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The New Jersey Envirothon is sponsored by the Conservation Partnership: New Jersey Association of Conservation Districts, New Jersey Department of Agriculture, State Soil Conservation Committee, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension, and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The New Jersey Envirothon competition would not be possible without the generous support from these sponsors and the sponsors listed below. Thank you!

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New Jersey's 15 Soil Conservation Districts are special purpose subdivisions of the State. They are empowered to conserve and manage soil and water resources in the State. The Districts are part of a cooperative network of State, local, and federal agencies authorized by the New Jersey Soil Conservation Act. Technical assistance from the Natural Resource Conservation Service and other USDA agencies is available through the Districts. NJ's Soil Conservation Districts provide technical and other assistance to the agricultural community, provide and interpret soil survey information, regulate erosion laden storm water from construction sites and sponsor a wide variety of educational programs. Districts promote the wise use and stewardship of NJ's land and water.

2007 NJ Envirothon Participants

Congratulations to the students and advisors who represented their schools at the 2007 NJ Envirothon. Thirty-seven teams from twenty-six schools throughout NJ spent the day at The Lighthouse Center for Natural Resource Education in Waretown to compete in the 2007 NJ Envirothon. The teams committed and dedicated their time during the school year to prepare for this event.

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|---|--|---|
| Academy for Health and Medical Sciences | Madison High School | Princeton High School Team #2 |
| Atlantic City High School Team #1 | Marine Academy of Science and Technology | Scotch Plains Fanwood High Sch. Team #1 |
| Atlantic City High School Team #2 | Marine Academy of Technology & Environmental Science Team #1 | Scotch Plains Fanwood High Sch. Team #2 |
| Bridgewater-Raritan High School | Marine Academy of Technology & Environmental Science Team #2 | Somerville High School |
| Clearview Regional High School | Middle Township High School | Sparta High School Team #1 |
| Cranford High School | Millville Senior High School Team #1 | Sparta High School Team #2 |
| Egg Harbor Twp. High School Team #1 | Millville Senior High School Team #2 | Triton Regional High School |
| Egg Harbor Twp. High School Team #2 | Moorestown Friends School | |
| Franklin High School | Montgomery High School Team #1 | |
| Highland Regional High School | Montgomery High School Team #2 | |
| High Tech High School Team #1 | Mountain Lakes High Environmental Club | |
| High Tech High School Team #2 | New Providence High School | |
| Kinnelon High School Team #1 | Oakcrest High School | |
| Kinnelon High School Team #2 | Princeton High School Team #1 | |
| Kittatinny Regional High School Team #1 | | |
| Kittatinny Regional High School Team #2 | | |



New Jersey Envirothon

2007-2008 Annual Newsletter



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

11th Edition

www.njenvirothon.org

September 2007

2008 Envirothon

The 2008 NJ Envirothon competition will be held on May 10, 2008 at Duke Farms in Hillsborough, NJ.

The theme for the 2008 Envirothon Competition is: *Recreational Impacts on Natural Resources.*

Information about the NJ Envirothon is available at your local Soil Conservation District office or online at: www.njenvirothon.org.

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- ★ **2007 Envirothon Winners:** ★
- ★ **1st Place:** High Tech High School Team #1 ★
- ★ **2nd Place:** Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science Team #2 ★
- ★ **3rd Place:** Bridgewater-Raritan High School ★
- *****

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Envirothon 2007 - Experiencing Barnegat Bay at the Lighthouse Center

By Christine R. Raabe, Education and Outreach Specialist, OCSCD

Months of planning all came together on May 11th when teams of students and advisors began arriving at the Lighthouse Center in Waretown. Staff from several Soil Conservation Districts, State Soil Committee, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Forest Fire Service, and Forest Resource Education Center had been hard at work all morning setting up the stations throughout the 180 acre property.

