

Lancaster Co. Tops 4th Envir-Olympics

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Snyder Co. Correspondent

Lancaster County took home the gold medals at the 4th annual Pennsylvania State Envir-Olympics competition on June 20. This year's competition, held for the first time at Reeds Gap State Park in Mifflin County, drew over 200 students and advisors from 33 counties to challenge the students' knowledge in environmental skills.

The Lancaster County team, representing Pequea Valley High School scored 426 points out of a possible 500 to win the competition. Those members receiving first-place medallions were Matt Ehrhart, Doyle Reiter, Steve Houck, and Andrew Wanner. Team advisor, Clair Witwer said, "They've been practicing for a long time. They put in quite a few hours. They even entered county contests to prepare for this."

Second-place medallions went to Westmoreland County with a score of 420. These team members from Sloan High School included: Edward Stoner, Jack Staite, Susan Bach, Tom Graham and Brooke Merrell. Team advisor was Tom Pearson.

Schuylkill County placed third,

scoring 413. These Blue Mountain High School students were Faisal Rashid, Karen Boltz, Christell Berger, Matt Walters, and Kristen Rozansky. Their team advisor was Glenn Luckenbill.

Secretary of the Department of Environmental Resources, Arthur Davis, attended the event and was visibly impressed with the state event and how it reaches out to enhance a student's awareness of his or her environment. "I am very proud of all participants," he said. "This annual competitive event demonstrates our state commitment to the education of Pennsylvania's youth so they become more environmentally aware. We encourage them to put these principles to work in their everyday lives."

The Envir-Olympics competition actually starts out at the local level. Local Envir-Olympics are sponsored annually by conservation districts and are run similarly to the state competition whereby teams of five students, grades 9 to 12, rotate through five stations answering questions on wildlife, current issues, aquatics,



First-place State Envir-Olympics winners from Lancaster County were (left) advisor Clair Witwer, Matt Ehrhart, Doyle Reiter, Steve Houck and Andrew Wanner.

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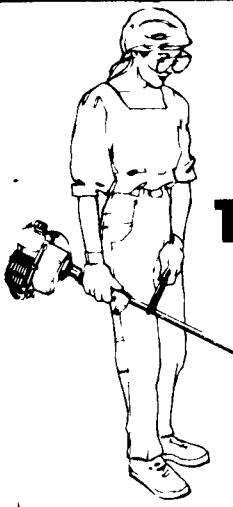
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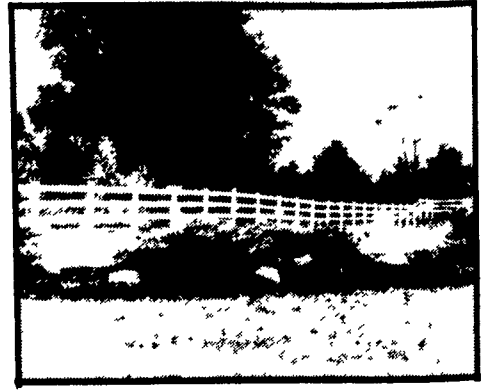
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