

**Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board
Grant #2016089**

FINAL REPORT

MASCD/Maryland Envirothon 2016

Overview of Activities/Project

The 2016 Maryland Envirothon was held on June 22 - 23 at Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Maryland. This year, over 1,100 students participated in local county envirothons leading up to the two day state event. A total of seventeen student teams of five members participated in this year's state event which was held in Frederick County in central Maryland.

The 26th annual competition began on Tuesday, June 21 with Envirothon Committee members and resource personnel arriving to begin preparations for the next two days. On Wednesday June 22, students and advisors arrived at noon. Following registration, students receiving training in each of the five resource areas; aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and the current environmental issue which was "Invasive Species". Students worked hand in hand with resource professionals as they prepared to enhance their critical-thinking skills for the next day competition. Following dinner that evening, presentations from three teams were made to a panel of judges to determine the first place team in the "public speaking" component of the Envirothon. Harford County took top honors with Frederick County second and Carroll County third.

On Thursday, June 23rd, the competition phase of the Envirothon took place. In the morning, teams of students rotated through the five stations, where they were challenged with activities such as describing a soil profile, testing the ph and texture of different soil horizons, estimating board feet of lumber and identifying various tree species, identifying fish species, determining the age of deer, and identifying invasive species. At the conclusion of the testing, an awards program was held to recognize the top five teams and the high scoring teams in each of the 5 resource stations, and to recognize the top three teams in "Presentations". Scholarships, sponsored by MG PUB, were presented to the top three teams. Each member of the first place team from Carroll County, received a \$500 scholarship; second place team members (Harford County) received \$300 scholarships; and third place team members (Montgomery County), \$200 scholarships. The fourth place team from Frederick County and fifth place team from Garrett County each received a framed conservation/wildlife print for their school.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION OF MET OBJECTIVES

The primary goal of the Maryland Envirothon is "to move students from the class room to solve real-life environmental problems in a natural setting". In 2016, the Maryland

Envirothon stimulated the interest of 200 plus teams from throughout the State, reaching nearly 1,200 students. Such data reflects that there continues to be an on-going interest, and more importantly, a need for more hands-on environmental education. Moreover, the Envirothon continues to be a product of a very unique partnership between Maryland's students from grades 9-12, teachers, resource professionals, and local soil conservation districts. The program's core base of natural resource and agricultural professionals from Maryland's soil conservation districts and natural resource agencies provides students the hands-on experience they would not have received in a class room setting

The local training sessions conducted in each County, followed up with the local County Envirothon competitions, meet program goals and provide an extended hands-on experience which is directly linked to land stewardship and environmental awareness.

DETAIL OF EXPENDITURES

This year, MGPUB Funds were used to provide scholarships to 15 students at the conclusion of the Maryland State Envirothon competition. A total of \$5,000 was expended on the 15 scholarships. First place team members each received a \$500 scholarship, second place \$300 and third place \$200 scholarships. Without MGPUB support, these scholarships would not be possible.

MARYLAND GRAIN PRODUCER'S SPONSORSHIP RECOGNITION

During and after the competition, the Maryland Envirothon increases the awareness of Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board's support in the form of cross promotional tie-ins, sponsor posters, t-shirts, scholarship checks, the Maryland Envirothon website sponsorship page, and traveling exhibits to help extend the grain producer's message throughout the State of Maryland.

At the state event, every participant, trainer, teacher and volunteer received a 2016 Maryland Envirothon t-shirt. On the back of those t-shirts, at the Gold Sponsor section, there is a listing of the Maryland Grain Producer's Utilization Board. And again this year, the large symbolic scholarship checks presented to the top three teams, had Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board listed on the top of each check. Another important branding opportunity occurred when the traveling Envirothon display was featured at the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts (MASCD) semi-annual meeting in Cambridge, and this year's MGPUB Commodity Classic. A final opportunity for MGPUB recognition in 2016 occurred at the annual conference of the Maryland Association of Outdoor Environmental Educators (MAEOE) which was held in Ocean City.