

DELAWARE ENVIROTHON

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

A program of the Delaware Association of Conservation Districts (DACD)



2020 Competition Cancelled Due to COVID-19

25th Anniversary Event Rescheduled to April 2021



Rick Mickowski, Chair
of the Delaware
Envirothon

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the 25th anniversary event was postponed until April 2021 for the safety and welfare of our teams, advisors, committee members, and volunteers. The planning committee considered holding a virtual event but decided not to pursue that approach for logistical reasons. We thank all of our sponsors for your donations which will be used for the 2021 event. The current issue will remain the same for 2021 as will the location of the NCF Envirothon being held July 2021 in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The 2021 season began in August with the first meeting of the new school year for the Envirothon Planning Committee. Due to the pandemic, the Kent Conservation District will not hold the annual KCD Barn Dance fundraiser which normally brings in between \$8,000 to \$10,000 of the operating budget. We hope you will continue your financial support once we send out the 2021 fundraising appeal. Thank you for your continued generosity!



The 2021 event will be held on
April 22nd at the St. Jones Re-
serve in Dover.

Scholarship Fund Named after Wayne Lehman



The sudden passing of Wayne Lehman left a big hole in the Envirothon family. Wayne was an instructor for many years serving on the Wildlife committee and the Planning Committee. To honor his service, the Delaware Envirothon scholarship fund is being named the Wayne C. Lehman Scholarship Fund. Your financial donations make it possible for five students each year to receive a \$500 scholarship. Since 1998, the Envirothon has given out \$45,000 in college scholarships to 48 students. The Envirothon program has in some cases changed the course of study for students in college to natural resource related careers.

Soils Workshop Had Students in the Pits



Current and retired employees from the Delaware USDA NRCS offices gave of their time on a Saturday morning to provide training at the Blackbird State Forest Education Center. The



morning began with a hands-on session on how to texture soil and use the Munsell soil book. Then, the students were divided into four groups to rotate through various teaching stations; one for pacing and slope, two soil pits, and soil interpretation using the web Soil Survey. The soils portion of the Envirothon contest has historically been one of the more difficult tests during the competition. If the answer about the type of soil is wrong, it throws off the answers to many other questions on the test.



Forestry Workshop Was More Than Bark and Leaves



Our partners at the Delaware Forest Service provide the annual training each year on a Saturday afternoon in October at the Blackbird State Forest Education



Center. The students are broken out into three groups and rotate through learning stations. The focus is on learning how to pace and use a compass, how to use the Biltmore stick and prism, and general tree knowledge.



Current Issue Workshop Focused on Water Quality



The special or current issue topic for 2020 was “Water Resource Management: Local Control and Local Solutions”. The students were given four presentations, one about groundwater, one about water quality and quantity, one about the

Delaware Rural Water Association and one about Delaware USDA NRCS conservation practices.



Aquatic Workshop Keyed in on Ground Water, Wetlands, and Water Quality



The Aquatic Ecology workshop was held at the St. Jones Reserve in Dover. The presenters provided an overview about groundwater, wetlands and water quality before breaking the student into three groups to head outside. Once outside, each group had a more detailed hands-on experience with the resources at the St. Jones Reserve including the rain garden and the wetland estuary boardwalk trail. Back inside, the day ended with a presentation on fish identification and aquatic species.



Wildlife Workshop



The wildlife workshop was held at DNREC's Hunter Education Center in Dover. Some of the key topics covered included the Chesapeake Bay Nutria Eradication Project, how the state manages coastal water impoundments, hunting and the North American model of Wildlife Conservation, waterfowl banding, various wildlife species and invasive plants. The day ended with a visit to an observation platform at the nearby wildlife area.



Air Quality Workshop Looked at Point Sources



The focus of the Air Quality workshop was on covering Policy and Point Sources of Air Pollution. Students received an introduction to air pollution and point sources of that pollution. Policy covered permitting, control technology, compliance monitoring, and enforcement. Trainers also covered air pollution history and trends and the various point sources of air toxins.



Delaware Envirothon

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Check out the new website at
www.delawareenvirothon.org.

Delaware Receives Diversity Grant from NCF Envirothon



The Delaware Envirothon will use the Diversity Grant to upgrade our promotional and display materials to reflect the diversity of students who participate in the program as well as increase outreach efforts to increase participation of students from all ethnic backgrounds.

Delaware Envirothon Planning Committee

Rick Mickowski - Chair (New Castle Cons. District)
Michelle Jacobs - Vice Chair, (Air Quality Co-Chair, DNREC)
Gayle Wills - Treasurer (Kent Cons. District/DACD)
Sarah Culler - Secretary (DSWA)
Alisa Bentley - Volunteer Coord. (Kent Cons. District)
*Kerin Hume - Administrative Assistant and
NCF Envirothon Rep. (Kent Cons. District)*
Ashley Melvin - Forestry Chair (DE Forest Service)
Lynne Pusey - Wildlife Chair (DNREC)
Tim Garrahan - Soils Chair (USDA-NRCS)
Sharon Webb - Current Issue Chair (DNREC)
Ken Smith - Aquatic Ecology Chair (DNREC)
Bobbi Heck - SCD Rep. and Scoring (Sussex Cons. District)
Dawn Minor - Air Quality Co-Chair (DNREC)
Jayme Arthurs - Current Issue Committee (USDA-NRCS)
Dastina Wallace - Public Relations (USDA-NRCS)
Laurel Sullivan - St. Jones Reserve (DNREC)
Jennifer Nelson - DE Association of Cons. Districts

Thank You to our Sponsors and Donors (as of July 2020) Donations Received January-July 2020

Diamond Sponsors

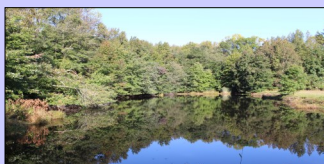
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Bob and Barbara Reed (to honor Fred Mott)

Bronze Sponsors

Thomas Moran (in memory of Wayne Lehman)

Total sponsorships	\$17,437.70
NCF Envirothon Grant	\$ 3,000.00

2020 donations will be used for the 2021
Delaware Envirothon.