On Friday afternoon, a number of teams arrived and took advantage of the overnight accommodations available at the Lighthouse Center. Many teams opted for tent camping while some took advantage of the dormitory rooms and cabins. A fabulous BBQ feast was provided by Extreme BBQ of Forked River and it was finger-licking good. Everyone enjoyed their fill of smoked chicken wings, ribs, and all the fixins'.

Not to alter tradition, there was the usual Friday night campfire. A special guest also appeared in honor of camping out in the Pine Barrens – none other than the Jersey Devil himself! Most students didn't mind the little fright and after the festivities, the teams went right back to studying. In fact, the students had to be told "lights out" at

11 PM, and that no more studying was allowed! 6:30 AM came soon enough, and time for breakfast - with lots of coffee - and the high level of anticipation for the competition to get underway.

The competition was intense, and the sound of the horn had teams swiftly moving from station to station. Each of the stations had their expert leaders, and challenging questions and activities awaited the teams. Students were refreshed with Subway subs at lunch break, then finished the competition by cycling through the stations. When the final horn blew, the excitement and relief were a collective sigh. The frisbees and DJ helped take the edge off while teams patiently awaited the results.

Although there have to be top scores, the students, advisors and schools that participate in the Envirothon are all winners. It takes a great deal of commitment, dedication, and studying to be a contender in the competition. Great job Envirothon teams!

The Ocean County Soil Conservation District was pleased to host the 2007 Envirothon.



Visit the NJ Envirothon website: www.njenvirothon.org

Forestry Station – 2007 New Jersey Envirothon

By Terry O'Leary, Education Coordinator, Forest Resource Education Center

The New Jersey Forest Service found this year's New Jersey Envirothon to be most rewarding. Our station team consisted of Supervising Forester John Benton, Regional Forester John Burkle, Forestry Technician Bob Meierjurgan, Mercer County SCD Director, Bill Brash and his daughter Caitlyn, Education Coordinator Terry O'Leary, and Naturalist-Educators Frances Angiuoli and Mc Duffy Barrow.

We arrived at the Lighthouse Center for Natural Resource Education on Friday morning to set up our test stations, which were located within a grove of tall white pines. This was a great setting to administer both the written test as well as the field portion. An old wagon road along the edge of the plantation was perfect for tree measurements and species identification. We were able to space out the stations to keep the student teams out of earshot of each other, and the cool shade was most welcome



with the hot weather on test day.

The food arranged by the Ocean County SCD was excellent. Friday night featured "Extreme Barbeque", followed by a warm campfire and a special appearance by the Jersey Devil. The Lighthouse Center turned out to be a great setting for the event. The event was very well managed and everyone pitched in before, during, and after the event to make the New Jersey Envirothon a success.

For the second consecutive year, a student team from the Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science (MATES) captured the coveted Forestry award. The carved "Bear with a Tree" is now on display for the upcoming year at their new high school in Manahawkin.



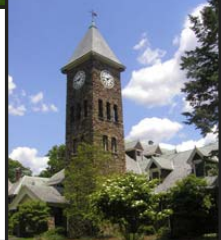
Support New Jersey Envirothon! The NJ Envirothon is made possible through generous donations from businesses and organizations across NJ. Visit the NJ Envirothon website for more information: www.njenvirothon.org

Somerset-Union Soil Conservation District will host the 2008 Envirothon Competition

2008 Envirothon Site: Duke Farms

By Ernest Thurlow, District Manager, Somerset-Union Soil Conservation District

DUKE FARMS



The 2008 Envirothon will be held at Duke Farms in Somerset County. This historic farm is located in Hillsborough Township on the Raritan River just south of Somerville. Duke Farms features 2,700 acres of vast and varied landscapes from farmland, woodlands, wetlands, grasslands and lakes to the historic buildings, greenhouses and gardens. Purchased by James Buchanan Duke, the tobacco and hydropower magnate in 1893, the land was developed into a public park with lakes, bridges, stone walls, and winding roads over a 10 year period. The property was inherited, upon his death in 1925, by his daughter Doris Duke. She continued to maintain and expand the property which has remained largely unchanged for nearly a century. As a result, Duke Farms has become a critical hub of open space for wildlife, plants and trees. Today, Duke Farms serves as a venue for environmental research, educational tours, horticultural classes, and nature programs.

