

New Jersey Envirothon

2012-2013 Annual Newsletter



Sponsored by the **NJ Conservation Partnership**: New Jersey Association of Conservation Districts, New Jersey Dept. of Agriculture/State Soil Conservation Committee, USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, and New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection

16th Edition

www.njenvirothon.org

January 2013

2013 Envirothon

The 2013 NJ Envirothon competition will be held on May 4, 2013 at Camp Kettle Run Girl Scout Camp, Medford, Burlington County

The Environmental Issue for the 2013 Envirothon is:
Sustainable Rangeland Management

Information about the NJ Envirothon is available at your local Soil Conservation District office, online at:
www.njenvirothon.org or by calling Rich Belcher, Envirothon Coordinator, at 609.292.5540.



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Envirothon Volunteering Pays Dividends

By Charlie Newlon, Retired Forester & Envirothon Volunteer

Investing a small amount of your time working with an Envirothon team or volunteering to help with the annual New Jersey Envirothon competition has a big payoff. A few requirements of being an Envirothon volunteer are to have an interest in the future of our youth, a concern for our nation's natural resources, are comfortable working with teenagers, and a small investment of time.

Teachers who have signed on to the Envirothon program and have developed an Envirothon team will welcome your offer to help. You do not have to have a skill in all the topic areas. Envirothon study materials are available on the website at www.njenvirothon.org. You can become familiar with the guides and the entire Envirothon program by reviewing this material.

Often, students are enthusiastic about being a team member, but some do not take the time to study. By simply meeting with a team after school for one or two sessions (1-2 hours), to quiz them about the specifics of their study guides, will do wonders.

If you know of a high school teacher interested in forming an Envirothon team, then volunteering to help the teacher form the team would be beneficial. This may take a few more afternoons, but the long term benefits of introducing or exposing students to the environment are priceless.

If you do have skills in the area of soils, aquatics, forestry, wildlife or public presentations, so much the better. Arranging to meet a team in the school yard or nearby field to show them how to use the tools of the specific profession is helpful. Having a team practice speaking to you on the assigned

current topic will help them overcome the jitters of speaking before a panel of judges.

I know meeting with the students is worth the time invested because I have met with eight Envirothon teams for perhaps 30 hours over a ten year period.

The one-day New Jersey Envirothon is another way to volunteer. This event is held on a Saturday in early May, and volunteers are always needed. I have helped staff the forestry station at six different Envirothons in Delaware, Pennsylvania and now New Jersey. Teachers have told me that because I met with their teams all, without exception, improved their scores of the previous year.

I feel really good about the dividends earned for a modicum of my time invested. I will wager that you can earn similar good vibes from a few hours of your time. The need to help prepare our budding adults with experiences so they can make informed decisions about the environment in their adult years is truly vital.



Charlie Newlon, Envirothon Volunteer

Sponsor Spotlight on Atlantic County Utilities Authority

The Atlantic County Utilities Authority (ACUA) is an environmental leader, providing responsible solid waste and wastewater management services while utilizing renewable energy and alternative fuels and vehicles to save money and reduce emissions.

In addition to the wastewater treatment plant in Atlantic City, home to the Jersey Atlantic Wind Farm and a 500Kw solar project, the ACUA's Solid Waste Division includes a landfill, recycling center, composting site, transfer station, vehicle maintenance center, geothermal administration building, landfill gas-to-electricity project, electric vehicle charging stations and biodiesel and compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling stations at its 360-acre Haneman Environmental Park in Egg Harbor Township.

Going beyond its original mandate, ACUA has become a leader in alternative energy and has received numerous awards for its projects, which include a 500-kW solar project and the 7.5-MW Jersey Atlantic Wind Farm at the wastewater treatment plant, and a 5.4-MW landfill gas-to-energy project in Egg Harbor Township. ACUA's fleet includes biodiesel and zero-emissions electric vehicles. In 2011, ACUA opened the area's first publicly accessible

Compressed Natural Gas fueling station and continues to transition its collection fleet from biodiesel to CNG, saving money and reducing emissions.



In addition, ACUA keeps Atlantic County clean and green through groundwater protection and responsible waste management including single-stream recycling, household hazardous waste disposal and its Clean Communities program. ACUA works to educate the community about environmental protection and renewable energy through presentations, tours and at community events, so it's not surprising that ACUA has a longstanding relationship with the New Jersey Envirothon, and is pleased to be able to continue supporting this program with volunteers and sponsorship. ACUA's president, Rick Dovey explains, "The Envirothon challenges students to solve environmental problems and to apply their knowledge to the issues at hand. ACUA's leaders bring the same kind of skills to bear on challenges and opportunities as we work to incorporate green technologies, renewable energy and alternative fuels to protect the environment and save money at the ACUA."



Support the New Jersey Envirothon!
**The NJ Envirothon is made possible through generous donations from
 businesses and organizations from across the state.**
Visit the NJ Envirothon website for more information: www.njenvirothon.org



2013 Envirothon at Camp Kettle Run in Medford

By Tim Robinson, Burlington Soil Conservation District

The 20th annual NJ Envirothon, a natural resources problem-solving competition for high school students, will be held on May 4, 2013 at Camp Kettle Run Girl Scout Camp in Medford, Burlington County.

