

Enviro Web

Newsletter of the Manitoba Envirothon

Mark your calendar!!
May 21st to 23rd, 2009

Coordinator's Corner by Andrea Swain

Happy New Year! We currently have 13 teams registered for the Manitoba Envirothon. A BIG welcome to new teams St. Boniface Diocesan High School and Swan Lake Watershed Conservation District.

Remember the deadline to register is coming up quickly on February 13th, 2009.

The Envirothon will be held at the International Peace Garden from May 21st to 23rd, 2009. On page 4 you will find information about crossing the border...yes, we are leaving Canada!

Our spring workshop will be THURSDAY, April 16th at Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre. We have a full day of activities

planned to help students learn more about the theme topic and about what they can expect on the field test.

Registration Fee Update

I apologize that I had written the wrong number on the last registration form!

The fees for 2009 are \$571.50+GST=\$600.

There is no difference in cost for first, second or third teams!

There is also no limit to the number of teams your school can enter.

We are hoping to have the largest Envirothon to date so please let me know if you are planning to register.

The promotional DVD is complete and I am just waiting on the holder. Once I have the completed package I will send a new copy to everyone who is interested.

New to Envirothon?

If you are new to Envirothon you can find additional information about getting started on our website at www.mbenvirothon.com or you can call me at 453-3182.

*As long as you're going to be thinking anyway,
THINK BIG.
Donald Trump*

Envirothon Workshop Details

When: THURSDAY, April 16th

Where: Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre
www.oakhammockmarsh.ca

Why: To learn about this year's theme-Biodiversity in a Changing World, receive training on the equipment that will be used on the field test, do a mock version of the trail test, and meet your competition!

What: A one-day workshop

Who: All registered teams and their advisors

Watch the February newsletter for the registration form. The workshop is not mandatory and teams will not be penalized if they choose not to attend. The registration fee is being finalized as we work out the details for the day but it will likely be \$15/person.

Inside this issue:

Coordinator's Corner	Cover
Details about Workshop	Cover
Envirothon Equipment List	2
Meet your competition	2
Animal tracks in the snow	3
Glenn's Joke Corner	3
Border Crossing Information	4
Envirothon Prizes	4
Registration Form	5
Upcoming Events	6

Envirothon Equipment

A number of teams have asked about getting a list of equipment that we use at Envirothon. I have asked the volunteers who put together the training and testing for their lists. Hopefully, this will help you prepare.

Soils & Land Use

- Munsell colour chart
- Inclinator
- Ruler
- Shovel
- Canadian System of Soil Classification
- Soil Survey report
- GPS unit
- Maps

Forestry

- Sunto PM
- Clinometer
- Metric Diameter-Tapes
- CFE increment borer (5.1mm complete)
- C-thru UTM grid reader
- CFE Magnifiers

Wildlife

- Duck decoys
- Scat ID books
- Scat, Owl pellets
- Mammal track moulds, Bird track moulds
- Wooden rulers for sizing scat and tracks
- Skulls, Skull ID books
- Furs
- Antlers or horns
- Wildflower books
- Pressed wildflowers and grasses (native and non-native)

Aquatic Ecology

- stopwatch
- measuring tape
- oranges!
- Multimeter (O₂, pH, temp)
- Filtration equipment – filters, jug and siphon, clamp
- D-net, seine net

Meet your competition

The following 13 teams have registered for 2009. We look forward to hosting the largest Envirothon to date and we encourage you all to register as soon as possible!

Baker School (the team to beat!)

Fairholme

Fort Richmond Collegiate

Morden Collegiate

Pembina Valley Conservation District

Shaftsbury High School Team #1

Shaftsbury High School Team #2

St. Boniface Diocesan High School (welcome new team!)

Swan Valley Regional Secondary School

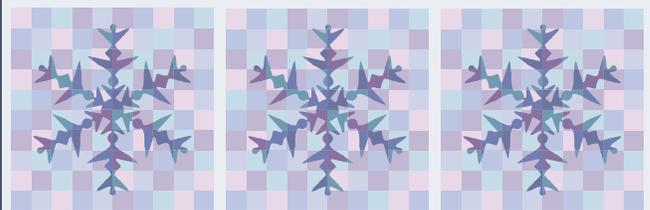
Swan Lake Watershed Conservation District (welcome new team!)

