



# Iowa Envirothon

Hosted by Conservation Districts of Iowa  
Fall 2015

## 2015 Iowa Envirothon Highlights

The 2015 Iowa Envirothon took place on Monday, April 13 at Springbrook State Park near Guthrie Center, Iowa. It was a great day filled with fun and excitement as the teams were ready to test their knowledge on the environment. The day would not have been possible without the help and support of our sponsors and volunteers. We greatly appreciate their time and contributions to make the Iowa Envirothon such a wonderful event for our future leaders.

## Give to the Iowa Envirothon!

20<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNUAL IOWA  
ENVIROTHON

Dear Readers,

2016 marks the 20th Anniversary for the Iowa Envirothon! CDI is constantly seeking to improve all our projects and programs and the Iowa Envirothon is no exception! Consider helping us enhance this year's event by making a donation to CDI. Donations help us bring important conservation knowledge to hundreds of Iowa students each year through the Iowa Envirothon program.

Many thanks for all your support!

*Clare Lindahl*

Executive Director, Conservation Districts of Iowa



2015 Iowa Envirothon Champions:

St. Ansgar FFA 1 in Springfield, Missouri

## Mark your calendars!

### 2016 Regional Event Competitions:

- March 1 – Hawkeye Community College, Waterloo
- March 8 – Fairgrounds, Red Oak
- March 15 – Cherokee Community Center, Cherokee
- March 15 – Kirkwood Community College, Iowa City
- March 17 – DMACC, West Des Moines

The **2016 20th Annual Iowa Envirothon State Competition** will be held Monday, April 11, 2016 at Springbrook State Park - RAIN OR SHINE

The **2016 North American Envirothon** will be held July 24–29, 2016 at Trent University in Ontario, Canada

**Current Environmental Issue:** Invasive Species: A Challenge to the Environment, Economy and Society

# 2015 Iowa Envirothon State Competition Results

## 2015 Award Winners

Overall Top Score.....St. Ansgar FFA 1  
 Runner-Up.....Waverly-Shell Rock FFA 1  
 Aquatics.....(Tie) Marshalltown High School 1 and Waverly-Shell Rock FFA 1  
 Forestry.....Decorah Ospeys  
 Soils.....Des Moines FFA 2  
 Wildlife.....Decorah Brookies  
 Oral Presentation.....Waverly-Shell Rock FFA 1

## FFA Team Scores

Top Score.....St. Ansgar FFA 1  
 Runner-Up.....Waverly-Shell Rock FFA 1  
 2nd Runner-Up.....Riceville FFA 1

## 2015 State Competition Teams

Alburnett FFA 1  
 Bellevue FFA White  
 Decorah Brookies  
 Decorah Ospeys  
 Des Moines FFA 2  
 Glenwood 1  
 Iowa City High School  
 La Porte- Dysart FFA  
 Marshalltown High School 1  
 Muscatine FFA 1  
 Riceville FFA 1  
 St. Ansgar FFA 1  
 Waverly-Shell Rock FFA 1  
 Western Christian 1  
 Westwood FFA

**Congrats to ALL State Qualifiers!**



**Runner-Up, Aquatics and Oral Presentation Winner**  
Waverly-Shell Rock FFA 1



**Aquatics Winner**  
Marshalltown High School 1



**Forestry Winner**  
Decorah Ospeys



**Soils Winner**  
Des Moines FFA 2



**Wildlife Winner**  
Decorah Brookies

## *Special Thanks!*

The Iowa Envirothon is sponsored by Conservation Districts of Iowa, with generous support from Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship - Division of Soil Conservation and Water Quality, Iowa Soybean Association, Iowa Pork Producers Association, Griggs Environmental Strategies, Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Society, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Iowa FFA Association, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Kim Leichtman, Springbrook State Park and many Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Special thanks also goes to the North American Envirothon for its support of more than 50 state and provincial programs throughout North America.

