

york county ENVIROTHON



THE ETHON-NEWS

fall 2008/winter 2009

Welcome Coaches

The 2009 Envirothon season is underway. We had 93 coaches signed up for our mid-November annual coaches meetings. Nineteen of them are new coaches. Welcome to all.

If you are coaching a team you should already have the following:

- * 2009 Coaches Manual
- * 2009 study resources for your team members.

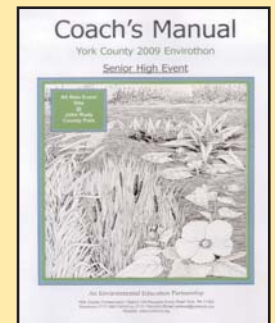
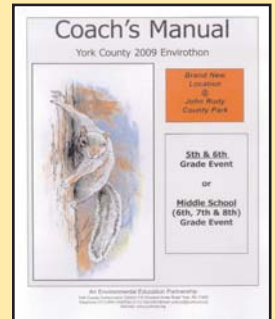
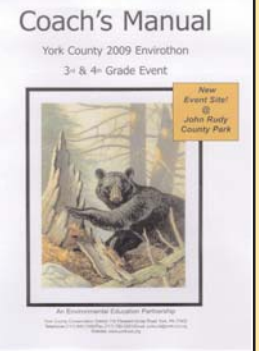
If you still do not have your Coaches Manual, please go to our website at: <http://yorkccd.org/Envirothon/envirothon.htm> and download your Coaches Manual. Be sure you download the manual matching your grade level.

If you still need your study resources, please contact Kim at the York County Conservation District for *Senior High resources* at 717-840-7190 or kyoung@yorkccd.org. Contact Amber at Nixon Park for *3rd thru 8th grade resources* at 717-428-1961.

Remember that there are 3 separate registrations you need to submit:

1. **School Registration - due December 5, 2008**
2. Team Registration & T-shirt order - due March 6, 2009
3. Student Registration - due the day of your event

If you do not have your registration forms, please go to our website (address above) and download the appropriate form. Be sure you are filling out the proper form for the proper grade level.



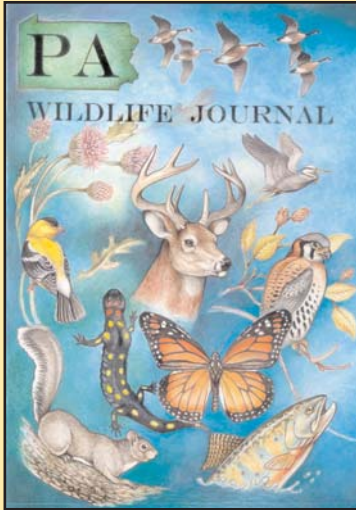
Please Help Us Help You

Every time you contact us for help or information you need to tell us your full name, grade level and school!

Help us help you by always giving us this information in every single email you send us or phone message you leave. Sadly, our retentions skills are woefully inept during Envirothon season.

So please, give us your complete contact information - every time...otherwise, we start dropping anvils!

The new PA Wildlife Journal is underway



Scheduled for a late 2009 publication date (fingers crossed), the first journal in a proposed series focusing on the key Envirothon study topics, is Wildlife. As funding permits, future journals will focus on Aquatics and Forestry.

It is however, a slow-moving project. Each journal is being written in-house, so work progresses only as other full-time job responsibilities are completed.

Each book is designed to offer resource information targeting a general audience (middle school and up), with each chapter ending with a elementary-grade summary highlighting the preceeding chapter in an age-appropriate format.

For example, if the Wildlife Station leader chooses to test your team on portions of the book from the Wild Canine chapter, they would be able to test Middle School students and older on information from anywhere in that chapter. But if 3rd - 5th grade students were being tested, they would be tested on blue-highlighted information found at the end of each chapter.

When completed, each participating Envirothon coach in York County will receive a free book for each team member. These books will become permanent school property. Additional copies will be available for purchase by schools, individuals, other regional Envirothon organizations, etc. and sold as a continuing Envirothon fundraiser.

