



MASSACHUSETTS
ENVIROTHON

Massachusetts Envirothon

Spring Workshop AGENDA

Friday April 10, 2026

◆ 8:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. ◆

Alden Campus, 30 Shrewsbury St. Holden, MA

Morning Coffee & Refreshments provided
Bring a bag lunch



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Flow Labs

Workshop Schedule

8:45 a.m.	Registration Sign-up for Workshops	Front Lobby
9:00 - 9:10	Welcome <i>Amie Humphrey Facendola, AVP Division Leader & MA Envirothon Alumni</i>	Hecker Auditorium
9:15 - 10:25	Simultaneous Workshops - choose one <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mystery Mammal Challenge ● Tree Identification Workshop ● Water Quality ● Soil properties and qualities ● Current Issue Related: Effective Presentations 	Conference Room Lower Lobby Library Break Room Hecker Auditorium
10:30 - 11:40	Simultaneous Workshops - choose one <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Look Listen Notice Hike ● Tree Measuring Workshop ● Macro-invertebrates Water workshop ● Soil Profile Description ● Alden Campus Tour 	Conference Room Lower Lobby Library Break Room Main Lobby
11:45 - 12:20	Lunch	Break Room or Hecker Auditorium
12:30 – 3:00	Mini Envirothon	

Teams are encouraged to split up and attend different workshop sessions. Coaches are welcome to participate in workshops, but should give first priority to team learning/questions. Almost all of the session will be outdoors
please DRESS APPROPRIATELY (Rain gear! Warm layers! Sturdy shoes! Hat!)

Workshop Descriptions

Verdantas Alden Campus Tour

Founded in 1894 and located in Holden, MA, Verdantas Flow Labs (formally Alden Research Laboratory) is the oldest continuously operating hydraulic laboratory in the United States and one of the oldest in the world. From the early days of hydropower development and aviation, through World Wars I and II, and into the modern world defined by environmental needs, Verdantas Flow Labs has been a recognized leader in the field of fluid dynamics consulting. On this tour of the 32 acres Alden Campus participants will get a look into how Verdantas Flow Labs' s engineers, scientists, biologists, and support staff get their hands dirty solving flow problems and helping to clean the World's environment and power its infrastructure, through fish protection studies, physical modeling experiments, flow calibration, and modeling air pollution control systems.

Dan Giza, Senior Consultant, Department Lead, Verdantas Flow Labs

Current Issue Related: Effective Presentations

What makes a great presentation? Pick up some general (and real life!) presentation skills from a Verdantas Engineer who gives many presentations as part of their profession. This workshop will discuss what makes an impactful presentation, both through meaningful visual aids and effective verbal communication. Using real-world engineering project examples, you will learn the “dos” and “don'ts” in communicating the key points of your Current Issue project finding to the panel of judges in May. Here's your chance to ask questions and receive some guidance from a professional presenter and past Current Issue Judge!

Joe Lucier, Senior Engineer, Verdantas Flow Labs

Tree Identification Workshop

Learn how to identify a variety of native Massachusetts trees by learning the basics of tree ID techniques. Felicia will introduce you to some simple strategies such as the acronym called MADCAPHORSE and other techniques. You will learn how to use the tree's bark, overall shape, branching pattern, buds, leaves, acorn, nuts and even the smell of the tree as identifiers. You will be sure to recognize these trees when you apply these methods throughout the year and see them again on the day of the Massachusetts Envirothon.

Justin Sauvageau, Science Teacher & Envirothon Coach, Shepherd Hill Regional High School

Tree Measurement Workshop

Go outside on the Alden campus and try out your hand at measuring trees. The instructor will review procedures for using a variety of tree measuring tools. You will learn how to measure height, diameter and determine board foot volume. These techniques will be tested on the day of the Massachusetts Envirothon. Dress to be outdoors.

Justin Sauvageau, Science Teacher & Envirothon Coach, Shepherd Hill Regional High School

Soils Workshop - Soil properties and qualities

In this hands-on workshop you can practice your soil texturing skills, identify soil structure and color, and observe the importance of soil management on soil properties.

Maggie Payne, State Soil Scientist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Soils Workshop – Soil profile description

In this workshop we will observe soils in the field and learn to identify soil horizons, drainage class, parent material and soil texture. This will be an outdoor workshop so dress ready for the weather.

Maggie Payne, State Soil Scientist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Mystery Mammal Challenge

The ability to use field guides and other applicable resources is essential for the Envirothon. In this hands-on workshop, students will work in small groups as they rotate through a series of stations to answer questions based on wildlife artifacts. You will hone your identification skills during this workshop and become more familiar with the use of field guides and other applicable resource materials.

Emily Stolarski, Meghan Crawford, & Hannah Crawford, Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (MassWildlife)

Look, Listen, and Notice what is Happening in your Natural World

We will go outside and make observations of the ‘wildness’ around us with a special eye to the connection of wildlife, water, soils, and forests. We will select a couple different habitat types in which to make our observations, engage our senses, ask questions, be curious, increase our awareness, and share reflections on the experience. **DRESS TO BE OUTDOORS.**

Emily Stolarski, Meghan Crawford, & Hannah Crawford, Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (MassWildlife)

Macro-invertebrate and Sampling Workshop

This workshop offers students the opportunity to conduct hands-on identification and field sampling of aquatic macro-invertebrates. Students will learn about various species of macro-invertebrates, get an understanding of which are indicators of poor and healthy aquatic systems, and get a chance to collect live organisms in the field (weather permitting). During the field portion of this workshop, students will visit a brook site and get the chance to apply their identification knowledge and field sampling skills in an aquatic field environment.

