

MASSACHUSETTS ENVIR THON

www.maenvirothon.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local high school students take top honors at the 23rd annual Massachusetts Envirothon

BALDWINVILLE, Mass. (May 14, 2010) -- The results are in from the 23rd annual Massachusetts Envirothon held on May 13th at Otter River State Forest in Baldwinville, Mass. Some 250 Bay State high school students from 40 public and private schools and youth organizations across the commonwealth demonstrated their environmental knowledge as they competed at this outdoor event.

Teams of five students rotated through four “ecostations” where they answered written questions by performing hands-on activities such as soil analysis, wildlife habitat assessment, tree measurement, and identification of water insects.

Each team also gave a presentation on their research into this year’s designated current environmental issue “**Groundwater Protection**,” before a panel of judges that included environmental professionals from government agencies, non-profit organizations, academia and private industry.

This year’s winners are:

Overall Score

- 1st Place Lexington High School, **Lexington**
- 2nd Place Quabbin Regional High School, **Barre**
- 3rd Place Nipmuc Regional High School, **Upton**

Groundwater Protection Presentation

- 1st Place Quabbin Regional High School, **Barre**
- 2nd Place Lexington High School, **Lexington**
- 3rd Place Tantasqua Regional High School, **Fiskdale**
- 4th Place Newton North High School, **Newton**
- 5th Place (tie) Oliver Ames High School, **North Easton** / South Hadley High School, **South Hadley**

Soils Ecostation - “The Pit”

- 1st Place Lexington High School, **Lexington**
- 2nd Place (tie) ... Nipmuc Regional High School, **Upton** / Pioneer Valley Reg. High School, **Northfield**
- 3rd Place Oliver Ames High School, **North Easton**
- 4th Place Greenfield High School, **Greenfield** / Weston High School Lands Sake, **Weston**
- 5th Place Mohawk Trail Regional High School, **Buckland**

Water Ecostation - “By the Beach”

- 1st Place (tie) Bedford High School, **Bedford** / Lexington High School, **Lexington**
- 2nd Place Newburyport High School, **Newburyport**
- 3rd Place Tantasqua Regional High School, **Fiskdale**
- 4th Place Weston High School Lands Sake, **Weston**
- 5th Place Nipmuc Regional High School, **Upton**

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Forestry Ecostation – “Forest Grove”

- 1st Place Lexington High School, **Lexington**
- 2nd Place Quabbin Regional High School, **Barre**
- 3rd Place Nipmuc Regional High School, **Upton**
- 4th Place Newburyport High School, **Newburyport**
- 5th Place Monson Environmental Action Team, **Monson**

Wildlife Ecostation – “Wildlife Edge”

- 1st Place Quabbin Regional High School, **Barre**
- 2nd Place Lexington High School, **Lexington**
- 3rd Place Monson Environmental Action Team, **Monson**
- 4th Place Newton North High School, **Newton**
- 5th Place Pioneer Valley Regional High School, **Northfield**

Through their research, students developed an understanding of the importance of environmental planning to protect groundwater as a sustainable resource in terms of quantity and quality. Teams identified plans and actions that have been adopted and implemented by their community, and recommended groundwater protection opportunities they believe their communities should pursue.

The following teams earned **Community Research** and **Community Action** awards when their Current Issue research achieved a high standard for depth and breadth, and when they put what they learned to work in a service or action project that benefitted their community. These awards are optional and noncompetitive; they can be earned by any team that meets the requirements.

- Tahanto High School, **Boylston** – both Research and Action awards
- Monson Environmental Action Team, **Monson** – both Research and Action awards
- Springfield Central High School, **Springfield** – Research Award
- Doherty Memorial High School, **Worcester** – both Research and Action awards
- David Prouty High School, **Spencer** – both Research and Action awards
- Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech High School, **New Bedford** – both Research and Action awards
- Leicester High School, **Leicester** – both Research and Action awards
- Millbury High School, **Millbury** – both Research and Action awards
- Mount Everett Regional High School, **Sheffield** – Research Award
- Pioneer Valley Regional High School, **Northfield** – Research Award
- Quabbin Regional High School, **Barre** – both Research and Action awards
- Somerset High School, **Somerset** – Research Award
- Southeastern Regional School District, **South Easton** – both Research and Action awards

At the end of the day, some Envirothon participants joined a Massachusetts Student Conservation Association crew in a trail maintenance project as a way of saying thanks to Otter River State Forest for hosting this year’s event.

The overall winning team will have the opportunity to represent Massachusetts in the Canon Envirothon, the North American competition. For more information on the Massachusetts Envirothon visit www.maenvirothon.org.

The 2010 Massachusetts Envirothon was made possible with the financial support of the Environmental Business Council of New England and the U.S. Forest Service, and in-kind contributions from partnering organizations, state and federal agencies, area land trusts and conservation districts.