The books will also be available to the public for purchase and are being created in a colorful, informative format in order to be appealing to the general nature lover - not just as an educational tool for Envirothon participants.

A sample from one of the newest chapters can be found on the next page....

2010 Resource CD roms?

Coaches - tell us what you think. The Senior High coaches receive all of their study resources on a CD rom from the PA State Envirothon, and have for years. We would like to eventually do the same for our lower grade Envirothon.

While the planned PA Wildlife Journal would be a book, it would still serve as a supplement to other materials. In an effort to cut down dramatically on the volume of paper we have copied each year in order to provide resources to you, we are hoping to have most of the 2010 resources burned onto CDs that all coaches would receive. This would also enable all the study resources to be in color (assuming the original source is in color). It would also provide each coach with a pristine original from which to make their own copies.

If a resource CD would pose a problem for you or for your students, we would appreciate you telling us why. Please contact Kim at kyoung@yorkccd.org with your comments.

Order Artiodactyla:
White-tailed Deer, Elk & Moose (Family Cervidae)
Bison (Family Bovidae)

A preview from the PA Wildlife Journal
by Kim J Young



Take a close look at these pictures. Having a hard time remembering the last time you saw an elk, a moose or a bison in Pennsylvania? Well you are not alone. All three once grazed and browsed our vegetation, but most were in serious decline by the early to mid-18th century.

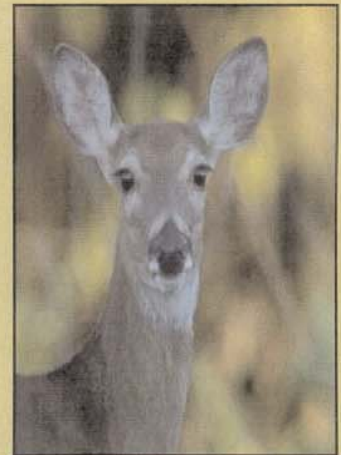
Only the white-tailed deer has prevailed. In addition to being one of the few wild mammals that tolerates encroaching human development and habitat alterations, the white-tailed deer continues to thrive despite the threats of habitat loss and a booming hunting season.

But a growing population is not always a good thing.

In Pennsylvania, we love our deer. We love them to death.

Whether you drive visiting relatives down a country road at night to spotlight deer, throw corn cobs below winter bird feeders to entice deer or make the annual trek to a hunting cabin each fall to hunt deer, there is no question the white-tailed deer is the most recognized and easily the best-loved animal in the state. Unfortunately, it is also one of the most misunderstood.

The white-tailed deer is the commonwealth's poster child for wildlife management. But ask anyone who has ever worked in this field and they will tell you - it is not really a wildlife management issue, it is a people management issue. Or at least it should be.



Blame it on Walt Disney.

It's called the Bambi effect. Take an extremely beautiful animal, create a character based on that animal and imbue it with humorous and endearing behavior. Then watch the world alter its outlook on the animal kingdom forever.

It's called **anthropomorphism** - attributing human characteristics to animals. We do it all the time. With the wolf, we created a monster. With deer, we cast an image of helpless doe-eyed souls who peacefully commune with all the creatures of the forest.

Unfortunately this can create a monster too. A management monster.

Terrific Tips from an expert retired Envirothon Coaches

Kim Holmes recently retired after coaching the winning Northern High School team to county, state and North American wins and placings over the past 17 years. If Kim were still coaching high school, here is what she would be planning with her team right now:

“I would be studying wildlife right now because I don't need to take kids outside. I allow 4 to 5 study sessions (2 hours long) for each topic - if play practice, band practice, track, soccer, etc., allow. Next is current issues because again, no need to be outside. Then we do aquatics because Barb Lathrop (my co-coach) always had good samples to bring in. I save soils until the weather gets better and we can go out and do a soil study pit. And last we focus on Forestry so we can have a few trees with leaves to see. We try to get outside for some of these study sessions. Right before the competition, we have a Sat. or Sun. all-day-long study session where we go to a pond or stream and collect live specimens and use some aquatic equipment, eat lunch, and then do a tree/wildlife walk.”

