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**

*Chair*, William Kahler – Lycoming County Conservation District/PACD

*Vice-Chair*, Vince McCollum – Cumberland County Conservation District

*Secretary*, Robert Sweitzer –Centre County Conservation District

*Treasurer*, Cathy Yeakel –Bradford County Conservation District

Mary Ann Bower – Clinton County Conservation District

Celina Seftas – Huntingdon County Conservation District

Corey Richmond – Sullivan County Conservation District

Erica Smith – Mifflin County Conservation District

Karen Books – PA Dept. of Environmental Protection/SCC

Michael Aucoin – PA Dept. of Agriculture/SCC

Jason Winey – Snyder County Conservation District

Renee Swineford – Snyder County Conservation District

Greg Bonsall – Union County Conservation District/PACD

## **Associate Directors**

Greg Reineke – Fulton County Conservation District

Jackie Ritko – Cambria County Conservation District

Teddi Stark – DCNR Bureau of Forestry/Western PA Conservancy

Hayley Book – PA Public Utilities Commission/PA Department of Environmental Protection

Trudy Alexander – Clarion County Conservation District

Maryruth Wagner – Columbia County

Irvil Kear – Schuylkill County

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

Kim Young – York County Conservation District

Cindy Kahley – Union County Conservation District

Jody Groshek – McKean County Conservation District

## **Staff**

Lorelle Steach – Executive Director

## Message from the Chairman

Dear Friends,

Thank you for making 2019 yet another remarkable year for Pennsylvania Envirothon!

Pennsylvania hosted yet another successful State Envirothon with more than 300 high school students, 65 five-member teams, competing from across the Commonwealth. The teams arrived at the University of Pittsburgh Johnstown campus and Windber Recreation Park to vie for awards and the title of Pennsylvania Envirothon champion as they go through arduous testing and competitive oral presentations. The title of 2019 Pennsylvania Envirothon champion went to the Greene County team from Carmichaels Area High School – Congratulations!

Pennsylvania Envirothon is grateful for the continued support of its many sponsors and partners that help us annually provide a quality environmental and natural resource educational program to thousands of students.

I want to thank all of the volunteers and teachers who dedicate countless hours serving these young Envirothon enthusiasts. You help us meet our mission by sharing your knowledge of the environment and natural resource management with these future leaders, conservationists, and decision-makers. You provide them with the tools necessary to address the natural resource challenges facing today's world as well as the challenges of tomorrow.

Finally, our dedicated staff and board of directors have done an incredible job of expanding our outreach while strengthening our programs and services. We look forward to an exciting 2020 Envirothon season.

Sincerely,

*William Kahler*, Chairman  
Pennsylvania Envirothon Board of Directors

## **The Envirothon Experience**

### **2019 Competition Summary**

In 2019, more than 300 high-school students representing 65 counties participated in the 36<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Envirothon. The event was held on May 21 and 22 at the University of Pittsburgh Johnstown and Windber Recreation Park.

The State Envirothon is the outcome of 67 county competitions that take place during the months of April and May and involves almost 50,000 teenagers throughout Pennsylvania.



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 – Penncrest High School, Delaware County

Third Place – Hempfield High School, Lancaster County

Fourth Place – Bradford Area High School, McKean County

Fifth Place – York Home School Association, York County

Sixth Place – Central Valley High School, Beaver County

Seventh Place – Everett Area High School, Bedford County

Eighth Place – Conneaut Area High School, Crawford County

Ninth Place – Palmyra Area High School, Lebanon County

Tenth Place – Blue Mountain High School, Schuylkill County

Greene County's Carmichaels Area High School represented Pennsylvania at the NCF-Envirothon international competition held in Raleigh, North Carolina. The team placed third in a field of 53 teams.

## 2019 Current Issue Theme

### **“Agriculture and the Environment: Knowledge and Technology to Feed the World”**

There are many articles that estimate the population of the Earth to be approximately 9 billion by the year 2050. One of the primary concerns for the agricultural industry is how farmers will be able to grow enough food to feed this growing population, while also protecting natural resources such as soil, water, air, wildlife, and forestry resources.

Students learned the concepts of how agriculture and all natural resource areas are interrelated, as well as how the use of new technologies is a key to increase food production.



Key topics included:

- Understanding the importance of moving toward sustainable farming systems to conserve natural resources, mitigate climate change, reduce erosion and protect water quality and quantity, and promote pollination;
- Understanding the farming practices that build soil organic matter such as composting, crop rotations, cover crops, conservation tillage, and manage intensive grazing systems to improve soil health;
- Understanding integrated pest management and biological pest control techniques used to prevent insect infestation, disease, and weed problems; and
- Understanding the role of new technology: agricultural biotechnology, precision agriculture, and the use of UAV (drones, GIS, etc.) to increase farm efficiency for food production.

Envirothon at a Glance



Aquatic Ecology



Current Issues



Soil/Land Use





Envirothon at a Glance



Forestry



Wildlife



Discovering Energy



Oral Component

## 2019 Financial Report

**Fiscal year ending December 31, 2019 - Ritchey, Ritchey & Koontz CPA**

We are grateful to our partners and sponsors whose grants and donations make the Pennsylvania Envirothon possible. Their names are recognized on the Partners and Sponsors page.

### Revenue

Donations	95,372.00	
Program Activities	610.00	
Government Grants	124,863.00	
Fundraising	3,362.00	
Interest	2,250.00	
Investment	1,861.00	
Registration	<u>29,955.00</u>	
<b>Total Revenue</b>		258,273.00

### Expenses

Program Services	209,734.00	
Fundraising	3,122.00	
Administration	<u>9,813.00</u>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<u>(222,669.00)</u>
Change in Net Assets		35,604.00
Net Assets, January 1		<u>270,746.00</u>
Net Assets, December 31		<b>\$ <u>306,350.00</u></b>

## 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 educational 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 offer a sound educational program for thousands of high school-aged students.

### Pennsylvania's 66 County Conservation Districts



PHILADELPHIA  
PARKS & RECREATION



pennsylvania  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



pennsylvania  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



pennsylvania  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES



pennsylvania  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service



PACD

PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF  
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS, INC.



Energy to do more®



**FRIENDS OF ENVIROTHON**  
**ANDY PATTERSON**

## 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 in 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 to receive corporate contributions under the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program.

### **Pennsylvania Envirothon Inc.**

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