

MASSACHUSETTS ENVIROTHON

news release

www.massenvirothon.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2016 Mass. Envirothon winners announced

Bay State teens show off their knowledge of the environment

HOPKINTON, Mass., May 13, 2016 – Local teenagers have been rewarded for their hard work and the environmental knowledge they gained in preparing for this year's Massachusetts Envirothon, held on Thursday, May 12th at Hopkinton State Park, Hopkinton, Mass. The top scoring teams in the outdoor field competition have been announced.

For the past school year, high school students across the Bay State have been studying soil, water, wildlife and forestry, as well as researching the role of human activity in the spread and control of invasive species as they participated in this environmental education program.

At the event, teams rotated through four "ecostations" where they answered written questions and engaged in hands-on activities such as soil analysis, wildlife habitat assessment, tree identification, and water quality measures. Each team can have up to 10 participants who split into specialized sub-teams during the competition, each focusing their efforts at different ecostations.

At the fifth station, the Current Issue, each team gave a 15 minute presentation on "Managing Invasive Species" to a panel of judges. Teams researched the Current Issue in their own community in preparation for their presentation. Judges included environmental professionals from government agencies, non-profit organizations, academia and private industry. Teams were asked to assess the effects of invasive species in their community and to recommend steps that their city or town and individuals, including young people, should take to address the issue.

This year's top scoring teams are:

Overall Score

1st place	Newton North High School
2nd place	Acton-Boxborough Regional High School
3rd place	Lexington High School

NOTE to editors & reporters:

Group and action photos of teams are available. Contact [Diane Petit](mailto:Diane.Petit@ma.usda.gov) (contact info above) to request photos of your local team.

Current Issue Presentation

1st place	Lexington High School
2nd place	Greenfield High School
3rd place	Newton North High School
4th place	Bedford High School
5th place	Andover High School

Forestry Ecostation

1st place	Lexington High School
2nd place	Newton North High School
3rd place	Newton South High School
4th place	Mount Greylock Regional High School
5th place	Pioneer Valley Regional High School

Wildlife Ecostation

1st place	Lexington High School
2nd place	Newton North High School
3rd place	Acton-Boxborough Regional High School
4th place	Mount Greylock Regional High School
5th place	Bedford High School

Water Ecostation

1st place	Acton-Boxborough Regional High School
2nd place	Newton North High School
3rd place (tie)	Mount Greylock Regional High School Quabbin Regional High School
4th place	Newton South High School
5th place	Pioneer Valley Regional School

Soils Ecostation

1st place	Deerfield Academy
2nd place (tie)	Acton-Boxborough Regional High School Newton North High School Oliver Ames High School Pioneer Valley Regional High School Brockton High School / Wildland Trust
3rd place	Newton South High School
4th place (tie)	Mount Greylock Regional High School Monson Environmental Action Team
5th place (tie)	David Prouty High School Reading High School Shepherd Hill Regional High School

"The Envirothon not only increases awareness of significant environmental issues, such as the spreading of invasive species, but most importantly, it engages and challenges young minds to think and prepare for possible solutions for future generations," said **Matthew Beaton, Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs**.

"These teams work hard getting to know their local ecosystems and how their communities depend on them. We test their scientific knowledge, but we also like to hear their stories about how they have gotten muddy, cold, and tired, and otherwise had fun and fallen in love with nature in their neighborhood. The best hope for the future comes from engaged, scientifically literate citizens who care about their communities and the environment," said Massachusetts Envirothon Steering Committee Chair **Will Snyder of the University of Massachusetts Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment**.

The 2016 Massachusetts Envirothon is made possible through the contributions of partnering agencies and organizations, including financial support from the 2014 Massachusetts Environmental Bond Bill, the U.S. Forest Service, the Massachusetts Grange, Environmental Business Council of New England, Wegman's supermarkets and local conservation districts.

Fifteen federal and state environmental agencies, conservation districts, non-profit organizations, higher educational institutions, and businesses provide expertise and help organize the event. Dozens of volunteers will also be on hand on May 12th to handle all the event logistics from setting up tents, tables and chairs, checking-in teams, serving food, scoring tests and cleaning up.

For more information on the Massachusetts Envirothon visit www.massenvirothon.org.