

2011 AREA VII ENVIROTHON

**Lake Waccamaw State Park
Lake Waccamaw, NC
Columbus County**



DATES TO REMEMBER

**March 14, 2011
Registration Deadline**

**March 31, 2011
Area VII Envirothon
Lake Waccamaw
State Park**

**April 29-30, 2011
State Envirothon
Cedarrock Park
Burlington, NC**

**Canon Envirothon
July 24-29, 2011
Sackville Brunswick
Canada**



AREA VII ENVIROTHON
c/o Robeson SWCD
440 Caton Road
Lumberton, NC 28360



Area VII ENVIROTHON



INFORMATION AND UPDATES FOR ADVISORS OF
ENVIROTHON TEAMS IN BLADEN, COLUMBUS,
CUMBERLAND, HARNETT, HOKE, RICHMOND, ROBESON,
SAMPSON AND SCOTLAND COUNTIES

Why We Do Envirothon

Awareness: The Envirothon will help students cultivate an awareness of the total environment and acquire a sensitivity towards its limited natural resources.

Knowledge: The Envirothon will help students develop a basic understanding of the earth's ecological systems and the life-sustaining implication these systems have on all living things.

Attitudes: The Envirothon will help students develop attitudes, which embrace environmental sensitivity and instill the dedication to participate in activities geared towards protecting the environment.

Application: The Envirothon will help students develop skills needed to identify, investigate, and contribute to the resolution of environmental issues and problems.

Mission Statement: Our mission is to provide students with a good science-based education on natural resources; to encourage students to solve natural resources problems as a team; to interest students in entering natural resource fields as a profession by exposing them to professional resource people and to give students the opportunity to expand their knowledge in the natural resource realm by exploring the world around them.



2010 WINNERS

Jones Lake State Park in Bladen County was the setting of the Area VII Envirothon on March 31, 2010. Forty teams from Bladen, Cumberland, Harnett, Robeson and Sampson Counties competed for the opportunity to go to the State competition.

Left: High School First Place Winners: Lumberton High School FFA "Stone Flies."

Right: Middle School First Place Winners: Rowland Middle School "Beast of Nerdum."





Help your students get the most from their Envirothon experience!

Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District to find out about resources available for your use.

Arrange a visit to a local park or nature center! Just one day or afternoon “in the field” can do wonders for bringing all of your team’s studying to life. Many environmental educators in parks and nature centers can lead hikes based around themes or concepts that you want covered with your students. Hands-on investigations, tree identification walks, stream investigations: all of these may be possible at sites near your school.

Ask your Conservation District educational resources and contacts for training! Many Soil and Water Conservation Districts have educational resources that you can check out for use with the Envirothon and they offer a variety of training workshops. Talk to your County Envirothon Coordinator about the possibilities of a school program or other educational activity. This person is your contact for a wide array of helpful services. Give them a call! See the listing of contacts and phone numbers in the sidebar on this page.

Utilize the World Wide Web! The Envirothon Website has been recently updated and, in addition to all of the information there, it also has links to all of our sponsors and partnering agencies. For updates, current events, and resources, this is a great way to go!
<http://www.ncenvirothon.org/>

Visit the NC Department of Education’s website! The Envirothon learning objectives can assist you in addressing the adopted Environment and Ecology standards. If you would like to see how the Envirothon’s learning objectives correlate to these standards, visit the NC Department of Education’s website at <http://www.ee.enr.state.nc.us/>.

Follow environmental issues in your local newspapers! This is a great way for your students to connect all of the environmental concepts the Envirothon covers with “real life.” In every spot in North Carolina on every day, something is happening which affects the health of our forest ecosystems and watersheds, the quality of living for local residents, and the use of our resources. There are success stories as well as hard lessons in economics, politics, and sociology. Following a current local event in the classroom is an effective way of engaging students in informed discussions and action.

Check out *Wildlife in NC!* This is wonderful North Carolina-centered conservation-education publication. Each issue reviews special articles that can be used in the classroom as foundations for a lesson.

