

High School Students Test Their Knowledge in Local Envirothon

Forty-seven (47) teams involving nearly 230 students from thirteen schools in five central Pennsylvania counties arrived at the Shikellamy State Park Marina for the annual Susquehanna Valley High School Envirothon held on April 24, 2018. (The Marina is located near Sunbury, PA on Packers Island.)

Topics that the students were tested in were wildlife, forestry, aquatics, soils and a specific current issues topic that changes yearly. The current issue topic for this year is rangelands, grasslands and pastures.

Several cooperating agencies helped out with the event. They were: PA Game Commission (*Wildlife station*), PA (Department of Conservation & Natural Resources) DCNR-Bureau of Forestry (*Forestry station*), PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) (*Current Events station*), PA Fish & Boat Commission (*Aquatics station*) and USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) (*Soils station*).

Staff members from the five conservation districts were in charge of the event's planning, coordination and logistics.



Each conservation district awarded medals to the highest scoring team from its county. This year, the Snyder County winners were from Selinsgrove Area High School located in Selinsgrove. Team members were (above photo, left to right) Garrett Benfer, Jacob Dock Hannah Kline, Addie Lannan and Darrah Yerger. (Curtis Swineford, not pictured above, was the team's advisor and Selinsgrove Area High School agriculture education teacher.) They placed seventh (7th) overall out of 47 teams that competed.

A team from Central Columbia High School in Columbia County won the overall title this year.



During the event, students stop at a station where they are not tested for their knowledge, but listen to an educational presentation. This year, Van Wagner, Lewisburg Area High School science teacher and local entertainer, (green shirt, standing with an object in hand, right photo) gave the “non-testing” presentation on how hardwood, baked in mounds, produces charcoal. This was done in a large scale in PA’s woods in the nineteenth century.



Each student who participated in the local Envirothon received a T-shirt. Sponsoring businesses and organization gave financial donations for the event. (Contact one of the five supporting conservation districts for a complete list of donors.)

Winning teams from each participating county advance to the PA Envirothon, which will be held on May 22 and 23, 2018, at the campus of Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove and Camp Mount Luther west of Mifflinburg. The PA Envirothon winner advances to the 2018 North American Envirothon held in Idaho State University, Pocatello, Idaho, from July 22 to July 28. Competitors will come from Envirothons held in various U.S. states and Canadian provinces.

If you would like more information about or would like to volunteer to help with these local, state or international educational events, contact your local conservation district office or check these websites listed below:

Columbia County Conservation District: 570-784-1310, x102
Montour County Conservation District: 570-271-1140
Northumberland County Conservation District: 570-495-4665
Snyder County Conservation District: 570-837-3000
Union County Conservation District: 570-524-3860

PA Envirothon: <http://www.envirothonpa.org>
North American Envirothon: <http://www.envirothon.org>



From the PA Envirothon Mission Statement: The Envirothon at the local, state and national level educates high school students in natural resource and environmental sciences since its local contest in 1979. The program emphasizes the importance of environmental sensitivity while stressing a need to achieve a social, ecologic and economic balance in life. The learning objectives emphasize awareness, knowledge, attitudes and application. The Envirothon provides future generations with the ability to be better equipped to address the complex natural resource concerns facing today's world as well as the challenges of tomorrow.

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