

High School Students Test Their Knowledge in Local Envirothon

Thirty-four (34) teams involving nearly 170 students from various schools in five central Pennsylvania counties arrived at the Shikellamy State Park Marina for the annual Susquehanna Valley High School Envirothon held on April 30, 2019. (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 agricultural technologies.

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 planning, coordination and logistics of the Envirothon.



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, starting from second to left to right) Grayden Catherman, Ashlynn Peachey, Melanie Fouts, Luke Kantz and Maura Hensel. (Thera Brubaker, pictured above at the far left, was the team's advisor and Selinsgrove Area High School math teacher.) They placed seventh (7th) overall out of 34 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/agriculture teacher and local entertainer, (green shirt, standing with an object in hand, right photo) gave the “non-testing” presentation on the American eel, a slender fish that historically swam in local rivers and streams.

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 21 and 22, 2019, at the campus of University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown and Windber Recreation Park. The PA Envirothon winner advances to the 2019 North American Envirothon to be held at North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina, from July 28 to August 2. Competitors will come from Envirothons held in various U.S. states and Canadian provinces, as well as one team from the People’s Republic of China.

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: 570-784-1310/570-317-9456

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.

Version: 5-13-2019