

Envirothon Fall Workshop

November 16, 2006
U Mass Amherst

AGENDA

Session One

9:30 to 10:45 a.m. Concurrent Session 1 (choose 1 of 8 workshops)

Workshop 1: What is the Massachusetts Envirothon

A brief introduction to the Massachusetts Envirothon through slides and descriptive narrative. This will answer all your questions about what will happen throughout the year as well as the event on May 10th.

Instructor: Clif Read, MA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation

Workshop 2: Wildlife Overview

This workshop will provide an overview of the information required to master the wildlife portion of the MA Envirothon. Through the use of slides and wildlife artifacts you will become familiar with the diversity of MA wildlife species, key identifying characteristics, habitat, wildlife management issues, endangered species and field guides. From this workshop you will gain knowledge of the various wildlife topics and be launched into wanting to learn more.

Instructor: Pam Landry, MassWildlife

Workshop 3: Soils Overview Workshop

This workshop offers an understanding of how our soils came to be and why they are so variable. It will include a presentation using slides and overheads with group participation encouraged. Exercises using soil information will illustrate how soil variability influences suitability and limitations for land use.

Instructor: Al Averill, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Workshop 4: Tree Identification Workshop

Learn how to identify a variety of native Massachusetts trees. The group will go outdoors to meet a variety of trees up close. Joe will introduce you to some simple learning techniques such as the acronym called MADCAPHORSE and other techniques. You will learn how to use the tree's bark, overall shape, branching pattern, buds, leaves, acorn, nuts and even the smell of the tree as identifiers. You will be sure to recognize these trees when you apply these methods through out the year and see them again on the day of the Massachusetts Envirothon. (Will be held outdoors on the campus)

Instructor: Joe Perry, Forester, MA Dept of Conservation and Recreation

Workshops 5-8: Current Issue Workshops

Session Two

11:00 to 12:00 a.m. Concurrent Session 2 (choose 1 of 8 workshops)

Workshop 1: Water Overview Workshop

Participants in this workshop will receive an overview of water in the environment in preparation for the water ecostation at this year's Massachusetts Envirothon. Through the use of slides and "hands-on" activities they will become familiar with the properties of water and water's role in nature. Also, some emphasis will be placed on wetlands, water quality and aquatic species.

Instructor: Jim Lafley, Education Coordinator, Div. of Water Supply, MA DC R

Workshop 2: Soils Hands-on Workshop

(Strongly recommended to first attend Soils Overview - Limited to 25 participants)

This workshop offers an opportunity to identify and describe soil characteristics including parent material, texture, color, drainage class and horizonation. Exercises will include applying knowledge of soil characteristics to resource management issues. You will get your hands dirty. Participating in the soils overview workshop prior to this is strongly encouraged.

Instructor: Al Averill, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Workshop 3: Soils Overview Workshop

This workshop offers an understanding of how our soils came to be and why they are so variable. It will include a presentation using slides and overheads with group participation encouraged. Exercises using soil information will illustrate how soil variability influences suitability and limitations for land use.

Instructor: Deb Picking, Soil Scientist, UMass

Workshop 4: Tree Measurement Workshop

Go outside on the University of Massachusetts campus and try out your hand at measuring trees. The instructor will review procedures for using a variety of tree measuring tools. You will learn how to measure height, diameter and determine board foot volume. These techniques will be tested on the day of the Massachusetts Envirothon.

Instructor: Joe Perry, Forester, MA Dept of Conservation and Recreation

Workshops: 5-8: Current Issue Workshops

Lunch

12:00 to 12:45 p.m. Lunch and Exhibits

Session Three

12:45 to 1:45 p.m. Concurrent Session 3 (choose 1 of 8 workshops)

Workshop 1: What the Heck Is an Ecostation?

Do you have the ecostation jitters? Come to this workshop and experience a sample ecostation test similar to that which you will experience at the 2006 Massachusetts Envirothon. The ecostation will offer hands-on wildlife, forest, soil and water questions. We will discuss strategies teams use to complete the test, use of resources, ecostation etiquette, and review the sample test questions and answers.

Instructor: Pam Landry, MassWildlife and Jim Lafley, Mass Department of Conservation and Recreation

Workshop 2: Tree Measurement Workshop

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Instructor: Joe Perry, Forester, MA Dept of Conservation and Recreation

Workshop 3: Massachusetts Envirothon Orientation for New Coaches

New coaches and those who have participated in the past are invited to join Massachusetts Envirothon Coordinator for an overview of the event and sharing session. Experienced coaches will share their stories and insights and new coaches can ask questions about the event, how to recruit and prepare teams and more.

Instructor: Debi Hogan, Massachusetts Envirothon Coordinator

Room Needs: This workshop requires only a small space where people can gather and talk. It can be in the small room on the eight floor or in a corner of the auditorium, so long as it is relatively quiet and private

Workshop 4: Soils Hands-on Workshop

(Strongly recommended to first attend Soils Overview - Limited to 25 participants)

This workshop offers an opportunity to identify and describe soil characteristics including parent material, texture, color, drainage class and horizonation. Exercises will include applying knowledge of soil characteristics to resource management issues. You will get your hands dirty. Participating in the soils overview workshop prior to this is strongly encouraged.

Instructor: Al Averill, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Workshop 5: Tree Insects and Disease Workshop

Investigate insects and diseases of Massachusetts trees and forest through slides, pictures and hands-on activities. You will learn about the insects, their history the effect that they have on indigenous species and management strategies. Try your hand at recognizing some common pests. (This workshop is a repeat of the Tree Insects and Disease Workshop that was held at 11:00 a.m.)

Instructor: Charles Burnham, Forester, MA Dept of Conservation and Recreation

Workshops 6-8: Current Issue Workshops

Session Four

2:00 to 3:15 p.m. Concurrent Session 4 (choose 1 of 8 workshops)

Workshop 1: Tree Identification Workshop

Learn how to identify a variety of native Massachusetts trees. The group will go outdoors to meet a variety of trees up close. Joe will introduce you to some simple learning techniques such as the acronym called MADCAPHORSE and other techniques. You will learn how to use the tree's bark, overall shape, branching pattern, buds, leaves, acorn, nuts and even the smell of the tree as identifiers. You will be sure to recognize these trees when you apply these methods through out the year and see them again on the day of the Massachusetts Envirothon. (This is a repeat of the Tree Identification Workshop that was held at 9:30 a.m.) (Will be held outside of the campus)

Instructor: Joe Perry, Forester, MA Dept of Conservation and Recreation

Workshop 2: Tree Insects and Disease Workshop

Investigate insects and diseases of Massachusetts trees and forest through slides, pictures and hands-on activities. You will learn about the insects, their history the effect that they have on indigenous species and management strategies. Try your hand at recognizing some common pests. (This workshop is a repeat of the Tree Insects and Disease Workshop that was held at 11:00 a.m.)

Instructor: Charles Burnham, Forester, MA Dept of Conservation and Recreation
THIS WORKSHOP IS NOT YET CONFIRMED. They offered to do this second session if we want them to do so.

Workshops 3-8: Current Issue Workshops

Evaluation

3:15 Evaluation