

Frederick Team Wins Md. Envirothon

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — A team of five students from Middletown High School in Frederick County recently beat out teams from 22 counties and Baltimore City to win its second straight Maryland Envirothon, an annual two-day outdoor natural resources competition for high school students. This year's event was held May 16-18 at the Grove Point Girl Scout Camp on the Sassafras River in Cecil County.

Team members Elaine Bucheimer, Natalie Bucheimer, Crissi Gamache, Jennifer Morat, Erin Weber, Lara Wise, and Tara Harrell returned this year to defend their 1995 title. They were coached by science instructor Ron Albaugh and Barry Burch, a planner with the Frederick and Catoctin soil conservation districts.

Established in 1991, the objectives of the Maryland Envirothon are twofold — to test students' environmental knowledge and understanding of state resource issues and to instill a desire to learn more about the natural world. Since its inception, the program has grown from 250 students to more than 1,000 students this year. The competition is spon-

sored by the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts and the State Soil Conservation Committee.

The Frederick team will now go on to represent Maryland at the National Envirothon competition slated for July 29 in Ashland, Neb. More than 30 teams from the United States, Canada, and Mexico are expected to participate in the national competition.

"The Envirothon is an excellent educational program for students," said Maryland Agriculture Secretary Lewis Riley.

"The program gets students out of the classroom and into the natural world where they learn first-hand from the experts about how to build a soil profile to determine the health of a stream.

"Our Envirothon really prepares students to become leaders in agricultural and other natural resource-related fields," he said.

The Maryland Envirothon is held once a year at an outdoor environmental education center. Students taking part in the competition have been studying Maryland's natural resources for the past year in hopes of winning.

Working in teams of five (with

two alternates), students are trained and tested in four natural resources areas including soil, aquatics, forestry, and wildlife, plus a current environmental issue that changes from year to year. This year's issue was "greenways."

The students, who hail from virtually every region in the state, rotate through the various test stations where they are asked to iden-

tify and categorize living resources, perform soil surveys, and solve other complex natural resource issues. The team with the highest cumulative total wins the competition and the opportunity to represent Maryland at the National Envirothon.

At the 1996 competition, the Frederick team scored 430 points out of a possible 500. They were followed by teams from Harford

(426 points), Montgomery (406.5 points), Baltimore (405.5 points), Kent (399.5 points), and St. Mary's counties (396 points).

The first Envirothon competition was held in Pennsylvania in 1979. Since then, more than 30 states, Canada, and Australia have embraced the program and send teams to the national competition in late summer.

Farmedic Receives Resolution

ALFRED, N.Y. — Recently, during its Farmedic Instructor Training course at the Farmedic National Training Center located at Alfred State College, the Farmedic program was presented a Legislative Resolution by Senator Randy Kuhl, chairman of the New York Senate Agricultural Committee.

This resolution commended the Farmedic Program upon the occasion of its 15th Anniversary.

The resolution praised the Farmedic National Training Center located at Alfred State College in training more than 10,000 emergency providers from across the

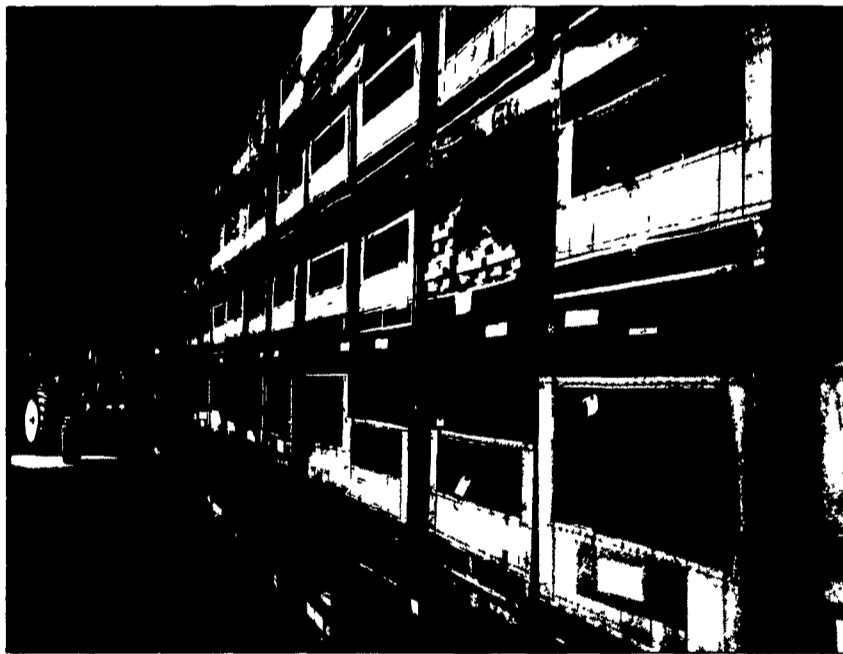
country to be more knowledgeable of farm rescue procedures, and acknowledged Farmedic's success at reducing death and injury from farm accidents, reducing the probability of injury or death to the rescuers, and enhancing the awareness and cooperation between agricultural, fire, rescue and EMS

communities.

Key members of the Farmedic team — Executive Director Dave Hill, co-founder Ted Halpin, lead instructor Dave Oliver, and senior instructor Rich Hoffman — were acknowledged for traveling to 46 states and Canada to train rescuers.



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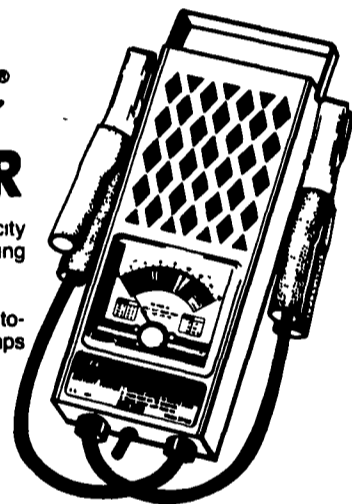
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