

# New Jersey Envirothon 2003



7th Edition

April 2004

## 2004 Envirothon

The 2004 NJ Envirothon competition will be held at Montclair State University School of Conservation in Branchville, NJ, Saturday, May 8, 2004.

The Current Issue for 2004 is *Natural Resource Management in the Urban Environment*.

Information about the NJ Envirothon is available at your county's Soil Conservation District office or online at <http://nj.nacdnet.org/envirothon/>.

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## Cape Atlantic Conservation District Host of 2003 New Jersey Envirothon

The Cape Atlantic Conservation District hosted the 2003 New Jersey Envirothon on May 10 at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey in Pomona, NJ.



**Students answer questions in the soil pit during the hands-on section of the soils test.**

The Envirothon, sponsored annually by the New Jersey Association of Conservation Districts and its conservation partners, promotes environmental awareness and a fundamental understanding of the need for natural resource conservation.

Competing teams answered questions and solved problems in the areas of Aquatics, Wildlife, Soils, Forestry, and a Current Environmental Issue. (*Agricultural Land Preservation and Conservation* was the 2003 topic.) Teams visited each of the five stations where they took a written test, as well as a hands-on examination. In addition, participating teams researched a resource problem during the school year and presented their proposed solution before a panel of natural resource conservation professionals.

A variety of awards were presented at the end of the day-long competition. The top three overall scores were earned by:

**First Place:** Hopewell Valley Central High School (Team #1), Mercer County

**Second Place:** Kittatinny Regional High School Team (Team #2), Sussex County

**Third Place:** Hopewell Valley Central High School (Team #2), Mercer County

## Hopewell Valley Central High School's Team Achieves 7th at International Canon Envirothon

Hopewell Valley Central School (Team #1), first place winners of the 2003 NJ Envirothon, represented New Jersey at the Canon Envirothon held in Maryland in July 2003. They won 7th place. Fifty teams from the US and Canada competed at the Maryland event.

The Hopewell Valley Central Envirothon Team included Seung-An Chyun, Alex Carney, Graelyn Brashear, Sami Nichols, and Jonathan Sellers. (A student's perspective of the Envirothon provided by Jonathan Sellers appears on page 3.)



**Hopewell Valley Central High School 1st place winner - Envirothon 2003**

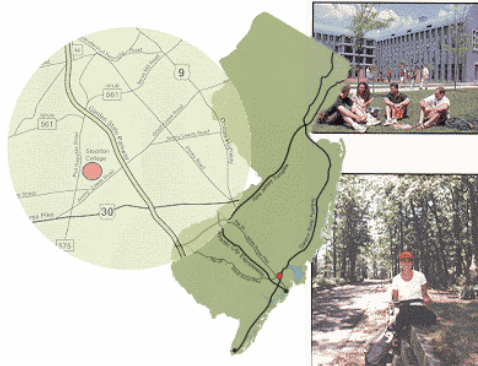
## Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey is a mid-sized award-winning liberal arts college nestled in the pristine southeastern New Jersey pinelands. It is located in Galloway Township, Atlantic County and has a total enrollment of 6,538 full-time and part-time students.

Since 1988, it has been the Governor's School on the environment. It is New Jersey's only nationally ranked Public Liberal Arts College as classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The college's Environmental Studies and Marine Science programs were selected by Peterson's Guides and the Alliance for Environmental Education for inclusion in *Education for the Earth, A Guide to Top Environmental Studies Programs*.

The Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics encompasses degree programs in biochemistry/molecular biology, biology, chemistry, environmental studies, geology, marine science, mathematics, and applied physics.

The 1600-acre campus provides a natural laboratory for field activities; a 400-acre ecological reserve is set aside solely for this purpose. Nacote Creek Field Station provides an unmatched opportunity to work with the aquatic environment. The college's location in the Pinelands,



similarly, provides an ideal laboratory for studying the natural environment, with a diversity of habitats and study areas available on the campus.