“At the conclusion of all my topics I give a test. The students earn points by taking the tests and showing up for the meetings. My teams were decided by the students with the highest number of points. I usually wait until just before our weekend review study session to finalize my teams, then at our weekend review they work in their teams.”

“Another thing I did for the kids was to download all the topic CD's (senior high coaches get resource CDs) and make 1 hard copy of each topic. Each topic was put in a 3 ring binder. I also made power points to teach the topics and would print a hard copy of all of these and put in the binders also. The binders are made available to the kids to use during study halls and they could sign them out over night.”

Janet Heathcote is a winning, retired coach from Friendship Elementary. This is what she would be doing by now:

“I usually pretest any interested students and get teacher input regarding the students ability to read material & study independently; their ability to work as "team player", cooperate and behave; their science and reading grades, and whether they stick to an assignment or give up when it gets hard. I always tried to have my team selected by Christmas break so I could give them some of the material to read, highlight, etc and be ready to discuss when they came back in Jan. Once Jan. started we met several times a week at recess time to review, read/discuss, quiz, make flashcards, do study sheets, etc--whatever we needed to work on. I would continue to give them materials as I got them copied. Around March I would try to start once-a-week after-school study sessions until 5:00 and continue these until the competition date”

You may contact Kim directly at kholmes@nycsd.k12.pa.us or eyenriver@aol.com.
Contact Janet at jheath1967@aol.com Please put the word “Ethon” in subject line.

The Envirothon costs money!

Approximately \$20,000 per year (not including staff hours)

Please help us with our annual fundraising campaign

Look over the following **2009 Sponsor Letter and Sponsorship Form**

Make copies and **hand them out to friends, colleagues, your school board & especially, the parents of your team members!**

If you know of a business contact you can suggest for a corporate sponsorship, please contact Kim with a specific name.



york county
ENVIROTHON



An Environmental Education Partnership

Dear Sponsors,

Welcome to the 2009 Envirothon! Once again you have the amazing opportunity to provide our school students with an incredible, hands-on environmental learning experience, right here in York County. For the past month, nearly 100 area teachers and/or parent volunteers have already begun to organize Envirothon teams through their school districts in grades 3-12. As you read this, students are identifying aquatic bugs to determine local stream quality; understanding how forestry harvests benefit our woodlands; learning about PA's otter reintroduction program, and so much more.

Because York County leads all of North America with Envirothon participation, we realize the advantage of offering this unique extra-curricular school program, not just to senior high students (to whom it was originally intended) but from age eight and up. Focusing on the natural world throughout childhood *does* create an environmentally-aware individual. The winning 2008 senior high team from Northern York saw half its team graduate this year. Each of those graduates is now enrolled in college majoring in environmental science. All of those students had been involved on their school's Envirothon team since grade school. The Envirothon works!

But careers & college are not the only goals of the Envirothon. Our program promotes teamwork, friendship, study skills, appreciation & stewardship of natural resources, and just plain fun.

As a past sponsor, you have helped make all of this possible. We hope you will join us again as we begin our countdown to the 2009 Envirothon events. The York County Conservation District makes a significant contribution to the Envirothon through its own fundraising activities. But we need help from the community and we are counting on you.

Please look over our new sponsorship packet carefully and consider one of our new levels of sponsorship. We are also pleased to be able to offer beautiful artwork courtesy of local artist Dennis Burkhardt. It is our way of saying thank you for your continued commitment to York County's natural resources and the young people who will soon be entrusted with its care.