To the numerous volunteers who help make the Iowa Envirothon a success, none of this would be possible without you. **We cannot thank you enough for your continued support of the Iowa Envirothon!**

## St. Ansgar's North American Envirothon Experience

**Monday, July 27th** - After a restful night, we had a review session at Burr Oak Woods Nature Center in Blue Springs, Missouri. We studied the differences in many trees and leaves and identified our first marsh-mallow barked tree (the sycamore). Then back in the van for a three hour drive to Springfield, Missouri where the National Conservation Foundation hosted the 2015 North American Envirothon competition at Missouri State University (MSU). When we arrived, the check-in process was well set up and organized. We all got settled in our dorm rooms, which was an eye opener for our young adults about to start college. The National competition used the "Wizard of Oz" as their theme.



After an evening meal in the dining hall, we attended a short orientation presentation. Next came the highlight of the evening, which was the trading session where teams brought items representing their state for trading with individuals from other states. Anything from t-shirts, state flags, hats, maple syrup, mini bales of cotton and much more was traded.

**Tuesday, July 28th** - Tuesday was warm and humid. The heat index reached 114 degrees during the very hot day. It was the review day for the outdoor part of the competition and everyone spent eight hours outside learning about the Missouri ecosystems and learning information that would be very useful for the competition.

While moving between review stations, two of our team members came upon a young lady from Alaska suffering from heat exhaustion. They stopped and gave assistance to her and her friend. Their comment was "we only did what anybody would do" and by the time the advisors arrived, she was feeling better and back on her feet. After getting back to the dorms and having supper, there was a study night for everyone.

**Wednesday, July 29th** - After breakfast, we loaded the buses and headed for an MSU off-site campus for our outdoor testing part of the competition, which was held from 8:15am to 5pm. The competition included a very challenging group of contest stations and questions. The five sites included: aquatics, forests and prairies, soils, wildlife and the current year theme relating to "urban forestry". After we were finished with the competition, we returned to the main campus to cool off and clean up. That evening after supper, teams had a choice of dancing or enjoying the Rec Room at the Commons.

**Thursday, July 30th** - Thursday was a (mandatory) fun day at Silver Dollar City in Branson, Missouri. Eight buses took everyone to spend the day relaxing, enjoying the entertainment and rides, and fair food. The weather was cooler and not as humid. Evening activities for our group were visiting the flagship store of Bass Pro, an interesting place with everything from shooting supplies (Greg is on the local Trap Team), to wildlife exhibits, and moon pies. After this, we went to the Golden Corral for supper and a supply/snack stop at Walmart.

.....Continued on Page 4

## St. Ansgar's North American Envirothon Experience, Continued

**Friday, July 31st** - Friday morning we were given our topic for the oral presentation which was to... "Prepare a presentation for the Springfield School Board making recommendations for an urban forestry plan to improve the community and how to fund this plan." Study rooms were provided for eight hours to prepare the presentation. The tension and pressure to develop a presentation became almost unbearable at times. There were some very interesting relief strategies used to help us get back on track. At the end of the prep time, the advisors gave each team a rallying cheer as they returned to the dorms. That evening after supper at the dining hall, teams had a choice of watching the movie "Wizard of Oz" or enjoying the Rec Room at the Commons.



**Saturday, August 1st** - Saturday morning, teams reported to the Commons for their presentation time. On Thursday, the team members had noted that their name tags had the number one on them. Today we found out that meant that we would be the first team for the oral presentation part of the competition. The team was relieved to go first and not to have to wait for many hours to give their presentation. The oral presentation went smoothly and all the judges' questions were answered well. YEA! What a relief. YEA! The presentation was finished. The rest of the morning and afternoon was free time and we went to Grizzly Industrial, the flagship store which sells woodworking and metal working machinery, an antique mall, and to Olive Garden for lunch. That mid-afternoon we returned for the announcement of the top four teams and hear their presentations.