Facilities at the college include well-equipped science laboratories with a wide variety of instrumentation, a marine science laboratory and an astronomical observatory. A new Arts and Sciences Building is available for teaching and research in the biological, earth science, and public policy

branches of the Environmental Science and Geology disciplines. These facilities are used in class instruction as well as for advanced student projects.

Raymond Mueller is a member of the Natural Sciences and Mathematics faculty at Richard Stockton College. He also serves as a Cape Atlantic Conservation District Supervisor and Vice-Chairman. The Envirothon Committee appreciates Ray's assistance in securing the campus facilities for the 2003 New Jersey Envirothon. Richard Stockton College, which features picturesque Lake Fred, proved to be an ideal location for the Envirothon competition.



**Lake Fred**

## Going Wild at the Wildlife Station during the 2003 NJ Envirothon



**Team members work together to identify wildlife tracks, pelts and calls at the Wildlife Station.**

*Agricultural Land Conservation & Preservation* was the theme of the 2003 Envirothon. Since most of the continental US is used for agriculture and non-industrial timber production, farmers and ranchers play an important role in ensuring wildlife habitat is protected and sustained. Agricultural lands provide important habitat for a diversity of wildlife species.

Students competing at the 2003 Envirothon were quizzed about New Jersey wildlife species and their habitat. Some written test questions focused on Best Management Practices, Grassland Management Practices, Riparian Buffers and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP). Recorded animal calls, photographs, tracks, taxidermy and pelts were used for the hands-on portion of the examination.

Many thanks to Animal Control Officer John Shamro for loaning various pelts and to the Biology Department, Liberty University, Lynchburg, Virginia for donating taxidermy specimens to the New Jersey Envirothon for the identification questions.

## A Student's View of the International Envirothon Competition

*By Jonathan Sellers, student member of Hopewell Valley Central High School E-Team*

The Hopewell Central High School Envirothon Team, or the E-Team as it is popularly known, demonstrated their care and knowledge of the environment by winning the state Envirothon competition for New Jersey and achieving seventh place at the Canon Envirothon, a week-long international competition. As a club, the E-Team meets throughout the year in a class-like manner. We have quizzes, presentations and field trips. All of this culminates at a state competition in locations that vary each year. This year one of our school's teams was able to beat the 20+ other teams from New Jersey at the May 10, 2003, Envirothon. That win qualified us to compete as one of fifty teams from 44 states and 6 Canadian provinces at the week-long 2003 Canon Envirothon. Each team had five students and one to three advisors.

On July 26<sup>th</sup>, we departed for Mount Saint Mary's College in Emmitsburg, Maryland where the Canon Envirothon was held. To prepare for that competition, we had spent weeks studying the ecology of Maryland (included in the test material because Maryland hosted the event) and brushing up on the typical Envirothon categories.

The week was kicked off by presentations from sponsors and supporters along with social events to let everyone become acquainted. Once the introductions ended, the real work began. Local Maryland experts in each of the five fields (forestry, soils, aquatics, wildlife, and a current issue) pushed us through a day of preparation for the testing. We attended preparatory presentations separately. The actual test followed a format similar to the preparation day, however we rotated from station to station and were tested as a team. After the tests, we were able to rest with a day trip to the local park, a crab feast and a day in Washington, DC.

The last requirement of the competition was the team presentation. As a group, we were secluded in a room for eight hours with a current issue problem to solve and a collection of presentation supplies. We put together a twenty-minute presentation during that time, to present to a panel of judges the next morning. Although we successfully came up

*(Continued on page 4)*



## 2003 Envirothon Participants

*Congratulations to the students and advisors who represented their schools at the 2003 NJ Envirothon. Thirty-seven teams from twenty-eight schools throughout the State spent the day at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey for the competition, but they also spent the year studying in preparation. Their commitment to learning about our natural resources bodes well for the future health of our environment.*