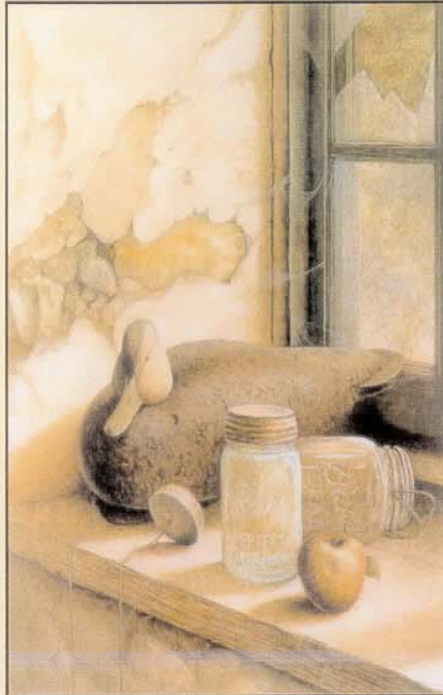
Sincerely,

Kim

Kim J. Young
Envirothon Coordinator
York County Conservation District



Dennis Burkhart's beautiful limited edition prints are available to those able to consider a donation of \$250.00 or more.
Please circle your preference on your Donation Form.



"The Perfect Mason"
19"x24"
oil on board
for donation of
\$500.00 & up

"Ring-necked Pheasant"
& "Bobwhite Quails"
12"x16" each
acrylic on board
offered as a pair for
donation of
\$500.00 and up

"Ring-necked Pheasant"
alone
for donation of
\$250.00 & up

"Bobwhite Quails"
alone
for donation of
\$250.00 & up

York County Envirothon Events 2009

April 28th - Senior High
May 5th - Middle School
May 6th - 5th & 6th Grades
May 12th - 3rd & 4th Grades



The Canon Envirothon is coming!

In three years, Pennsylvania - the birthplace of the Envirothon - will host the North American Canon competition on its 25th Anniversary.

Almost 1,000 senior high students, coaches and chaperones from all over the United States & Canada will descend on a college campus in our Commonwealth.

Here is the scheduled countdown...

2009 - North Carolina

2010 - California

2011 - New Brunswick, Canada

2012 - Pennsylvania

2013 - Alaska!

We encourage our sponsors to keep this in mind and consider joining the Conservation District in support of this special event as the dates draw near.

2009 Envirothon Donation Form - *Accept the Challenge!*

Please select level of *Corporate* or *Individual* tax deductible support:

Bald Eagle Platinum Level

I would like to sponsor an entire grade level event in the amount of \$5,000.00:

3rd & 4th Grades 5th & 6th Grades 7th & 8th Grades Senior High

Individual Banner with company/individual name hanging during Envirothon event;
Recognition on all Envirothon publications;
5 Free clay shoot tickets/free breakfasts at annual Clay Shoot fundraiser;
Listing on YCCD web site "Friend of Conservation" supporter page;
Prominent name placement on Envirothon T-shirts;
4 tickets to YCCD Annual Awards Picnic;
Stylish recognition wall plaque for display;
Limited edition Dennis Burkhart print: *The Perfect Mason* or *Pheasant/Bobwhites*

American Chestnut Gold Level

I would like to sponsor an event station in the amount of \$2,500.00:

Aquatics Current Issues Forestry Soils Wildlife

Company/individual name on group banner during Envirothon event;
Recognition on all Envirothon publications;
Listing on YCCD web site "Friend of Conservation" supporter page;
Company/Individual name placement on Envirothon T-shirts;
4 tickets to YCCD Annual Awards Picnic;
Stylish recognition wall plaque for display;
Limited edition Dennis Burkhart print: *The Perfect Mason* or *Pheasant/Bobwhites*

Elk Silver Level

I would like to donate \$1,000.00 to help provide students & coaches with:

T-Shirts Guest Speakers Awards

Company/individual name on group banner during Envirothon event;
Recognition on all Envirothon publications;
Listing on YCCD web site "Friend of Conservation" supporter page;
Company/Individual name placement on Envirothon T-shirts;
Limited edition Dennis Burkhart print: *The Perfect Mason* or *Pheasant/Bobwhites*

Brook Trout Bronze Level

I would like to donate \$500.00 to help provide students & coaches with awards, guest speakers, T-shirts, study resources & event lunches

Company/individual name on group banner during all Envirothon events;
Recognition on all Envirothon publications;
Listing on YCCD web site "Friend of Conservation" supporter page;
Limited edition Dennis Burkhart print: *The Perfect Mason* or *Pheasant/Bobwhites*