For further information contact: www.ncwildlife.org or write to: Wildlife in NC Magazine
1712 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1712

Last, but certainly not least: have fun! One key to a meaningful environmental education experience is fun. Reading up on your local ecosystems, having an energetic discussion about a forestry issue, investigating a stream for water quality, measuring trees like professional foresters, even getting your hands “dirty” in an exposed soil profile: all of these can be fun and exciting adventures in learning. If it’s fun, you will not only get the students excited for more, but what they end up learning will probably stand a better chance of sticking with them.

**F.Y.I. WILDLIFE PROFILES FOR 2011 are Set #2
We should have the 2011 Resources around the first of SEPT.**

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Tips for a Successful Envirothon Program

Recruiting Members / Developing a Team/s: A large majority of students are hand-picked by teachers in the first few weeks as they discover those with personal interest. Others join after hearing about it from the students. Reality is that it takes a few years of building a reputation for the program before the numbers grow.

- Post flyers throughout school
- Include the Envirothon program sign-up in your school announcements
- Have other teachers announce sign-up

Expectations:

- Hold an introductory meeting to discuss what Envirothon is and what your intent and expectations of the students is.
- You may want to have tryouts for the team to create some inner school competition. It's no different than tryouts for a school sports team.
- Students placement on the team could be based on:
 - Their attendance
 - Their test scores
 - Completion of study assignments

Assigning Specialty Subjects: The resource material for Envirothon can be overwhelming when students see it for the first time. Many advisors give each member one or two subjects to specialize in after considering each student's interest level and prior knowledge.

Student Presentations: Presentations motivate the students to study their material. When students present on their topic/s everyone hears information about all the subjects. Presentations give advisors an idea of the student's presentation skills in case you go to the national competition!

Hook Your Team on Field Trips: Throughout the year take your team on field trips. The concept is to make Envirothon fun – so hook them by using hands-on and first-hand experiences.

Team Placement: Just as in sports, performance determines team placement.

- Develop a test for your students from past Envirothon competitions, identification questions, wildlife magazines and current events.
- Use scores from this test to develop your team/s.
- Assign a team captain
- Encourage team captains to arrange their own study sessions with their team members
- It's effective to give team captains responsibilities

Practice Exams:

- Provide tests for practice
- Set up a mock Envirothon
- Review answers together
- Pinpoint weaknesses
- Prescribe more practice!

Area and State Competitions and Wrap Up: This is what the students look forward to all year! You're in Envirothon to learn and take the competition seriously and if you make it fun for the students, they will!

- Your group may want to plan to camp out at the State competition
- Have a party at the end of the year

Some Suggested Web Sites and Resources



LOCAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE EDUCATORS

COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF

STATE PARKS STAFF

LIBRARIES

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

CERTIFIED ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS

Contact: <http://www.ee.enr.state.nc.us/> for a list of folks in your area.

MUSEUMS

Sometimes museum staff will do special programs for groups.

<http://www.bear-tracker.com/index.html>

The mammals' link has good pictures of tracks, scat, etc.

WILDLIFE RESOURCE COMMISSION STAFF

SAN-LEE PARK – Kristin Sasser, 919-776-6221

Animal ID, habitats, macroinvertebrates, aquatic animals, wetlands.

AGAPE CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ED.

Mir Youngquist-Thurow, 919-552-9421

There is a charge for services.

www.enaturalist.org

DENR LIBRARY

Publications and videos that teachers can borrow. The only cost will be postage of returning items.

<http://www.eenorthcarolina.org/library>

919-715-4161

NC ENVIROTHON WEBSITE

<http://www.ncaswcd.org/Programs/Education/envirothon.htm>

WATER QUALITY & AQUATIC
MACROINVERTEBRATES STUDY

<http://www.bgsd.k12.wa.us/hml/jr%5Fcam/macros/>

FIELD GUIDE TO FRESH WATER
INVERTEBRATES

<http://www.seanet.com/~leska/Online/Guide.html>