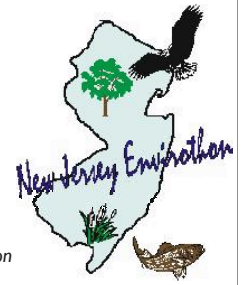


New Jersey Envirothon

2014-2015 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

18th Edition

www.njenvirothon.org

March 2015

2015 Envirothon

The 2015 NJ Envirothon competition will be held on May 2, 2015 at the Cape May County 4-H Fairgrounds, located in Cape May Court House, Cape May County.

The Environmental Issue for the 2015 Envirothon is: **Urban Community Forestry**

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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Winning Envirothon Team's Barnegat Bay Adventure By Heather McNeil-Nazareth

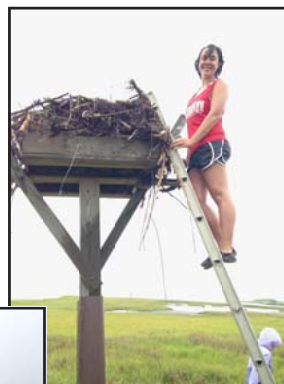
On July 10, 2014, students from the first place New Jersey Envirothon team enjoyed an osprey banding expedition near the Sedge Island Natural Resource Education Center in Barnegat Bay. In a typical Envirothon year, the winning team would have traveled to the to the North American Envirothon to compete against teams from across the U.S. and Canada. Since the North American event was cancelled this year, New Jersey's winners—from the from the Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science (MATES)—were rewarded with a unique opportunity to assist Ben Wurst (Wildlife Biologist from the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey) with osprey banding efforts. Luckily, the cool morning rain did not dampen the spirits of the eager and excited students.



Above (left to right): Richard Belcher, Lauren Zodl, Megan Tumpey, and Jillian Hubbard



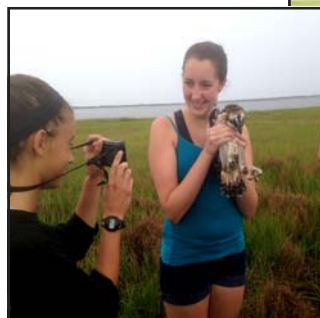
Left: Lauren Zodl - *"I always see osprey nests around, but it was fascinating to get a closer look into two different nests. I was amazed at the size of the chicks for only 3 weeks and 4 1/2 weeks old!"*



Above (left to right): Ben Wurst from the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ and Envirothon Coordinator Richard Belcher



Left: Megan Tumpey - *"The highlight of today was holding the osprey chicks during banding! I'd like to be a wildlife biologist some day, and this gave me a chance to connect with wildlife in a tangible way—so much better than learning from pictures!"*



Left: Jillian Hubbard - *"I was an intern at Sedge Island in the past, but my time ended just before the osprey chicks were old enough to band. I was so jealous of the next group, but I'm thankful to have had the chance today."*

Photo Gallery



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



2014 NJ Envirothon Recap

By Cliff Lundin Sussex County Soil Conservation District

The 21st Annual NJ Envirothon was held on May 2 and 3, 2014 at the New Jersey School of Conservation. The School of Conservation is a branch of Montclair State University and is located in Stokes State Forest, Sandyston Township, Sussex County. Our hosts were the Sussex County Soil Conservation District. The Envirothon opened on Friday evening with a delicious dinner, a cozy bonfire, smores and a stargazing/ astronomy demonstration led by Marc Rogoff of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP.) The facility offered both tent and cabin camping.

The competition itself began early Saturday morning after an early breakfast in the School's dining hall. Participants were welcomed by Dr. William Thomas, Director of the School of Conservation; by Barbara Rosko, the Chairman of the Sussex County Soil Conservation District; by Carrie Mosely, the NJ State Conservationist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; by Priscilla Hayes, President of the New Jersey Association of Conservation Districts; by Frank Minch of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture and Rich Boornazian, an Assistant Commission of NJDEP.

Thirty three teams participated with a total of 185 students. The theme of the 2014 competition was Sustainable Agriculture. The theme was the basis for the tests at the Environmental Issues station and at the Oral Presentation Station. The Oral Presentation problem was directed at connecting New Jersey agriculture with the student's schools. Students were asked to develop Farm to Schools program for their specific school. In addition, students were also given both written and field tests in: Soils; Aquatics; Wildlife; and Forestry.