Mountain Laurel Resource Patrons

I would like to donate \$250.00 to Envirothon Library fund:

Recognition on all Envirothon publications;
Listing on YCCD web site "Friend of Conservation" supporter page;
Limited edition Dennis Burkhart print: *Pheasant* or *Bobwhites*

or

I would like to donate \$150.00 to the general Envirothon fund:

Recognition on all Envirothon publications;
Listing on YCCD web site "Friend of Conservation" supporter page;

or

I would like to support the Envirothon with this amount: \$ _____

Recognition on all Envirothon publications;
Listing on YCCD web site "Friend of Conservation" supporter page;

Name: _____

Contact Person (if company): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Check enclosed: _____ Credit Card #: _____

Expiration date: ____/____/____ 3 digit V code: _____

We now accept all credit cards

Please make all checks payable to the "York County Conservation District" & mail to:
Attn: Envirothon, YCCD, 118 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17402

The first annual Envirothon Clay Shoot was a success!

Wet, but successful. With little notice and late press, we were still able to pull off a grand fundraiser in September, courtesy of the Starview Sportsmen's Association, Representative Ron Miller & Legislative Lobbyist, Paula Vitz. Close to 50 participants helped us raise nearly \$2,000, despite non-stop pouring rain. Here's to next year - keep us on your fall calendar.

PLEASE JOIN OUR YORK COUNTY LEGISLATORS IN SUPPORTING THE YORK COUNTY ENVIROTHON

(An Environmental Education Partnership)



SPORTING CLAYS FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2008

8:00 AM - Breakfast

9:00 AM - Approximate Shoot Start

Starview Sportsmen's Association

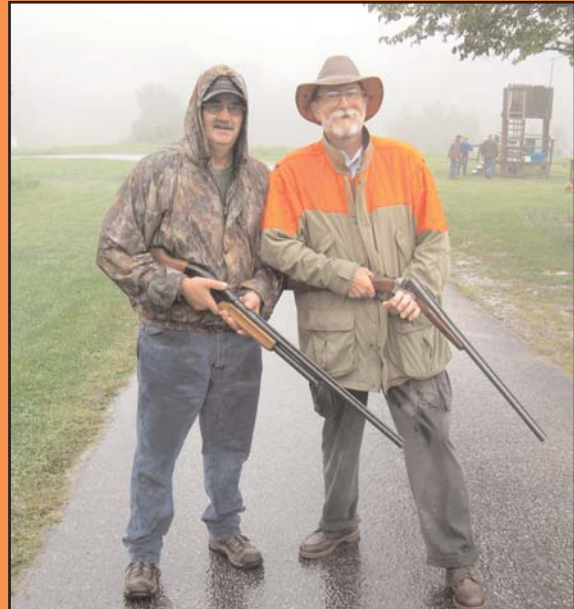
501 Jerusalem School Road, Mt. Wolf, PA 17347

\$50 Per Person

*Make checks payable to YCCD (York County Conservation District) or pay by Mastercard
or Visa in advance (call Chris Dehoff at 717-840-7430)*

**Mail to: York County Conservation District
118 Pleasant Acres Rd.
York, PA 17402**

RSVP September 19, 2008



This is a perfect event for the sportmen & sportswomen in your life, and a great way to prepare for the upcoming hunting seasons. Be sure to watch for details on our 2nd annual Envirothon Fall Clay Shoot sometime next summer!

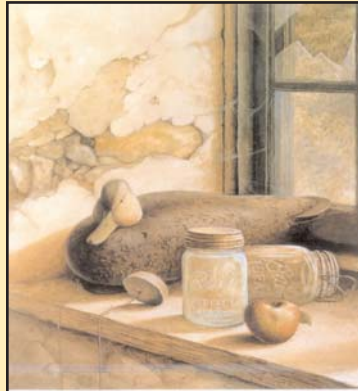
Thank you to all who made this inaugural event possible, through their participation and/or donations.