North West Soil Management

Vincent Massey Collegiate

Westwood Collegiate

**Snowflakes are
some of nature's
most fragile things
but look what they
can do when they
stick together!**



Animal Tracks in the Snow

I came across this great online magazine called "Nature North Zine" (<http://www.naturenorth.com>) They call themselves "Manitoba's online nature magazine". I enjoyed many of their articles about the plants and animals that make Manitoba such an amazing place. The following excerpt is from their winter edition. For the rest of the article and a really good guide to animal tracks in the snow go to <http://www.naturenorth.com/winter/tracks/Ftrack.html>

You're out for a walk on a winter's day and encounter a set of [animal tracks](#) in the snow. You don't see any animals around you at that moment. Your curiosity is piqued. What animal made those tracks? What was it doing, where was it going? Curiosity is natural for us humans, everyone loves a mystery. And what could be more mysterious than the tell-tale signs of an unseen presence! Signs that a wild thing was here! So, maybe it was just a squirrel or the neighbour's cat, but how would you know if you don't know what a squirrel or a cat track looks like? How many times have you found strange markings in the snow and wondered what made them? Well, don't you think it's about time you learned to recognize some of the signs that Mother Nature leaves out for you? We do. So, we've prepared this introduction to the tracks of some of Manitoba's common critters. This is far from a complete guide, but it's enough to get you started. We decided to stick to mammals, for now, but we'll probably update this article and put in some bird tracks in the future.

For more information on animal tracks, pick up a copy of the Peterson Field Guide: A Field Guide to Animal Tracks, by Olaus J. Murie. And check out our Class Room Section, we've included some suggestions for some tracks-in-the-snow activities.

Getting Started

The two questions that usually come to mind when you first find a set of animal tracks are: "What animal made these tracks?" and "What was it doing?" The first question usually has a definitive answer, but answering the second often requires an educated guess! Let's examine how to answer both these questions.

Glenn's Joke Corner by Glenn Peterson

Hi All:

Just a reminder that we are holding an *Envirojoke Contest*. As part of the

Upon your teams' registration for the 2009 event you are eligible to submit 5 appropriate (clean,) jokes for consideration. Me and a crack team of humour consultants will choose the best one and the winning team will receive a fabulous prize package. Plus your joke will be used at the 2009 Mb Envirothon opening ceremony, along with some of the others received.

Remember jokes should be of an environmental nature, with theme topic jokes getting added value – for 2009 it's Biodiversity! Watch in future newsletters for more information and the submission details, but start finding those jokes now!

Q: What did the tree wear to the pool party?

A: Swimming trunks!

Q: What did the beaver say to the tree?

A: It's been nice gnawing you!

Q: Why did the leaf go to the doctor?

A: It was feeling green!

Q: What is a tree's least favorite month?

A: Sep-timber!

Q: What kind of tree can fit into your hand?

A: A palm tree!

Q: How do trees get on the internet?

A: "They ""log"" in."



Border Crossing Information

You may be asking yourself why you need to know anything about crossing the border when you go to the International Peace Garden. Well, when you enter the Peace Garden you enter on the Canadian side and do not cross the border HOWEVER when you leave the Peace Garden you are considered to have left Canada and so you must cross the border to re-enter Canada...clear as mud? When leaving the Peace Garden we are all required to cross at the Customs and Border Crossing and we are all required to show proper ID. I will send further details about this in future correspondence but here are the requirements in brief:

Youth (under 18): picture ID (driver's license or passport) and birth certificate. If you do not have picture ID I would encourage you to bring your school ID card.

Adults (over 18): picture ID (driver's license or passport) and birth certificate

- YOU DO NOT REQUIRE A PASSPORT as long as you have the other ID.
- As stated by the Border Services Agency, we will also be requiring you to have letters signed by both legal guardians of each of the students. I will send this form letter closer to the date.
- If you have a student or advisor on your team who is not Canadian please double and triple check that they are allowed to leave Canada. Do they need a special Visa? Are they restricted from leaving Canada?