The competition was extremely close. The 1st place team was the Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Sciences (MATES) (Team 1.) Second place was awarded to High Tech High School, (Team 1) and third place was awarded to West Windsor Plainsboro High School (Team 1.) The individual teams who received awards for the highest scores at the individual stations were:

<u>Station</u>	<u>Winning Team</u>
Aquatics	Marine Academy of Tech and Env. Sc. (MATES) Team 1
Forestry	Marine Academy of Science and Tech (MAST) Team 1
Soils	Marine Academy of Tech and Env. Sc. (MATES) Team 1
Wildlife	High Tech High School, Team 1
Current Issue	Marine Academy of Tech and Env. Sc. (MATES) Team 1
Team Presentation	High Tech High School, Team 1

Members of the first place winning team were each awarded \$1,500.00 scholarships.

Awards were also given to the highest scoring new teams (first time competitors.)

The participants celebrated the conclusion of the competition with music from a DJ, and Frisbees. All participants were provided with a gift bag to help remember the day as well as a pine tree seedling to help improve the future of all the citizens of New Jersey.

In reality, all of the participating students were winners. The Envirothon is truly a fun and educational experience. Many of our past participants have gone on to careers in conservation and in the environmental sciences.

As always, the New Jersey Envirothon was a volunteer effort from among the members of the NJ Conservation Partnership. Volunteers included representative of NJ's 15 Soil Conservation Districts, the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, the State Soil Conservation Committee and the NJDEP Bureau of Forestry. We thank the many volunteers for their countless hours of service to promote conservation education within our state.

2015 Envirothon - 4-H Cape May County Fairgrounds

By Glenn Ward, Cape Atlantic Soil Conservation District

The site chosen for the 2015 NJ Envirothon is in the heart of Cape May County, Cape May Court House to be precise. The Cape May County 4-H Fairgrounds, located at 355 Court House - S. Dennis Road, Cape May Court House, is no stranger to hosting large events. With large areas of open space, dotted with oak and pine trees, the site lends itself for hosting the NJ Envirothon.

Traditionally, the Cape May County 4-H Foundation, Inc. holds its 4-H Fair here, usually in the middle of July. Its close proximity to the Cape May County Zoo, across the street, makes it a popular visiting spot during fair-time and draws large crowds every year. Anyone who has visited the fair can tell you about the famous chicken Bar-B-Q night! The zoo is free and worth a visit! A newly expanded Middle Township bike path, 4 miles of a rail-trail asphalt path, can be picked up at the fairgrounds. So bring your bike!

May 2, 2015 is the date for the 2015 Envirothon with the Cape Atlantic Conservation District as host. Tent camping will be available for teams wishing to stay overnight on Friday May 1.

Cape Atlantic Soil Conservation District is pleased to host the 2015 NJ Envirothon.

2014 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.

Atlantic County Utilities Authority
 Atlantic County Board of Agriculture
 Bergen County Soil Conservation District
 Burlington County Soil Conservation District
 Camden Soil Conservation District
 Cape-Atlantic Conservation District
 Cape May County Board of Agriculture
 Cumberland-Salem Conservation District
 CVS
 Firman E. Bear Chapter, SWCS
 Freehold Soil Conservation District
 Gloucester Soil Conservation District
 Hudson, Essex & Passaic SCD
 Mercer County Soil Conservation District
 Morris County Soil Conservation District

**Thank
You!**

National Conservation Foundation Inc.
 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
 Society of American Foresters — NJ Division
 Somerset-Union Soil Conservation District
 Sussex County Soil Conservation District
 USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service
 Wakefern Food Corporation
 Widman, Cooney & Wilson, LLC

33 teams dedicated many hours during the school year to prepare for the annual Envirothon. They were tested in aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife and the 2014 environmental issue of Sustainable Local Agriculture/Locally Grown



2014 NJ Envirothon Teams

Arthur L. Johnson High School Team 1
 Arthur L. Johnson High School Team 2
 Cedar Creek High School Team 1
 Cedar Creek High School Team 2
 Freehold Township Team 1
 Freehold Township Team 2
 High Tech High School Team 1
 High Tech High School Team 2
 Hightstown High School
 James Caldwell High School
 Kittatinny Regional High School Team 1
 Kittatinny Regional High School Team 2
 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 Team 1
 Millville Senior High School Team 1
 Millville Senior High School Team 2
 Montgomery High School
 Montville Township High School
 Moorestown Friends School
 Princeton High School Team 1
 Princeton High School Team 2
 Seneca High School
 Sparta High School
 Stuart Country Day School

Timber Creek High School
 Trinton Regional HS Team 1
 Trinton Regional HS Team 2
 Watchung Hills Regional HS Team 1
 Watchung Hills Regional HS Team 2
 West Windsor-Plainsboro

