

MASSACHUSETTS ENVIR THON

www.maenvirothon.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 21, 2011

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Massachusetts Envirothon set for May 12 at Great Brook Farm State Park, Carlisle

Some 250 Bay State high school students from nearly 40 public and private schools and youth organizations across the commonwealth will demonstrate their environmental knowledge when they compete in the 24th annual Massachusetts Envirothon on Thursday, May 12, 2011 at Great Brook Farm State Park in Carlisle, Mass.

"Great Brook Farm State Park was chosen at the site for this year's Massachusetts Envirothon because it's a prime example of an environmentally sound and economically viable farm can look like," said Massachusetts Envirothon Steering Committee Chair Will Snyder of the University of Massachusetts Extension.

At the outdoor field competition event, teams of five students will rotate through four "ecostations" where they answer written questions by performing hands-on activities such as soil analysis, wildlife habitat assessment, tree measurement, and identification of water insects.

Each team will also give a presentation on their research into this year's designated current environmental issue before a panel of judges that includes environmental professionals from government agencies, non-profit organizations, academia and private industry.

The 2011 Current Issue is "**Wetland Protection**," which teams are researching now in their own community. Teams are encouraged to explore their local wetland areas and talk with people who are responsible for protecting them. Students will become familiar with wetland science, including anticipated effects of climate change on wetland systems, and will investigate a range of possible ways that wetlands can be protected. They will assess the current state of wetland protection in their communities, and make recommendations for additional measures that should be taken.

"The students competing in the Envirothon this year are the environmental leaders of tomorrow - scientists, policymakers, teachers and innovators who will face and solve challenges relating to climate change, sea level rise, dwindling open space, and more," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Richard K. Sullivan Jr. "I am honored to take part in this annual event that inspires a new generation, and I look forward to their solutions for this year's theme, Wetland Protection."

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The 1,000 acre Great Brook Farm State Park stays true to its agricultural roots. Offering barn tours, ice cream, recreational trails, educational displays and a petting zoo, Great Brook Farm shows the benefits of value-added agriculture to the community. Holstein cows have been kept here for over 60 years and current farmer Mark Duffy continues the tradition.

“The Envirothon is a great experience for students to test their knowledge of water, forest, soils, wildlife, and current environmental issues,” said DCR Commissioner Ed Lambert. “These young people are the future stewards of our parks and forests, and we applaud their efforts to learn about and understand all the issues they will face.”

Teams prepare for the Massachusetts Envirothon throughout the year through field study, community investigations, and workshops. Teams can earn Community Research and Community Action awards by documenting their hard work. The 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.

“This is a great opportunity for students to test their knowledge and skills related to water, forest, soils, wildlife, and current environmental issues, and to meet other students from across the state who are also concerned about the local environment” said Snyder.

Fifteen federal and state environmental agencies, conservation districts, non-profit organizations, higher educational institutions, and businesses provide expertise and help organize the event.

The 2011 Massachusetts Envirothon is made possible through the contributions of partnering agencies and organizations, including financial support from the U.S. Forest Service, the Environmental Business Council of New England, and area land trusts and conservation districts.

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Massachusetts Envirothon 2011 - REGISTERED TEAMS as of this release date.

- Acton-Boxborough Regional High School
- Bedford High School
- Boston College High School
- Bristol County Agricultural High School
- Chelmsford High School
- David Prouty High School (Spencer)
- Doherty Memorial High School (Worcester)
- Greater New Bedford Vo-Tech
- Greenfield High School
- Groton-Dunstable High School (Spencer)
- Hoosac Valley High School (Adams)
- Hopkinton High School
- Lexington High School
- Lunenburg High School
- Millbury Jr. Sr. High School
- Monson Environmental Action Team
- Mount Everett Regional High School
- Newton North High School
- Nipmuc Regional High School
- Old Rochester Regional High School
- Oliver Ames High School (Easton)
- Pioneer Valley Regional School (Northfield)
- Provincetown High School
- Quabbin Regional High School
- R.C.Marhar Regional High School (Orange)
- Reading Memorial High School
- Rockport High School
- Salem High School
- Somerset High School
- South Hadley High School

- Southeastern Regional (Easton)
- Sutton High School
- Tabor Academy (Marion)
- Taconic High School (Pittsfield)
- Tantasqua High School (Sturbridge)
- Weston High School/Land's Sake
- Worcester Technical High School