



# UPDATES

Pennsylvania Envirothon - February 2022

## 2022 Pennsylvania Envirothon Competition—Important Information

As May rapidly approaches and we think about warmer weather we also start building anticipation for the 2022 Pennsylvania Envirothon. We look forward to welcoming students, teachers, and volunteers back for a partially in-person event this year. This year's Envirothon will be a "hybrid" competition, meaning that station testing will be in-person and the oral component will be online. The field station testing day will be held in-person onsite at Camp Mount Luther in Mifflinburg on May 25th. The Oral component for this year's event will be held virtually, much like it was in 2021, with all participating teams making an electronic presentation for the judge's consideration and then participating in a 10 minute question and answer session via zoom. Online Oral Component Days will be: May 17th, May 18th, May 19th, and May 20th. As always, volunteers will be heavily relied on for both electronic Oral Component judging and in person judging and assistance on the day of the competition at Camp Mount Luther. Interested volunteers must register online through the PA Envirothon Website and registrations are due by April 1st, 2022.

The 2022 Pennsylvania Envirothon champions will represent the Commonwealth at the NCF-Envirothon competition planned for July 24 - 30, 2022 at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. More than 47 states, eight Canadian provinces, one Canadian territory, and two Chinese provinces have initiated Envirothon contests based on the program that was originally developed by Pennsylvania's conservation districts.

## How to Find Us

Please Note that the PA Envirothon has new contact information:

Phone: 570-837-3000

Email: PAEnvirothon@gmail.com

10541 Rt 522

Middleburg, PA 17842

## A letter from the PA Envirothon Board Chair

Hello and welcome to the 2022 Envirothon season! We are excited to announce that we are resuming many of the in-person and hands-on parts of the program that we all know and love! Please see the 2022 Event Information section of this newsletter for all the details.

As you have noticed, we've experienced a season of major change around here. First, I'd like to recognize the major retirements we've seen in the last two years.



Celina Seftas, Board Chair

- Lorelle Steach, retired Executive Director, 21 years of service
- Bill Kahler, retired PA Envirothon board chair, 10 years of service as chair (still on the board though!)
- Kim Young, retired associate board member, 6 years on the board (and assisted prior to serving)
- Bob Sweitzer, retired board member and NCF Envirothon representative, 34 years on the board
- Dan Lynch, PA Game Commission (Wildlife Station leader)

Please join me in thanking these individuals for their service to the Envirothon! I'd also like to note that we are currently without an Executive Director. Greg Bonsall has taken a job as the District Manager for the Union County Conservation District, and we wish him well on this new adventure. Our board has always been a working board, and we are rising to the challenge of taking on this year's competition and will be resuming the hiring process as well. We have some new faces that have joined us as well – be sure check out their intros in this newsletter. We greatly appreciate the energy and passion they're bringing to the table! Thank you for your patience as we've navigated these changes (and a pandemic!). Good luck to all the teams competing this year!

Celina Seftas

Board Chair, Pennsylvania Envirothon

## Welcome New Associate Directors



Hello! My name is Hannah Bequeath and I am so excited to be an Associate Director of such a great organization! I am the new Education/Outreach Coordinator for the Clarion Conservation District. I am originally from Mercer County where I grew up exploring the forest behind my parent's house and helping my mom with her flower gardens. Nature photography, hiking, biking, and kayaking are some of my favorite ways to enjoy the Pennsylvania outdoors!

Carey Entz-Rine is the Watershed Specialist for Lycoming County Conservation District. I have been with Lycoming County almost 15 years and spent the 3 years prior with the Northumberland County Conservation District. I am Envirothon Alumni from Sullivan County High School. This where I was first introduced to Aquatics. After highschool, I attended Lycoming College and have a B.S. in Biology and a minor in Environmental Science.



