

Earth Team and Envirothon Go Hand in Hand

By Sharon Englett

Area II Earth Team Coordinator

Each spring, high school students throughout the United States participate in a unique conservation education event called Envirothon. The Envirothon program was developed by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, originating in 1979.

Also each spring, Earth Team volunteers gear up to help run the numerous Envirothons across the nation and help train the Envirothon teams.

Envirothon is a hands-on outdoor competition that educates team members about natural resources and current environmental issues, as well as teamwork skills, critical thinking, and problem solving. Teams are made up of five students from local high schools. They are tested on their knowledge of aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife and one current environmental issue that changes from year to year. This year's current issue was on Sustainable Agriculture.

It takes many volunteers to make this program a success. Volunteers recruit teams, distribute materials and brochures to local schools; prepare and organize for the day of the competition. Volunteers also help train the teams and act as judges in the competition itself.

Students who enter the Envirothon will emerge with stronger ties to the environment. They will meet environmental professionals who represent various branches of government and private enterprise exposing them to a wide area of career choices. Without our Earth Team Volunteers, Envirothon would not have the continued success it has today.

See photos from this event on next page.

Below: Buffalo/Duck River Envirothon team working together on soil station site.



Earth Team Volunteer and retired NRCS Soil Scientist, Debbie Brasfield (middle), scores soil test at Southern Middle RC&D Envirothon.