In addition to its public programs, Duke Farms works with a variety of partners undertaking a range of environmental and natural resource activities on the property, including: sustainable agriculture, environmental restoration projects, wildlife studies, outdoor educational opportunities and professional training program.

Duke Farms offers a unique setting for the 2008 Envirothon competition, and the Somerset-Union Soil Conservation District is proud to serve as the host district.

2007 New Jersey Envirothon Winning Team - High Tech High School

Congratulations to High Tech High School Team #1 from North Bergen, NJ who placed First at the NJ Envirothon Competition on May 12, 2007. Each team member received a college scholarship and the team went on to compete at the Canon Envirothon competition which was held at the Hobart & William Smith College in Geneva, New York during the week of July 28 to August 3, 2007. The New Jersey team placed 5th out of 53 teams, and each team member came home with a \$1,500.00 college scholarship and the school received a Canon Snapshot digital camera!



The Envirothon Experience

Three High Tech High School Team Members' Perspective of the Envirothon

"What I love about Envirothon is the sense of wonder it brings as you learn stuff you never knew about the things around you, the inanimate objects as well as your teammates and yourselves. Envirothon brings textbook environmental science alive. We aren't just learning about soil structures, we're getting down and dirty (soily?) and figuring out samples; we're not just reading about trees from field guides, we're seeing (and smelling!) them in real life which always deviates a bit from the theoretical. It's great to know what the things around you are and truly understand their place in the environment.

And the people! It's also worth knowing that there are people out there who do this work for a living (like the people who trained us to prepare for the Canon competition), the ones who get to go out and do what they love and are particularly passionate about their fields of work!"

By Kanglei Wang, graduated senior from High Tech High School who will attend Yale University in the Fall 2007, majoring in Environmental Studies / Ethics, Politics, and Economics / East Asian Studies

"At Envirothon, I had a lot of firsts...I had my first s'mores...., first time I slept in a tent, both of which were amazing... I realized that Envirothon is the only place where you can look over and see a bunch of students hovering over buckets of soil sniffing them and examining them and feeling animal pelts, and the only thing going through my mind is, "Hurry up! So I can go next!!" It is a crazy rush. It's an experience that I'd do a million times over. There's nothing like standing in the middle of the forest and actually knowing that it's so much more than just an umbrella of green! Now, I actually identify trees everywhere I go, know the soils in my backyard and attempt to identify birds. It's absolutely the best thing that I've ever done. You walk away with so much.

I guess I can say that Envirothon was THE greatest experience I've ever had. What better way to understand the environment than to spend months and hours and countless days learning about it! The Canon Envirothon is one week out of my whole life I'll never forget. Seeing a flood of blue T-Shirts at Niagara Falls was the coolest sight in the world. Meeting people from all over the States and Canada was surreal because I have only been to four States in the US! Staying at a college dorm with my teammates and getting to know each other so well and experiencing so many emotions together really is a milestone. I miss being nervous. I miss the anticipation. But I also miss my team being there feeling the same thing. You build something really strong. You learn so much. It was the first time sleeping away from home...experiencing amazing scenery like Niagara Falls...opening myself to new and incredible things, all while learning something for a common cause....to save the world."

By Natalie Rivera, senior at High Tech High School

"Envirothon is a huge learning experience, first and foremost because you need well-rounded knowledge of Environmental Science, which is not easy to acquire. Second, you learn about other people. When you're stuck with 4 of your peers preparing endlessly for Envirothon, you really get to know them as if they were family. Also, at the Canon Envirothon, you meet people from other States (and provinces, eh?) that you probably never would have otherwise. Finally, you learn about yourself, either through victory or defeat, or both. Envirothon is just supposed to be a friendly competition, but it ends up being a whole lot more."

By Daniel Barringer, graduated senior from High Tech High School who will attend Union College in the Fall of 2007, majoring in Physics and History.