

Connecticut Envirothon



2011 Annual Report



Celebrating 20
Years of
Connecticut's
Natural Challenge!

Mission:

The mission of the Envirothon is to promote environmental awareness, knowledge, and active personal stewardship among high school students through educational workshops and team competition. As part of the North American Envirothon program, the Connecticut Envirothon program began in 1992. The 2010-2011 year marked the 20th year of offering the event to Connecticut high school students.

Steering Committee:

The Connecticut Envirothon Program is guided by a volunteer Steering Committee. This group consists of natural resource professionals from various federal, state and local agencies, and private environmental groups. There are monthly committee meetings and some of these meetings are held via conference call in an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions released due to member travel to meeting locations.

Teams are formed by members of the Steering Committee for each of the Envirothon stations. These experts plan the curriculum and training workshops for each of the main subject areas. These station teams also prepare and administer the station exams on the day of the competition in May.

In addition to the main steering committee, there is an advisory committee that provides support and guidance to the program primarily through correspondence, financial support, and working at the competitive event and workshops. The advisory group can also take on new tasks at the request of the steering committee group. This advisory assistance was the case in the \$20 for 20 years fundraising campaign this year, which raised several hundred dollars for the CT Envirothon program.

Registration:

Registration announcements are sent out to all CT schools by the end of August. Schools were encouraged to submit the registration form and entry fee of \$50.00. There are need based scholarships available for registration.

For the 2011 program year 43 schools registered to receive study materials, participate in the workshops and attend the field event. This list of schools included 12 new school registrations that participated at various levels throughout the academic year.

Study Materials:

All essential curriculum materials have been posted on the CT Envirothon website www.ctenvirothon.org, with each station team maintaining and updating their materials list through the webmaster. Materials provided from the stations range from journal articles to fact sheets, from weblinks to powerpoint files, and of course examples of exam

questions and other study guides. Programs from other states have linked their station pages to the Connecticut station pages and lists of resources to assist their teams in preparation. This fact alone is testament to the strength of the materials provided by the CT Envirothon Steering Committee members.

New Station signs:

This year each of the stations received new signs for use at their workshops and during the competitive event. The signs were designed by new steering committee member Jillian Baker of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP). The effort was undertaken to modernize the station sign images and graphics.



Workshops:

The 2011 program included a comprehensive series of educational workshops for students and teachers of the Connecticut Envirothon. Five Saturday workshops covering the topic areas and teacher orientation were held during the academic year to supplement the study materials provided online. Offering these workshops to the participants is a unique component for the CT program as many programs offer no formal training schedules. These workshops are a great opportunity for the high school students to interact with the environmental professionals and learn not only the program materials but discuss career and college opportunities.

Teacher Workshop, MDC Training Facility, Hartford: (9/21/2010) This session is an evening workshop that presented a program overview for each of the participating school advisors. Each of the station teams gave a presentation of their materials and highlighted anything new for the 2010-2011 academic year. All of the attending teachers enjoyed a buffet dinner and new advisors connected with veterans for assistance and pointers on running a successful Envirothon team.

Wildlife Workshop, Session Woods WMA, Burlington: (3/5/2011) The wildlife workshop consisted of presentations from scientists, a scavenger hunt (quiz) of displays at the center, numerous table displays and a field component. Presenters hailed from several different agencies and entities from across Connecticut. A total of 187



attendees were at Sessions Woods for the event, making this the largest CT Envirothon workshop to date!

Aquatics Workshop, Conn College, New London (2/12/2011) The Aquatics section was set up with multiple sessions occurring concurrently in separate breakout rooms. Dr. Steven Loomis gave a brief introduction to the programs available at the College while the teams enjoyed a continental breakfast. Freshwater and marine invertebrates, habitat restoration, and development impacts were highlighted in some of the breakout sessions. Presenters were from CT DEEP, CAES, Yale, UCONN, Project O, Save the Sound, and NMFS. Over 165 people attended the event in New London.

Forestry Workshop, Tolland Ag Center, Vernon(10/23/2010) The guest speaker was Tom Worthley, Assistant Extension Professor at UCONN. He gave a presentation titled "Forest Ecology and its Relation to Forest Management". Afterwards the participants proceeded outdoors to practice learning tree identification, tree measurements, identify different forest management practices. 137 people attended this event.



