



Canon Envirothon

North America's largest high school environmental education competition

Spring 2007

Volume Four, No. 1

New York Welcomes Canon Envirothon

This year's North American competition will be held at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York, the "Gateway to the Finger Lakes".



The Finger Lakes Region consists of eleven long slender bodies of water that resembles the fingers of a hand. Glacial activity created the Finger Lakes centuries ago. However, Native American legend believes the lakes are the divine handprints of the Great Spirit. In blessing the land, the spirit's outstretched hands were placed over the region leaving each finger -shaped impression.

Hobart and William Smith Colleges were founded as two separate universities, Hobart in 1822 for men only and William Smith in 1908 for women only. The en-



Seneca Lake

forced separation of the colleges slowly eroded until 1948 when coeducational courses became the status quo.



Hobart and William Smith Colleges have an environmental studies program. The campus' 180 acres is bordered on the east by Seneca Lake, the largest of the Finger Lakes. Resources include a 108-acre biological field station and preserve on Cayuga Lake and the William Scandling, a floating research laboratory on Seneca Lake.

The weeklong event has been planned to provide a fun and memorable learning experience, not only for the students but the advisors and guests as well. The Finger Lakes Region is rich in history, agriculture, and natural resources.



Our teaching sites will be located on a 5,000-acre privately owned nature preserve. Tours of the preserve will be given to the teams, advisors, guests, and CECs, as part of the teaching day.

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Clay Burns, Executive Director

Dear Envirothon Friends,

Whether you're a student interested in Envirothon, an Envirothon team coach, or member state/province representative, we can all be delighted at the good news of Canon, U.S.A.'s continued sponsorship of our program for 2007 and 2008. The announcement, made official at the winter meeting of the Canon Envirothon Committee in Los Angeles by Bill Reed, Senior Vice-President and General Manager of Corporate Communications for Canon U.S.A., was indeed welcome news.

This commitment from Canon's Corporate Social Responsibility Department (a part of their Corporate Communications Division) will allow us to continue to improve this program and assist with the growth and development of our member Envirothon programs.

During the winter meeting the Executive Committee and I had an opportunity to meet with Bill Reed to discuss the future of the program and possible changes. We shared current and past program goals and thoughts as to how to move the program to the next level. Mr. Reed stated that he would like to see increased hands-on involvement of Canon employees in support roles. He also emphasized the need to track and involve Envirothon alumni in the program.

The direction of Canon Envirothon in the next two years will include greater support to local programs through partnerships with the overall organization, better use of our Web site for information and outreach, and increased financial assistance to the New York and Arizona host committees. Canon Envirothon will also increase the direct benefit to the students by DOUBLING the number of scholarships awarded at the end of the competition, as approved in our 2007 budget. And finally, new and updated promotional materials will be developed for use at all levels.

I encourage each person involved with Envirothon to communicate your thoughts and ideas to myself and your officers to guide us in making the program stronger across North America. The use of the list serve tool is now available for you to communicate with other states and provinces to share needs and ideas.

Students, advisors and Envirothon committee members: I wish you great success in your involvement with the Envirothon program this year. Keep the Passion!

Clay



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Canon Envirothon Executive Committee Update

The Canon Envirothon's semi-annual business meeting in Los Angeles was very successful; thanks to all state/province representatives who participated; your input is appreciated. We missed those who were unable to attend and look forward to seeing everyone in Geneva NY for the 2007 competition.

Bill Reed, Senior Vice President and General Manager Corporate Communications Division, Canon, U.S.A., Inc. made a presentation to the CEC highlighting their partnership with Canon Envirothon. Clay discusses Mr. Reed's comments further in his article, but I want to stress one item in particular; **the importance of our having statistics on which to base program evaluation and accountability.** It is critical that states and provinces gather statistics from their programs to share with Canon Envirothon; such items as numbers of participants and schools, gender, race, number of volunteers, dollars expended on your event, etc. This information is important to all of us in a number of ways. Our thanks to Bill for taking time to meet with us; we appreciate his support and that of Canon U.S.A., Inc.

One of the thrills of working with Canon Envirothon comes when we can welcome a new member – an increasingly rare treat as so many states and provinces are members. During the winter business meeting we welcomed **Yukon**

Territory into our membership; we look forward to getting to know them and wish them great success with their program.