Hi, I'm Michael McKelvey and I am the Education and Communications Coordinator for the York County Conservation District. I coordinate the York County Envirothon, which offers four separate grade level events including Senior High, Middle School, 5th & 6th Grades, and 3rd & 4th Grades. My educational background is in environmental policy from Temple University. In 2017 I completed a 2200-mile "thru-hike" on the Appalachian Trail southbound from Maine to Georgia. Since then, I worked for a natural science museum in Philadelphia where I developed innovative programs and outreach to engage community members in environmental education. In my role with the York County Conservation District, I oversaw York County's first-ever Envirothon Virtual Competition in 2021. I look forward to returning to an in-person competition in 2022, and I am grateful for our Envirothon coaches, station leaders, and sponsors here in York County.

## Welcome To Our New Sponsor

Pennsylvania American Water, a subsidiary of American Water, is the largest investor owned water utility in the state, providing



high-quality and reliable water and/or wastewater services to approximately 2.4 million people. With a history dating back to 1886, American Water is the largest and most geographically diverse U.S. publicly traded water and wastewater utility company. American Water employs more than 6,400 dedicated professionals who provide regulated and market-based drinking water, wastewater and other related services to more than 14 million people in 25 states. American Water provides safe, clean, affordable and reliable water services to our customers to make sure we keep their lives flowing. Here in Pennsylvania, we: Serve 19% of the commonwealth's population, Serve more than 408 communities in 36 counties. On behalf of the Envirothon Board of Directors and all the students that will benefit from it, we would like to thank PA American Water for their support.

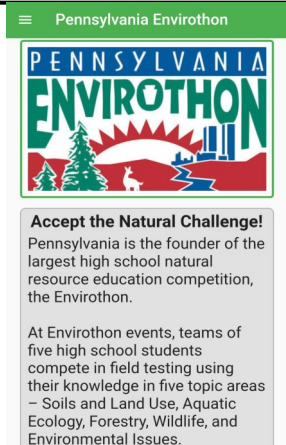
## Check Out Our Updated App

Study Nature on the GO! The Pennsylvania Envirothon app is the official study guide for local and the statewide competition. It includes a variety of resources for students, teachers and nature lovers. You can listen to bird, frog and toad calls right from the App. Also included are new tree,

# PSECU

wildlife, and aquatic flashcards that can be used to test identification skills.

The PA Envirothon App is brought to you by our Digit-First Sponsor the Pennsylvania State Employees Credit Union.



## Many Thanks to All Our Sponsors

PSECU	Weis	PA Game Commission	PA DEP
Shell	PPL	USDA NRCS	PA Dept of Agriculture
EQT	PACD	PA Fish and Boat Commission	PA's Conservation Districts
UGI	SCC	PA DCNR	Seneca
Chief	PA Trappers Assn	PA Dept of Education	PA American Water



## Current Event 2022 - Waste to Resources

Every year the NFC Envirothon Host chooses the Current Issue topic for the Envirothon. This year, Ohio has picked "Waste to Resources". Ohio is one of the most densely populated states in the United States, with just over 11.6 million people calling it home. Like many populous areas, Ohio is tasked with servicing its residents while also sustaining its natural resources across diverse geographic regions.

As a by-product of its robust population, the state is faced with the responsibility of managing different types of waste generated by individuals, households, communities, businesses, manufacturing, agriculture, and industry. Waste of all kinds has the potential to affect the environment and our natural resources. From the water we drink to the land we live on, our decisions about how to manage waste impacts our communities and the world around us. How can we make responsible choices about our waste? How can we manage our growth in a way that is sustainable? How can we turn our waste into resources?

These challenges make Ohio well positioned to enact innovative and creative solutions for managing its wastes regeneratively, turning them into resources through restoration, repurposing, and recycling for the benefit of the natural environment and future generations. Students will learn the concepts of different waste streams and the impacts of waste generation and disposal on natural resources and society. Students will also learn effective ways to manage waste regeneratively; as well as the social, economic, and political impacts of turning waste products and degraded lands into resources.



### Dates to Remember

Online Volunteer Registration Deadline - April 1st

Online Team Registration Deadline - May 6th

Submit Oral Component Presentations - May 6th through 8:00 am May 16th

Oral Component Judging - May 17th, 18, 19th, 20th

In-Person Station Testing at Camp Mt. Luther - May 25th