The Starview Sportmen's Association, Mark Kimmel, Ken Mann, Allen Wagner, Seth Grove, Bruce Holbrook, Matthew Holbrook, Scott Waluck, York County Commissioner Doug Hoke, Rich Wagner, Dave Groff, Creston Tate, Michael Reihart, Dave Mueller, Eric Webb, Steve Noonan, Kerry Stauffer, Jack Dehoff, Adam Hall, Brad Strittmatter, Dan Kaldas, Mark Zerbe, Keith & Eva Eisenhart, Matt Hartmen, John Glass, Larry Flinchbaugh, Karen Einsig, Rodney Crawford, Jim Schmitt, Wayne Sweitzer, Jon Mummert, Bill Sweitzer, Joan Grim, Bruce Vitz, Chuck Vitz, Paula Vitz, Representative Keith Gillespie, Ty Zerbe, Representative Ron Miller, Representative Scott Perry, Representative Bev Mackereth, Representative Steve Nickol, Senator Mike Waugh, Representative Stan Saylor, CGA-Law Firm Anne E. Zerbe Esq., Capital Associates, Gordon L. Brown & Associates, Inc., York County Commissioner Chris Reilly, PennAg Industries Association, Gander Mountain, Mark Propst, Hatfield Quality Meat, Kim Holmes, Chris Hess, James Hart, Dick's Sporting Goods.

Your 2009 Envirothon Event Dates See you at Rudy Park!

Senior High - Tuesday, April 28th
Middle School - Tuesday, May 5th
5th & 6th Grades - Wednesday, May 6th
3rd & 4th Grades - Tuesday, May 12th

Thank you to Dennis Burkhardt for his generous offerings of beautiful limited edition prints for our 2009 Sponsorship Drive



Thank you to our 2008 Sponsors for another outstanding year of support

The York County Envirothon is made possible by a combination of area cooperating agencies and generous sponsors. Agencies involved include: York County Parks & Recreation Dept., York County Planning Commission, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Penn State Cooperative Extension, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, PA Department of Environmental Protection, York County Conservation District, York County Solid Waste & Refuse Authority, York Water Company, and individual volunteers Amy Slagel, Joy Howell, Beth Lucabaugh, Chris Hess, Janet Heathcote, Judy Grove

Contributing sponsors are as follows: Fredrick Haag, Gale A Jamieson, Karen Smith, Katrine Hatcher, Keith Eisenhart, Lucy Kniseley, Mr. & Mrs. Jack Wagner, Mr. & Mrs. William Bender, Paul & Electra Wilson, Adams Electric Cooperative Inc., Adhesives Research, Inc., Albert Dehoff & Sons, BAE SYSTEMS, Brown's Orchards and Farm Market, C P Projects, Inc., C.J. Miller, Inc., C.S. Davidson, Inc., Dept. Of Conservation & Natural Resources, Environmental Concepts Landscaping, First Capital Engineering, Glatfelter Insurance Group, Gordon L. Brown & Associates Inc., Grimm's Trophy & Gifts, Hively Landscapes Inc., Hogg Construction, Inc., Izaak Walton League Chapter #67, J.L. Gossert & Co. Forestry, James R. Holley & Associates, JNB Appliances, Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Joys of Nature, Miller Plant Farm, Modern Landfill, National Resources Conservation Service, Penn State Cooperative Extension, Pennsylvania Game Commission, PPL Corporation, Quality Copy Products, RCH Land Management, Inc., Representative Todd Platts, Representative Stan Saylor, Representative Ron Miller, Representative Keith Gillespie, Richard D. Poole, LLC, River Valley Landscapes, Romor Communications, Rotary Club of York, Rutter's Dairy, Senator Michael Waugh, Shank's Mare, Shiloh Garden Club, Signs by Tomorrow, Spoutwood Farm CSA, Stauffers of Kissel Hill, Tri Boro Construction Supplies, York Audubon Society, York County Agriculture Business Council, York County Conservation District, York County Parks & Recreation, York County Planning Commission, York County Solid Waste Authority, York Water Co.