Soils Workshop, CT DEEP Marine HQ, Old Lyme(4/2/2011) All participating teams rotated through five main activities: Introduction to Soils (lecture), Introduction to Map Reading (DEP video), Soil Properties (hands on), Landscape Walk, and Tidal Marsh Soils (hands on, in the tidal marsh). The final activity was a chance for all students/advisors to take the “mock Envirothon test with “real” Envirothon questions. All workshop presenters, who were from USDA NRCS and UCONN, helped with any questions during the mock Envirothon activity and explained the answers to the exams. 120 students and advisors attended this event.

Current Issue Workshop (Estuaries), UCONN Avery Point Campus, Groton(10/2/2010) The first student workshop of the year involved multiple classroom and field activities. Topics covered were algae identification, threats to Long Island Sound, and habitat restoration, plus a touch tank tour and a marsh walk with fish and water sampling activities. There was a brief lunch break between field/lab activities and the marsh walk for seining of LIS. Over 140 students and advisors attended this event.



Field Event:

(May 19, 2011) The full-day field event was held at Rocky Neck State Park in East Lyme. 36 schools and over 210 students participated at Rocky Neck. There were eight “wild card teams” comprised of alternates from participating schools that also competed to make a total of 44 teams participating at the testing stations. Participating advisors took part in a training session on LID implementation by Steven Trinkaus, PE.

The weather started off with light showers and a heavy downpour during the first rotation but cleared up for the remainder of the day. The students and station leaders persevered through the early weather and were in good spirits throughout the morning. Several Committee members watched the radar anxiously to be aware of any approaching thunderstorms in hopes of the heavy rain would hold off until completion of the exams.

Each of the stations featured a written exam for the student teams to complete in a collaborative manner. Each station included some hands-on component to their exam questions. Additionally, a written scenario dealing with estuaries and reducing NPS pollution, (in particular Nitrogen), was given to each school a month prior to the field event. Each team was required to devise an oral presentation to deliver to a panel of judges during the rotation through the testing stations. The current issue oral scenario allowed for a fifteen-minute presentation and a ten-minute question and answer period.

After the competition, all participants and volunteers enjoyed a BBQ luncheon in the pavilion due to the arrival of rain showers that had held off until the testing rotations were complete for the day. Kristen Ponak and Kim Bradley conducted a raffle of several donated items for the students while the exam scores



were being tabulated for final tallies. Students could also view a display of t-shirts from each of the previous 20 CT Envirothons as they awaited their scores.

Another highlight to celebrate the 20th CT Envirothon was the presentation of station themed desserts towards the end of the lunch portion of the day. Each station team created a dessert that focused on a component of the station.



The results of the field competition were Housatonic Valley Agri-science High School in first place, Housatonic Valley High School in second place, and Litchfield High School in third place. Housatonic Valley Agri-Sci went on to represent Connecticut at the Canon Envirothon in New Brunswick, Canada in August.



National Event and National Steering Committee:

The National Envirothon was held at Mt Allison University in New Brunswick, Canada. Fifty three student teams participated in the 24th annual National Envirothon from 45 states, eight Canadian provinces, and two territories. The Connecticut team from Housatonic Valley Agri-Sci High School ably represented the state in the five-day competition that included five-written station tests, and an oral presentation based on an environmental problem solving exercise. The CT team finished in the top five to move onto the finals for one more round of presentations. After tallying the final scoring, Housatonic Agri-Sci finished 5th overall and received \$7500 in scholarship monies for the participating students.

Financial Report:

The Connecticut Envirothon program was financed through donations from private corporations and public organizations. Donations were used to purchase materials for study notebooks and workshops; T-shirts for the field day; food and refreshments for the field day and workshops; membership and registration to the National Envirothon; travel to the national competition and annual national meeting.

We would like to thank the following organizations and individuals who contributed donations to the 2011 Connecticut Envirothon program:

- | | |
|--|---|
| -Hamilton Sundstrand | -Connecticut Water Company |
| -Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England | -Canon USA |
| -Southern New England Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society | -GEI Consultants Inc. |
| -Connecticut Council on Soil and Water Conservation | -Connecticut Chapter and American Foresters |
| | -American Tree Farm System |

The following organizations contributed in-kind services, time and materials to the Connecticut Envirothon Program:

- Connecticut's Five Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
- Connecticut Association of Conservation Districts
- Connecticut Council on Soil and Water Conservation
- USDA Forest Service
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

UConn Cooperative Extension System
University of Connecticut
The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
The Metropolitan District Commission
Kings Mark Resource Conservation and Development
National Marine Fisheries Service
Project Oceanology
The Southern New England Society of Soil Scientists
Society of American Foresters
Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area
The Country Butcher
Connecticut Water Co.
Manchester Community College
Town of Greenwich
Town of South Windsor
Yale Peabody Museum

A proposed budget for 2011 was developed and approved by the Steering Committee at the beginning of the academic year. Both the proposed budget and actual expenditures are included on the following pages.