Kathryn Parent, Education Program Coordinator, DCR – Water Supply Protection

Water Quality and Sampling Workshop

This workshop offers students the opportunity to understand important water quality parameters, what determines a healthy aquatic system, and how to collect water quality data. Students will learn about water quality parameters, various types of data collection equipment and get a chance to use digital water quality meters to measure parameters in the field (weather permitting). During the field portion of this workshop, students will visit several different aquatic habitats around Alden to collect water quality measurements and discuss what they find.

Kathryn Parent, Education Program Coordinator, DCR – Water Supply Protection

Mini-Envirothon

Curious about what to expect on competition day? Want to try out some questions to see if you’re ready? Teams will visit 5 stations for 25 minutes each. Short hands-on tests will be administered and then discussed at Forest, Water, Wildlife and Soil. At the Current Issue station teams will have a chance ask questions, check in about their progress and/or judge a presentation using a real score sheet and consider what it takes to make an effective presentation.

Driving Directions

From the Boston Area/Points East:

Massachusetts Turnpike/I-90 West to I-495 North to I-290 West to I-190 North. I-190 North to Exit 2 (Holden/West Mountain Street). On exit ramp continue through first stop light to West Mountain Street. Left onto West Mountain Street; go 1.3 miles to Shrewsbury Street. Left onto Shrewsbury Street; go 0.8 miles to Alden (on right just before intersection of Route 122A).

From Southern Eastern MA:

I-95 North to Route 146 North to I-290 East to I-190 North. I-190 North to Exit 2 (Holden/West Mountain Street). On exit ramp continue through first stop light to West Mountain Street. Left onto West Mountain Street; go 1.3 miles to Shrewsbury Street. Left onto Shrewsbury Street; go 0.8 miles to Alden (on right just before intersection of Route 122A).

From Points West:

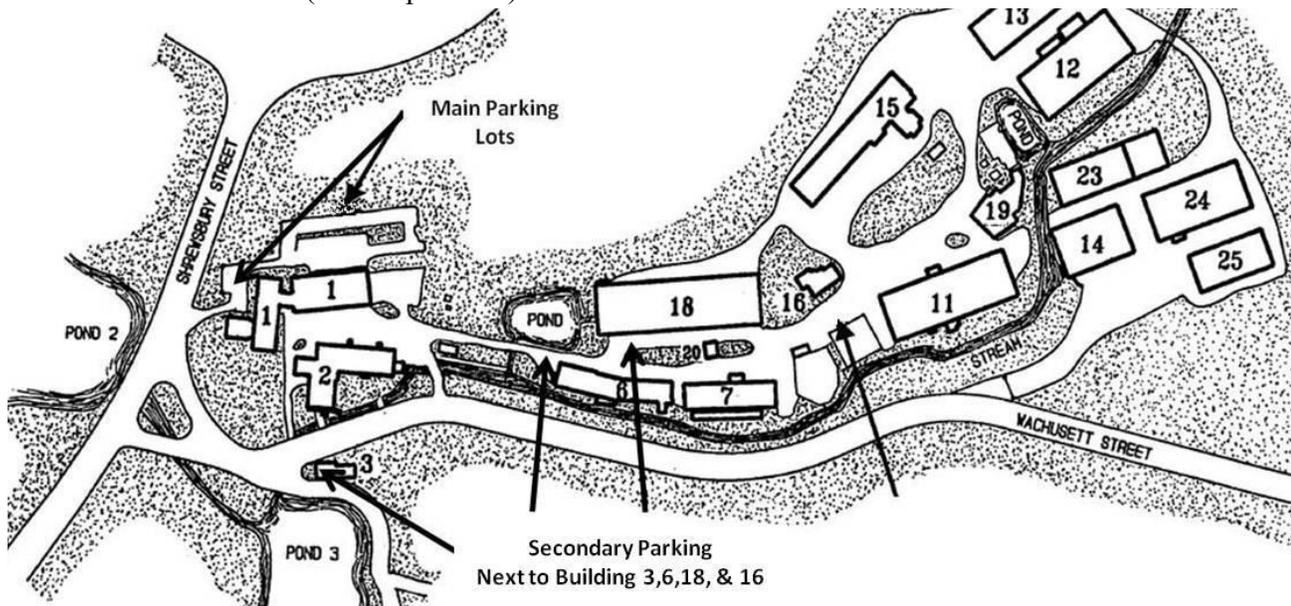
Massachusetts Turnpike/I-90 to I-290 East to I-190 North. I-190 North to Exit 2 (Holden/West Mountain Street). On exit ramp continue through first stop light to West Mountain Street. Left onto West Mountain Street; go 1.3 miles to Shrewsbury Street. Left onto Shrewsbury Street; go 0.8 miles to Alden (on right just before intersection of Route 122A).

From Points North/Route 2:

Take preferred road to I-190 South. I-190 South to Exit 3 (Holden/West Mountain Street). Right onto West Mountain Street; go 1.3 miles to Shrewsbury Street. Left onto Shrewsbury Street; go 0.8 miles to Alden (on right just before intersection of Route 122A).

Parking Information

Parking is available in the lots next to the main building off of Shrewsbury Street. Secondary and Bus parking is available around the back of the property outside several of the testing buildings, these areas are accessible off of Wachusett Street (see Map below).



Alden Campus Buildings 1 & 2