Another very exciting bit of business was the adoption of our 2007 budget that includes a **doubling of the number of students who will receive scholarship funds;** places 1-10 will now receive money to help with their further education. This change came about as a discussion Herb Vadney initiated with Nelson Strong, our U.S. at-Large Representative –we are always interested in ideas from committee members; keep those ideas coming.

Remember that our Summer Meeting will include an **election for chair and vice chair.** We encourage you to present suggestions to the nominating committee; Norm Hammond (Rhode Island) is chair of the committee.

Congratulations to those receiving Diversity/ Underserved Audience Grants. And thank you to committee members Tamra Cikaiotoga, Pearl Burbage, Sharon Boyce, Steve Bennett, and Sue Cummings, (U.S. Forest Service) for all their work on these grants. We appreciate their time and the continued involvement of the U.S Forest Service.

Everyone on the **2007 Canon Envirothon – New York** committee is gearing up for July.

Sandy Huey and Blanche Hurlbutt, NY state hosts updated us on plans for the 2007 event. The Finger Lakes region is a beautiful area; please take advantage of the opportunities the committee is offering. You won't be disappointed!

Remember, we want to hear from you. Together we are crafting one of the most important educational opportunities for the youth of our countries; please share your ideas. We look forward to seeing YOU in Geneva; safe travels 'til then!



Dr. Betty Holley, Chair

The Mission of the Canon Envirothon is to develop knowledgeable, skilled and dedicated citizens who are willing and prepared to work towards achieving and maintaining a natural balance between the quality of life and the quality of the environment.

Increasing Scholarships Provide More Opportunities

Universities nationwide are reporting a decline in college enrollments in forestry and related natural resource degree programs. Although no one really knows the reasons why, there are several speculations. Some attribute the decline to the fact that natural resource programs do not appear on the list of "hot" career choices for graduating high school seniors. Others believe that a poor economy and rising college tuitions are responsible.

Whatever the reasons for the decline, the Canon Envirothon has made a commitment to providing more opportunity for students to obtain careers in the area of natural resources and scholarships are a key part to recruiting these efforts.

In 2007, The Canon Envirothon Committee voted to increase scholarships by \$ 32,500 in order to provide educational opportunity to more students. Scholarships will be awarded to all five team members of the top ten teams this year!

In the past, only the top five teams have received scholarships. While the increase in scholarships is impressive and essential, the rising costs of education can still affect the numbers of students choosing careers in natural resource programs.

Canon Envirothon is beginning to establish an alumni support network so that we can put students in contact with alumnus in their area for career information as well as mentoring.

In recent years because of increasing scholarships we have been able to provide more educational opportunities than ever. We are optimistic about the future and will continue to make every effort to bring more potential students into the field of natural resources.

2007 Scholarships will be awarded as follows:

First place - \$5,000
Second place - \$4,000
Third place - \$3,000
Fourth place - \$2,000
Fifth place - \$1,500
Sixth place - \$1,400
Seventh place - \$1,300
Eighth place - \$1,200
Ninth place - \$1,100
Tenth place - \$1,000

11th - 15th places will receive Canon Products.



DID YOU KNOW.....

Energy saved from recycling a single aluminum can will operate a TV set for 3 hours and is the equivalent to a half a can of gasoline.

Every year we throw away 24 million tons of leaves and grass. Leaves alone account for 75% of our solid waste in the fall.

By turning down your central heating thermostat one degree, fuel consumption is cut by as much as 10%.

One ton of carbon dioxide that is released in the air can be prevented by replacing every 75 watt light bulb with energy efficient bulbs.

Envirothon Alumni Passing the Torch!

A love for the outdoors was something my parents instilled in me since I was little but, as with so many young people, that love developed into a broader understanding of complex environmental systems through my teenage experiences in Envirothon, and inspired me to enter into a career in Environmental Education working primarily with high school students. Throughout my four years at North Harford High School, MD I was a competing member of Envirothon, which prepared me to attend Northland College and graduate with a Bachelors of Science in Sociopolitical Environmental Studies, another degree in Outdoor Education, and a minor of Environmental Education. I currently direct an Environmental Leadership and Social Justice Program for high school youth entitled Lake Superior Pathfinders through the University of Wisconsin-Extension and the Sigurd Olson Institute at Northland College. This summer residential program utilizes Lake Superior as a living classroom in which to empower students to learn more about their personal leadership styles and the critical issues affecting the Lake, and then focuses on transferring skills and knowledge to action in their own communities. Students explore estuaries, kayak to sea caves, sail on a commercial fishing boat in the Apostle Islands, and learn about issues from social, environmental, and economic perspectives. They interact with Chippewa tribal elders and educators as they share their culture. They lodge at Northland College's Environmental Learning and Learning Center dormitory,