That evening was the awards banquet. After an excellent meal, the ceremonies began with a lifetime achievement/past president award for the President of the National Envirothon program, Mrs. Lemon. This was her second time organizing the North American Envirothon event. Then the top ten teams were announced and the award for first place went to Missouri. The last award of the evening was named the "Have a Heart Award". It is a special award that was created for the team showing the most compassion and helpfulness for others. Iowa received the third standing ovation of the evening as they went to the podium for the heart shaped glass award. With an overwhelming feeling of pride in the team, our chaperone, Ernie Schofield told us that this award meant as much or more in life than winning the competition. We hadn't told Ernie and Karen about what they had done "because we felt that it was just helping someone in need". No matter how our team had finished in the competition they were the winners in the hearts of many of the contestants and chaperones.

**Sunday, August 2nd** - Lastly, came an uneventful ride home during which everyone offered to drive so we could get home sooner. We thought of the the Wizard of Oz theme... "There's no place like home". We arrived back in St. Ansgar on Sunday afternoon.

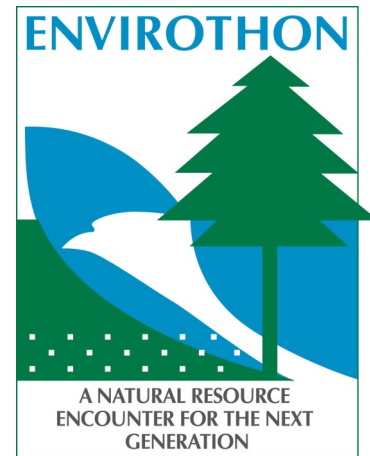
A big "Thank You" goes out to the Missouri Soil and Water Conservation District for making this year's event a reality. It was well planned and organized. Thanks also, to Conservation Districts of Iowa for planning, manning, and sponsoring the Iowa Envirothon and also for your sponsorship of our travel and participation in the North American Envirothon competition. Thanks to our local Conservation Board and others for helping with our entry fee and other expenses.

# 2016 Environmental Issue: Invasive Species: A Challenge to the Environment, Economy and Society

## Every team competing in the 2016

### Envirothon should know and understand:

- Invasive Species and Their Impacts
- Pathways of Introduction and Spread
- The Invasive Species Management Cycle (Prevent, Detect, Respond, Control)
- Roles and Responsibilities (Government, Non-Government, the Individual)
- Tools in the Toolbox (Models, Detection Tools, Monitoring Tools, Communications)



The 2016 North American Envirothon will be held July 24– 29, 2016 at Trent University in Ontario, Canada

### Brief Overview of the Learning Objectives:

- Explain **what an invasive species is**.
- Describe the **economic, social, and environmental impacts** of invasive species.
- **Effects/impacts of invasive species** on the ecosystems with reference to biodiversity.
- Explain how **ecological impacts may vary** by species.
- Compare **theories about the characteristics that assist** invasive species in establishing new populations.
- Describe the **pathways through which invasive species are introduced**.
- Stages of the invasive species management cycle and components of an invasive species management plan.
- Assess the **costs associated with controlling** an invasive species on a state/province-wide basis.
- Outline **methods of controlling** an invasive species.
- How **various levels of government and other organizations** are involved in the management of invasive species.
- Are all invasive species **created equal**? Describe how risk is assessed.
- Means by which invasive species are **detected and monitored** and a basic knowledge of **models and tools used to monitor** invasive species.
- Demonstrate **knowledge of the policies/legislation** involved in preventing, detecting, monitoring, and controlling invasive species.
- Describe the **role for non-government and the average citizen** in managing invasive species.
- Ways to reduce the arrival of new invasive species.
- Knowledge of the **various forms of outreach and education** being used and their effectiveness.

Visit [www.iowaenvirothon.org](http://www.iowaenvirothon.org) and [www.envirothon.org/the-competition/current-competition.htm](http://www.envirothon.org/the-competition/current-competition.htm) for full details and materials related to this topic and the national competition.