Camp Kettle Run, which is owned by the Girl Scouts of Central and Southern New Jersey, is located on 158 acres of plush South Jersey Pine Barrens. Participants will explore this Pinelands camp and adventure around the 11 acre lake with two nature trails, oak and pine trees, mountain laurel, blueberries and ferns.

Envirothon teams can choose to arrive on Friday night and campout by pitching their own tents or by using the provided tent platforms or cabins. All campsites have nearby facilities.

Burlington Soil Conservation District is pleased to host the 2013 NJ Envirothon.

2012 NJ Envirothon Recap

By Karen Rowe, Freehold Soil Conservation District

Camp Sacajawea Girl Scout Camp in Farmingdale was the site for the 19th annual New Jersey Envirothon. The Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore Council provided a wonderful location on more than 140 wooded acres featuring a lakeside cabin nestled by a private stream-fed lake, and two interactive hiking trails.

As the host district, Freehold SCD had the role to help coordinate the Envirothon. Friday was set-up day and this all went very smoothly with many hands there to help.

Teams arriving on Friday were assigned camping areas and their gear was transported to their campsites. Teams and volunteers had the choice to stay in one of the several yurts, cabins or platform tents or to pitch their own tents for their overnight accommodations. Dinner and breakfast were served in the Program

Activity Center and lunch was served under the Big Top. A campfire, along with all the fixing for s'mores, enticed many students Friday night.

It was misty and on the cooler side to start the event early Saturday morning, but by closing ceremonies the weather was cooperative.

MATES (Marine Academy of Technology & Environmental Sciences) Team #1 of Stafford won the event for the second year in a row and went on to represent New Jersey at the Canon National Envirothon held at Susquehanna University. MATES Team #2 took second place and third place went to Wayne High School.

Thank you to all participants, advisors, volunteers and sponsors for making the 2012 Envirothon a successful and worthwhile event.

Photo Gallery



170 high school students participated in the 2012 New Jersey Envirothon at Camp Sacajawea in Farmingdale, Monmouth County



2012 Envirothon Sponsors & Contributors!

The New Jersey Envirothon primary sponsor is the **NJ Conservation Partnership** including: the NJ Association of Conservation Districts, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture's State Soil Conservation Committee, New Jersey's 15 Soil Conservation Districts, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Rutgers Cooperative Extension.

The NJ Envirothon would also not be possible without the generous support of the contributors listed below.

Allegheny Society of American Foresters — NJ Division

Atlantic County Board of Agriculture

Atlantic County Utilities Authority

Bergen County Soil Conservation District

Borgata Heart and Soul Foundation

Burlington County Soil Conservation District

Cape-Atlantic Conservation District

Cape May County Board of Agriculture

Duffy, Dolcy & McManus, P.A.

Essex County Board of Agriculture

Firman E. Bear Chapter, SWCS

Freehold Soil Conservation District

Hudson, Essex & Passaic SCD

Lomax Consulting Group

Mercer County Soil Conservation District

Morris County Soil Conservation District

NJ Association of Conservation Districts

NJ Soil Conservation District Employees

Association (NJSCDEA)

NJ Department of Agriculture

NJ Department of Environmental Protection

Ocean County Soil Conservation District

Passaic County Board of Agriculture

PSE&G

ShopRite of Freehold

Somerset-Union Soil Conservation District

Sussex County Soil Conservation District

United Water Company

USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service

Wakefern Food Corporation

Widman, Cooney & Wilson, LLC

*Thank
You!*

34 teams dedicated many hours during the school year to prepare for the annual Envirothon and they were tested in aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife and the 2012 environmental issue of Non-point Source Pollution & Low Impact Development.

2012 NJ Envirothon Teams



Arthur L. Johnson High School
 Biotechnology High School Team 1
 Biotechnology High School Team 2
 Bridgewater-Raritan High School
 Cedar Creek High School Team 1
 Cedar Creek High School Team 2
 East Orange Stem Academy
 Egg Harbor Twp. High School Team 1
 Egg Harbor Twp. High School Team 2
 Highland Regional High School
 High Tech High School Team 1
 High Tech High School Team 2
 Holmdel High School
 Kittatinny Regional High School Team 1
 Kittatinny Regional High School Team 2

Manalapan High School
 Marine Academy of Science and
 Technology Team 1
 Marine Academy of Science and
 Technology Team 2
 Marine Academy of Technology and
 Environmental Science Team 1
 Marine Academy of Technology and
 Environmental Science Team 2
 Metuchen High School
 Millville Senior High School Team 1
 Millville Senior High School Team 2
 Montville Township High School
 Moorestown Friends School Team 1
 Moorestown Friends School Team 2

Passaic Valley High School
 Princeton High School Team 1
 Princeton High School Team 2
 Timber Creek High School
 Trenton Central High School
 Watchung Hills Regional High School
 Wayne Valley High School
 West Windsor-Plainsboro