

Westmoreland Co. Tops State Envir-Olympics

BY CRAIG BINGMAN
Snyder Co. Correspondent
STATE COLLEGE — Westmoreland County captured the gold medal at the third annual Envir-Olympics competition held at Shaver's Creek Environmental Center on June 21. The Penn State facility hosted 28 teams from across the commonwealth, challenging their knowledge of outdoor skills.

The overall goal of the Envir-Olympics is to cultivate a desire to learn more about our natural environment through competitive events. The competition provides students with experience in environmentally oriented activities to enable them to become aware, action oriented adults.

The first place team, representing Derry Area High School in Westmoreland County, scored 392½ points out of a possible 500. Team members Virgil Wilford, Joe Prengaman, Paul Scansaroli, Chuck Rachocki, Joe Lipinski, and alternate, Chris Chang, each received a first place medallion for their winning efforts. Team advisor Fred Goodman accompanied the team.

Second place medallions were awarded to Shannock Valley High School representing Armstrong County under the advisorship of Albert Baranisk. Students on this team included: Mike Iaconis, Mike

Bohan, Mechelle Petruzzi, Melissa Petruzzi, and Jim Basco. Greenwood High School in Perry County took third place honors. Under advisor Frank Corbin, the team members were Bob Taylor, Andy Kline, Brad Dreese, Roger McGowan, Matt Polski, and alternate Mark Beers.

The Envir-Olympics is a competition that stresses team effort in seeking solutions to environmental questions by confronting students with a variety of tests. Rotating through five testing stations, the students answer questions on soils, wildlife, forestry, aquatic life, and current issues. Agencies participating at this year's competition included the Soil Conservation Service, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Bureau of Forestry, Fish Commission, and Department of Environmental Resources, Solid Waste.

A team consists of five high school students. Teams range from vocational agriculture to environmental science to accelerated students. An alternate and an advisor may accompany the team, but cannot assist the team in any way. A prerequisite to the state competition is participation in a local or regional Envir-Olympics.

Originally the brainchild of Fulton and Schuylkill Conservation Districts at the local level, the state Envir-Olympics

has multiplied five times since the first competition in 1984. Even individuals and organizations are becoming active in the planning and funding of local and state competitions. Sponsors of the state competition include the Izaak Walton League, Glatfelter Pulpwood, Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Pennsylvania Wildlife Federation, wildlife artists Dick Losch and Ken Hunter, and the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation District Directors.

Warren Wertz, a field representative for the Bureau of Soil and Water Conservation and one of the founders of the state Envir-Olympics, has nothing but praise for the competition. "It does my heart good to see so many teams compete," he said. "I hope we take home one thing, and that is that we've learned something new today."

This year's test questions proved quite difficult for student as well as any adult taking the tests. The Game Commission test involved bird call, tree nut and animal identification. The Fish Commission quizzed the teams on aquatics and the identification of fish. A test in soil types as they relate to urban problems from the Soil Conservation Service had students checking soil profiles for clues. Tree identification as well as questions on gypsy moth, energy, and tree measurement came from the Bureau of Forestry. And the current issues station had the teams calculating the demise of a fictional Garbagetown, USA.

Every student that participated in the state competition received a certificate of participation and an Envir-Olympics hat. Westmoreland County will receive further honors in October at the Association of Conservation District Director's Annual Meeting in Cambria County.

The future of the competition looks promising. "I'd like to see the state Envir-Olympics progress to a regional or even national



The Westmoreland County team from Derry Area High School took first place in the state Envir-Olympics competition on June 21.

competition," says Carolyn Hollenshead, another four-ler of the state Envir-Olympics and district manager of the Fulton Conservation District.

At this year's competition, Walter Rossman, president of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation District Directors, praised the progress of the annual event. "I hope the Envir-Olympics will continue to expand," he said. "We have such a diversity of nature to learn here in Penns

Woods." Rossman, along with Harry Bittle, Deputy Secretary of Environmental Protection, DER, and Dean Steinhart, Dean of Environmental Education at Penn State, presented the top three awards and distributed hats and certificates to each team.

There were no losers at this year's Envir-Olympics. The 28 teams went home with new experiences, increased knowledge, and a greater respect for their living environment.

Potato Growers Program

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania potato growers, by a two-to-one vote margin, have approved creation of a self-financed potato research program, according to state Agriculture Secretary Richard E. Grubb.

Of the 74 growers who voted during balloting conducted June 2-13, a total of 54 approved development of the program and collection of two cents on each 100 pounds of potatoes marketed to finance the research.

Department officials estimate that the assessment will raise \$45,000 annually. A ten-member advisory board of participating

growers will administer the funds to designated research areas.

"Research into resilient strains, disease prevention and marketing, should prove beneficial to all potato producers in the state," Grubb noted. "It is one of the ways our growers can remain competitive and successful."

Approximately 180 growers were eligible to vote and are affected by the outcome. These growers have at least 25 acres or more devoted to potato production.

Those who voted for creation of the program produce 67 percent of the potatoes grown by 74 growers who participated in the balloting.



Bill Porter of the Pennsylvania Fish Commission lectures on fish identification.

Replace Your BARN CLEANER CHAIN
 We're Offering A Special Low Price Thru June

HUSKY Heavy Duty REPLACEMENT CHAIN

• Heat Treated • All Chain Has 10 Yr. Warranty
 HOOK AND EYE FORGE LINKS

This Chain Will Replace Most Brands Of Chain

HUSKY LIQUID MANURE EQUIPMENT

Replace Your MANURE TANK

Truck-Mount or Trailer-Mount

Tank Sizes (Gal.) Available:

• 1200	• 2400	• 3600
• 1800	• 3000	• 5000

Truck-Mount

Husky-A Fine Line Of Good Equipment

24 Hrs. - 7 Days A Week - Refrigeration Service
 Installation, Sales And Service

RAY SHENK
 (Formerly Shenk's Farm Service)


505 E. Woods Drive Lititz, PA 17543
 (717) 626-1151


A DAIRY FARMER SALUTE

For 50 years, we have set aside June as a time to salute dairy farmers.

But for more than 50 years, cooperatives have saluted dairy farmers 365 days of the year. Farmer-owned and controlled, cooperatives have assisted in improved breeding, innovative feeds, unique fertilizers and to-the-consumer marketing. Cooperatives have provided needed financing and ready electricity. They even provide your children's grape juice and potato chips!

Cooperatives are your businesses, owned and controlled by you and other farmers just like yourselves — not by investors on Wall Street. We salute you during your special month, for you are our reason for being.





PAFC Cooperatives: Keystone of Agriculture

The Pennsylvania Association of Farmer Cooperatives
 P.O. Box 12107, Harrisburg, PA 17108-2107
 717-232-7232