Elizabeth Post, Director, Lake Superior Pathfinders

located in Ashland, Wisconsin while some nights are spent camping on secluded Lake Superior beaches. We also offer a Navigator program for students who have already completed a Pathfinders session, a similar program, or who have exceptional leadership experience. Our program dates are July 6-14, and July 20-28 for Pathfinders, and July 29-August 4 for Navigators. Applications are accepted through May 15. The cost for this program is \$550 (actual cost is \$700), which is subsidized by the Otto Bremer Foundation. Scholarships are also available. You can learn more by visiting our website at www.northland.edu/pathfinders, or email us at pathfinders@northland.edu.

This program is part of a personal lifetime goal of creating a youth environmental group in every community that I live in. So far I have been successful through the North Harford Ecology Club in MD, the Monteverde Youth Group in Costa Rica, and The Lake Superior Pathfinders program here in Wisconsin. Who knows what else may lie ahead? With the benchmark experience of Envirothon, I have been given a foundation

which continues to lead to great things. I am hoping that you may connect students with the opportunity of attending Lake Superior Pathfinders, so that I may build upon their experiences and assist them in becoming better global citizens.

Your Committees Working For You

Diversity Grant Committee

Steve Bennett, North Carolina
Sharon Boyce, California
Pearl Burbage, Delaware
Tamra Cikaitoga, Idaho
Sue Cummings, US Forest Svc.

Education Committee

Steve Bennett, North Carolina
Sharon Boyce, California
Carolyn Hefner, West Virginia
Betty Holley, Alabama
Diane Olson, North Dakota
Wendy Reistle, Texas
Terry Seehorn, Georgia

Hall of Fame Committee

Tamra Cikaitoga, Idaho
Bill Kahler, Pennsylvania
Craig Zinter, Maryland

2007 Nominating Committee

Norm Hammond, Rhode Island
Greg Lowden, California
Teresa Salveta, Michigan

New York Welcomes Canon Envirothon

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The preserve is abundant with native wildlife including whitetail deer, ring neck pheasants, ruffed grouse, cottontail rabbits, fox, wild turkey, and bald eagles. Within the preserve is 400 acres of well-managed fishing lakes and ponds. The preserve also contains a marsh, where vast flocks of mallards, wood ducks, teal and geese call home during their autumn migration. If we are lucky we catch a glimpse of the Russian wild boar and the elk, which are fenced separately in the preserve due to their non-native status.



Conference Barn at the Preserve

Chefs at the preserve will provide dinner for everyone before returning to the campus for a study session. This should prove to be a culinary delight.

On testing day, the advisors, guests and CECs will spend the day in Canandaigua. Here you will have the opportunity to shop for antiques, browse specialty shops, walk through the roses in bloom at Sonnenberg Gardens, or view carriages of years past at the Granger Homestead, sample wine at the Wine and Culinary Institute. You can sit in the park along the lake and read or rent paddle boats, take a luncheon cruise on Canandaigua Lake or canoe on

the West River. Canandaigua is filled with things to do to meet everyone's taste.



At the end of the testing day, we will all meet at a nearby water park for a picnic and splashing fun.



On the educational day we will travel to Niagara Falls. The enormous waterfalls are a spectacular attractions. We will ride on the "Maid of the Mist".



This will give you an opportunity to look up at the Falls and get a little damp. You will have time for some souvenir shopping. Lunch will be in Niagara Falls State Park. We will also visit the New York Power Authority's hydroelectric

plant. This is the biggest electricity producer in New York State. The remainder of the student's time will be dedicated to the oral presentation, which we hope will present a challenge while inspiring some creative presentations.