## Conservation Districts of Iowa Scholarship Opportunity!

CDI is partnering with local soil and water conservation districts (SWCD) to foster the higher education endeavors of Iowa students interested in conservation and agriculture by offering scholarships. Iowa High School Class of 2016 students pursuing programs of study in any field of conservation or agriculture qualifies for the Conservation Scholarship.



For Scholarship Application & Instructions, visit [www.cdiowa.org/programs](http://www.cdiowa.org/programs)

---

## High School Level Conservation Poster Contest!

The annual National Conservation Poster Contest provides students an opportunity to convey their thoughts about soil, water and related natural resource issues through art. Posters must reflect and include the title of this year's contest theme "We All Need Trees" on the poster. 45 Iowa state winners will receive a cash award. The 5 state winners will be on display at the 2016 Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner Annual Conference in August 2016 and will then be sent to the national poster contest for consideration for a national award and on display at the 2017 NACD Annual Meeting.



For Poster Contest Rules & Entry Form, visit [www.cdiowa.org/programs](http://www.cdiowa.org/programs)

---



Don't forget to "like" Iowa Envirothon on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/IowaEnvirothon>

View Iowa Envirothon's NEW website

[www.iowaenvirothon.org](http://www.iowaenvirothon.org)

Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) reserves the right to use any photograph taken at any Iowa Envirothon event without the expressed written permission of those included within the photograph. CDI may use the photograph in publications or other media material produced or used by CDI including but not limited to: brochures, newsletters, newspapers, websites, social media, etc.

To ensure the privacy of individuals, images will not be identified using full names or personal identifying information without written approval from the photographed subject, parent or legal guardian.



# 2016 Iowa Envirothon

Put together your five-member team TODAY! Please complete a separate form for each team registration.

Questions: Contact Courtney at 515-289-8300 or [admin@cdiowa.org](mailto:admin@cdiowa.org).

Complete the information below and return to the Iowa Envirothon with payment:

School or Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_  FFA Team

Team Advisor/Coach: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Below, please select the Regional Envirothon Competition where you would prefer to compete (1=first choice, 2=second choice) **Please list a second choice for a location in case your first option is full.** Early registration is recommended, as each site is limited to 16 teams per competition.

- \_\_\_\_\_ March 1 – Hawkeye Community College, Waterloo
- \_\_\_\_\_ March 8 – Fairgrounds, Red Oak
- \_\_\_\_\_ March 15 – Cherokee Community Center, Cherokee
- \_\_\_\_\_ March 15 – Kirkwood Community College, Iowa City
- \_\_\_\_\_ March 17 – DMACC, West Des Moines

***\$80.00 registration fee per team registration***

***Make Checks Payable to Conservation Districts of Iowa***

**Submit your registration and payment to:**

Conservation Districts of Iowa  
Attn: Iowa Envirothon  
945 SW Ankeny Road, Suite A  
Ankeny, Iowa 50023  
Email: [admin@cdiowa.org](mailto:admin@cdiowa.org)

***Registration is not confirmed until receipt of payment.***

Schools often take quite a bit of time to process payments, so please get your request in to your school for the Iowa Envirothon registration fee right away!

Registration fees cover both Regional and State Competition fees for teams who compete at each event. Upon receiving registration and payment, a confirmation of receipt will include further information for both events as they occur.

**ALL REGISTRATIONS POSTMARKED AFTER FEBRUARY 1, 2016 INCUR A \$35 FEE!**



Conservation Districts of Iowa  
945 SW Ankeny Road, Suite A  
Ankeny, Iowa 50023

***Keep in touch!*** Help us help you stay informed on all things Envirothon.  
Know someone who'd like to start an Iowa Envirothon team? ***Let us know!***

- Yes! Please send information on how to organize a team for the Iowa Envirothon.
- Please update my contact information.
- Please add my name to your mailing list.
- Please remove my name from your mailing list.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

***Thanks for your continued support of the Iowa Envirothon!***