2010-2011 Connecticut Envirothon Steering Committee

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Al Levere | | CT DEEP |
| Jean Cronauer | | Northwest Cons. District |
| Pam Huntley | Treasurer | USDA-Forest Service |
| Candace Bartholomew | | UConn Coop Extension |
| Margie Faber | | USDA-NRCS |
| Ann Hadley | | MCC |
| Pete Picone | Vice Chair | CT DEEP |
| Denise Savageau | | Southwest Cons. District |
| Chris Sullivan | Chair | CT DEEP |
| Rob Rocks | | CT DEEP |
| Sean Hayden | Secretary | Northwest Cons District |
| Jeff Folger | | North Central Cons. District |
| Barb Kelly | Prog. Asst. | North Central Cons. District |
| Carol Youell | | MDC |
| Laura Rogers-Castro | | CT DEEP |
| Lisa Krall | | USDA-NRCS |
| Erica Larner | | CT River Coastal Cons. District |
| Jean Pillo | | Eastern Cons. District |
| Greg Watkins-Colwell | | Yale Peabody Museum |
| Pat Young | | National Park Service |
| Chris Craig | | Educator |
| Scot Frost | | Hamilton Sundstrand |
| Kim Bradley | | GEI Consultants Inc. |
| Kristen Ponak | | GEI Consultants Inc. |
| Cindy Guadino | | CT Water Co. |
| Joanna Winkler | | North Central Cons District |
| Tony Mitchell | | Envirothon Advisor -Retired |
| Jillian Baker | | CT DEEP |

**2011
PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS**

Bacon Academy

Bolton High School

Central High School

Chase Collegiate High School 1&2

Common Ground High School 1&2

Coginchaug Regional High School

Crosby High School 1&2

Darien HS

E.O. Smith High School

Farmington High School

East Catholic High School

East Lyme High School

Forum Homeschool Team

Glastonbury High School

Haddam-Killingworth High School 1&2

Housatonic Valley Agri-Sci High School

Housatonic Valley Regional HS

Lewis Mills High School

Joel Barlow Regional HS

Litchfield High School 1&2

Lyman Memorial HS

Marvelwood School

Middletown HS Vo-Ag

Montville High School

Nonnewaug High School 1&2

Northwestern Regional #7

Norwich Free Academy

RHAM HS

Rockville HS

Suffield Regional Agriscience

Wamogo High School

Xavier High School



2010-2011 Projected Budget

CONNECTICUT ENVIROTHON

FISCAL YEAR SEPT 2010 TO AUG 2011

| | | PROJECTED 11 |
|---|--|--------------------|
| RECEIPTS | | |
| Interest | | \$55.00 |
| Team Registration \$50 per team | | \$1,500.00 |
| Team Registration Late | | \$0.00 |
| Extra Team Materials | | \$0.00 |
| T-Shirt Sales | | \$0.00 |
| Misc. Payments | | \$0.00 |
| Council on Soil and Water Conservation | | \$20,000.00 |
| Canon Envirothon - Diversity Grant (2008, 2010) | | \$2,897.50 |
| 20 for 20 Campaign | | \$0.00 |
| Sponsors | | \$1,875.00 |
| TOTALS | | \$26,327.50 |
| EXPENSES | | |
| Supplies/Educational Materials | | \$1,950.00 |
| General Supplies (binders, paper, etc) | | \$375.00 |
| Soils | | \$165.00 |
| Aquatics | | \$165.00 |
| Forestry (plus \$750 Canon mini-grant 2010) | | \$915.00 |
| Wildlife | | \$165.00 |
| Current Issue | | \$165.00 |
| T Shirts & other merchandizing | | \$3,550.00 |
| Outreach Materials (Brochure, etc.) | | \$500.00 |
| Storage Space | | \$0.00 |
| Postage | | \$350.00 |
| Petty Cash | | \$0.00 |
| Awards | | \$700.00 |
| National Dues | | \$200.00 |
| National Meeting Travel Expenses | | \$1,800.00 |
| Registration for National Event | | \$800.00 |
| Team Travel to National | | \$2,200.00 |
| Event | | \$5,200.00 |
| Lunch | | \$3,900.00 |
| Breakfast, snacks | | \$500.00 |
| Tables, chairs, tent | | \$250.00 |
| Sound system | | \$50.00 |
| Toilets | | \$200.00 |
| Site rental | | \$250.00 |
| Miscellaneous | | \$50.00 |
| Workshops | | \$1,575.00 |
| Soils | | \$175.00 |
| Aquatics | | \$175.00 |
| Forestry | | \$175.00 |