The advisors, guests, and CECs will have the opportunity during the training day and the oral presentation preparation day to visit the Montezuma Wildlife Refuge, hike Watkins Glen State Park, step back in time at the Genesee Country Village and Museum, enjoy the scenic landscape on the Seneca Lake Wine Country tour, experience nature in the Ithaca Gorges, Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the Cornell plantations, or brush up on your history at the Women's Rights National Historic Park and the William Seward House.

There is an abundance of things to see and do in the Finger Lakes. We hope we have found something for everyone.



Niagra Falls

If you would like more information, please contact Sandy Huey at shuey@cayugaswcd.org or Blanche Hurlbutt at Blanche_13335@yahoo.com

We can't wait for you to arrive!



Kodiak's "First Ever" Envirothon Team

The Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation Districts Assistant District Manager, Donna Jones has partnered with Kodiak High School Fisheries Marine Science Teacher, Jane Eisemann to form the first Kodiak Envirothon team. The team is made up of students who participate within the newly formed local Kodiak FFA Chapter. The Envirothon is partly funded through a grant submitted by Al Poindexter, the State Program Coordinator of the Alaska Association of Conservation Districts (AACD) and also by the local Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation District Manager, RC Hardy.



Back Row, left to right: Adam Hogan, Abe Sullivan, Tallis Anderson, Amelia Egle, Kari Ledoux, Allie Batemen, Martha Stevens, Jessie Stevens **Front Row, left to right:** Karen Philpot, Cloe Ivanoff, Advisor Matt Wilson.

Kodiak Soil & Water Conservation District will facilitate the education of the students by setting up different learning opportunities utilizing local resources. We research local community resources to find the best educational tools to teach students the information within these areas. To date they have had speakers such as a Fisheries Biologist who spoke about Riparian Zones, a Supervisor from the Water and Wastewater treatment plant who discussed Water Legislation and Water Quality, a Finfish Research Biologist who talked about Lake Ecology, an Assistant Manager to the Lands and Natural resources department of a local native corporation whose topic was Soils and Land use.

Currently the teams meet three times a week; after school, during lunch and participate in a weekly field study trip. At the last meeting the group was divided into two teams, each with a project explanation and 30 minutes to come up with

a presentation. The subjects were difficult, Water Legislation and Lake Ecology; students really had to pool their resources to come up with a presentation that fulfilled the needed requirements. It was really impressive to see them take the knowledge that they had gained over the last couple of weeks and put it into a presentation that showed all. Jane Eisemann facilitated the challenge and when the students were done she asked questions that enabled students to better understand the subject and its content. Both teams walked away with a full understanding of both subjects.



The group has some concerns about participating in a competition with seasoned participants. We are working hard, and with only 12 weeks of preparation remaining the concern is great.



We wish our teams the very best and we know that all of the training and hard work they have invested will do them well. Good Luck to our Kodiak Envirothon Teams!



Chantell Coles

Envirothon: “An Awesome Experience”

Chantell Soles is another example of how Envirothon continues to influence the lives of our young people. The Elwood High School student of Deer Lake, Newfoundland Labrador recently competed in the Humber Rotary Club Speak-Off. Her chosen topic of “Climate

Change” earned her acceptance to the Rotary Adventure in Citizenship Program in Ottawa, Ontario in late April, or early May.

“When I was in the Envirothon last year, the current issue was “Water Stewardship in a Changing Climate. As I studied I became extremely interested.” says Chantell. When she decided to participate in the speak-off, she decided that climate change would be a great topic. “I already knew a lot about it and thought I would enjoy speaking on that topic.”

Chantell says that after studying climate change for her Envirothon competition, she realized the importance of the environment and how it relates to our society. “I never realized how essential it was that we work together to find a solution that satisfies all of the economic and social factors.”

Chantell will be returning to the Newfoundland Envirothon this year

at Killdevil Lodge and Conference Center in Gros Morne National Park, May 24-26 hosted by the Western Newfoundland Model Forest.

“My experience with Envirothon has been a good one. I have the opportunity to meet new people and form new friendships as well as team camaraderie. I continue to learn about the environmental conditions in my own area and others. Envirothon is an awesome experience, not only educationally but socially. I would definitely recommend it to everyone!”

CHECK YOUR MAIL!!

Registration packets will be arriving in early May

What new and exciting things are happening in your program?

If you have testimonials from your participants or exciting news to share about your program, we want to hear about it! Submit your information, photos and/or articles to:

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