Atlantic City High School  
Cherry Hill High School West  
Ewing High School Environmental Club  
Hamilton High School East—Steinert  
Highland Regional High School, Team #1  
Highland Regional High School, Team #2  
Hopewell Valley Central High School, Team #1  
Hopewell Valley Central High School, Team #2  
Howell High School  
Kinnelon High School, Team #1  
Kinnelon High School, Team #2  
Kittatinny Regional High School, Team #1  
Kittatinny Regional High School, Team #2

Marine Academy of Technology & Environmental Science, Team #1  
Marine Academy of Technology & Environmental Science, Team #2  
Mendham High School  
Middle Township High School  
Millville Senior High School  
Montgomery High School  
Morristown-Beard School, Team #1  
Morristown-Beard School, Team #2  
New Providence High School  
Nottingham High School  
Oakcrest High School

Phillipsburg High School  
Princeton High School  
Salem County Career & Technical High School  
Scotch Plains Fanwood High School  
Shawnee High School Life Club  
Sparta High School, Team #1  
Sparta High School, Team #2  
Triton Regional High School  
Vernon Township High School, Team #1  
Vernon Twp. High School, Team #2  
Warren Hills Regional HS  
West Windsor Plainsboro High School North, Team #1  
West Windsor Plainsboro High School North, Team #2



## Thanks to the Sponsors of the 2003 Envirothon

3B Networks, LLC	Farm-Rite, Inc.	NJ Department of Agriculture
Anthony DiMeo	Firman E. Bear Chapter of the SWCS	NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Anthony Melora Farm	Formisano Farms, Inc.	New Jersey Farm Bureau
Art Shearman, Mgr, American Water Co.	Frank Burns	NJ Division Society of American Foresters
Atlantic Co Federation of Sportsmen's Club Inc	Freehold SCD	NJ Soil Cons. District Employee Association
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Betts & Betts, L.L.C.	HEP SCD	Passaic C. Board of Agriculture
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Essex County Board of Agriculture	NJ Association of Conservation Districts	

## West Essex Bank Provides Funds for First Envirothon Scholarship

*Memorial donation given to honor James Vreeland, NJ State Senator and conservation leader*

The West Essex Bank, located in Morris County, donated \$7,500 to the New Jersey Envirothon program to initiate the New Jersey Envirothon Scholarship. Each member of the 1st Place Hopewell Valley Central High School team received a \$1,000.00 scholarship to an accredited college of his or her choice, which may be deferred for up to three years. Also, the 1st, 2nd, and 4th place teams were awarded a \$500.00 grant for their high school. (Since the 1st and 3rd place teams were from the same school, the 4th place team from West Windsor Plainsboro High School North received the third \$500.00 grant.) The funds also provided a \$1,000 scholarship endowment for future Envirothon winners.

The bank offered the donation as a memorial to the late

James Vreeland, a long-time supervisor of the Morris County Soil Conservation District, member of the New Jersey State Soil Conservation Committee, and a former State Senator. He also had served as a board member of the West Essex Bank.

The scholarship donation memorializes Mr. Vreeland's leadership on both the state and local levels and his contributions to the conservation of the State's natural resources.

The Morris County Soil Conservation District worked with Craig Montanero of the West Essex Bank to secure the funding for this scholarship. The New Jersey Envirothon Committee extends its sincere thanks to West Essex Bank and looks forward to continuing the scholarship program.

## A Student's View

*(Continued from page 3)*

with a solution, we did experience the delirium of the situation along with jokes and moments of contemplative silence. The next morning we presented and waited to hear the results. That night, a banquet was held and the top ten overall winners were announced. As 7th place winners, we received cameras, medals and recognition. Although the week was heavy with work, heat and very little sleep, the outcome made it all worthwhile.

As a team, we are extremely proud to be part of the Envirothon. We hope that continued local support will help us make it to the Canon Envirothon again. We thank, most of all, our advisors: Toni Scott, teacher of the Environmental Sciences, Jeff Neumann, teacher of History, and Ray Nichols. Without our advisors' support, we may not have made it to where we did. Their efforts, which extended far beyond their normal jobs, should be commended and they should earn the same recognition as the students. We also thank all organizations, people and groups who support the Envirothon, its message and its students.