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Wildlife | \$175.00 |
| Current Issue | \$175.00 |
| Map Reading | \$175.00 |
| Teacher Orientation | \$350.00 |
| Judge's Training | \$175.00 |
| Program Assistant | \$3,000.00 |
| Program Director | \$0.00 |
| Web Site/Internet Service | \$905.00 |
| Mileage | \$200.00 |
| Instate Meetings | \$500.00 |
| 20 for 20 Campaign | \$0.00 |
| Canon Diversity Grant | \$2,897.50 |
| | <hr/> |
| TOTALS | \$26,327.50 |

Actual 2010-2011 Financial Report



CONNECTICUT
ENVIROTHON

FISCAL YEAR SEPT 2010 TO AUG 2011

| | BEGINNING | \$30,382.09 | 1-Sep-2010 |
|---|---------------|--------------------|-------------|
| | ENDING | \$35,507.09 | 17-Aug-2011 |
| | YEAR TO DATE | | |
| RECEIPTS | | | |
| Interest | | \$76.83 | |
| Team Registration \$50 per team | | \$1,850.00 | |
| Team Registration Late | | \$50.00 | |
| Extra Team Materials | | \$0.00 | |
| T-Shirt Sales | | \$0.00 | |
| Misc. Payments | | \$108.00 | |
| Council on Soil and Water Conservation | | \$20,000.00 | |
| Canon Envirothon - Diversity Grant (2008, 2010) | | \$2,000.00 | |
| 20 for 20 Campaign | | \$470.00 | |
| Sponsors | | \$3,500.00 | |
| | | \$28,054.83 | |
| | TOTALS | \$28,054.83 | |
| | | YEAR TO DATE | |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| Supplies/Educational Materials | | \$2,609.63 | |
| General Supplies (binders, paper, etc) | | \$576.53 | |
| Soils | | \$0.00 | |
| Aquatics | | \$202.10 | |
| Forestry (plus \$750 Canon mini-grant 2010) | | \$841.00 | |
| Wildlife | | \$0.00 | |
| Current Issue | | \$990.00 | |
| T Shirts & other merchandizing | | \$3,927.00 | |
| Outreach Materials (Brochure, etc.) | | \$910.00 | |
| Storage Space | | \$0.00 | |
| Postage | | \$0.00 | |
| Petty Cash | | \$0.00 | |
| Awards | | \$0.00 | |
| National Dues | | \$200.00 | |
| National Meeting Travel Expenses | | \$1,541.75 | |
| Registration for National Event | | \$800.00 | |
| Team Travel to National | | \$2,200.00 | |
| Event | | \$5,019.99 | |
| Lunch | | \$4,532.50 | |
| Breakfast, snacks | | \$454.15 | |
| Tables, chairs, tent | | \$0.00 | |
| Sound system | | \$0.00 | |
| Toilets | | \$0.00 | |
| Site rental | | \$0.00 | |
| Miscellaneous | | \$33.34 | |
| Workshops | | \$1,237.26 | |
| Soils | | \$164.56 | |

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Aquatics | \$169.49 |
| Forestry | \$76.83 |
| Wildlife | \$361.62 |
| Current Issue | \$234.28 |
| Map Reading | \$0.00 |
| Teacher Orientation | \$230.48 |
| Judge's Training | \$0.00 |
| Program Assistant | \$3,379.80 |
| Program Director | \$0.00 |
| Web Site/Internet Service | \$742.56 |
| Mileage | \$156.39 |
| Instate Meetings | \$55.45 |
| 20 for 20 Campaign | \$100.00 |
| Canon Diversity Grant | \$50.00 |

| | |
|-------|--------------------|
| TOTAL | \$22,929.83 |
|-------|--------------------|

Sponsors/Grants

| | |
|---|---------|
| 20 for 20 | \$470 |
| Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England | \$400 |
| Southern New England Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society | \$100 |
| GEI Consultants | \$1,500 |
| Connecticut Water Company | \$350 |
| Canon Mini-Grant | \$750 |
| Canon Diversity Grant | \$2,000 |
| Connecticut Chapter of Society of American Foresters | \$100 |
| American Tree Farm System | \$300 |