For more information: <http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/security-securite/admiss-eng.html#s1>

Prizes for Envirothon

I have had a few teachers ask me about what prizes the students receive as part of Envirothon. At the Manitoba Envirothon the main prize is the honour to represent Manitoba at the Canon Envirothon the upcoming summer. The MB Envirothon provides the team with \$5,000 in travel assistance to the winning team. The MB Envirothon also has amazing support from many organizations across the province who donate prizes each year so that all teams leave with a memory of the event. The winning team members also receive a hand-made wooden tree trophy, a large tree to be placed at their school for the year and the top three teams receive medals.

At the Canon Envirothon the First through Tenth place team members will be awarded Canon Scholarships that can be used toward a four year university, two year college or trade school. The students will have two years after graduation from high school to use the Canon Scholarship money. For all students receiving Canon Scholarships, the process to claim the money will be the same. The student will submit the tuition bill from the university, college, or school to the Canon Envirothon Executive Director. The Executive Director will then forward the bill to the Canon Envirothon Treasurer and the treasurer will issue a check directly to the school for the amount allowed. There are also prizes of Canon equipment such as cameras, printers, etc. awarded to teams up to 15th place. Specific prizes are as follows:

First Place	\$5,000 per student
Second Place	\$4,000 per student
Third Place	\$3,000 per student
Fourth Place	\$2,000 per student
Fifth Place	\$1,500 per student
Sixth Place	\$1,400 per student
Seventh Place	\$1,300 per student
Eighth Place	\$1,200 per student
Ninth Place	\$1,100 per student
Tenth Place	\$1,000 per student



Swan Valley Regional School holding their 8th place prize at the 2007 Canon Envirothon

The winning team from the Manitoba Envirothon will represent the province at the Canon Envirothon 2009 from August 2 - August 8 at the University of North Carolina in Asheville, North Carolina.

For more about the event visit:

http://www.envirothon.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=36&Itemid=39

2009 Manitoba Envirothon Registration

Please print this form and send with your Cheque or Money Order made payable to:

Manitoba Forestry Association - 900 Corydon Avenue

Winnipeg, Manitoba R3M 0Y4

2009 Manitoba Envirothon Deadlines for Registration

All teams must be registered by February 13, 2009

TEAM INFORMATION

School Name/Organization	
Mailing Address	
City/Town	
Postal Code	
Telephone Number	
Fax Number	
School Email	

TEACHER/ADVISOR INFORMATION (If same as above, please indicate 'same')

Teacher/Advisor Name	
Mailing Address	
City/Town	
Postal Code	
Telephone Number	
Fax Number	
Teacher/Advisor Email	

Registration Fee: includes resource materials, accommodation and food for five-person team and two advisors

\$571.50+GST=\$600

Registration deadline is February 13, 2009. All registrations received after this date are subject to a late fee.

Paid by:	Money Order "	Personal Cheque "	School Cheque "
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Once your registration is received your resource materials will be mailed to you .

Upcoming Events

Networking Opportunity

Green Café

The Manitoba Environmental Youth Network is hosting a monthly networking event called “**Green Café**”. This is an opportunity for green minded youth to get together and hang out. The next Green Café is February 13th from 4:30-6:30.

For more information: <http://www.mbecoyouth.org/events/cafe-vert-green-café>

Science for Life

The University of Winnipeg, Faculty of Science is hosting a “Science for Life” conference that will be held at the University of Winnipeg on **Wednesday, February 11th, 2009**. The goal of this conference is to encourage students from all backgrounds to consider science as a career option

More information: http://www.stam.mb.ca/Life_for_Science_Conference.pdf

Learning Opportunity for Students

Show us your moves! Transportation workshop

Date and time: January 29, 2009 5:00 pm-7:00 pm Or Date and time: February 3, 2009 12:30pm-2:30 pm

Location: Resource Conservation Manitoba

This workshop, one of the most important parts of the project, is an opportunity for Manitoban youth to look at examples of youth-friendly and not-so-youth-friendly transportation sent in by youth from across the province. We will discuss how transportation could be made more youth friendly and compare our ideas to the draft "Guidelines for Child- and Youth-Friendly Land-Use and Transportation Planning for Manitoba" that are being developed by the Centre for Sustainable Transportation.

More Information: <http://www.mbecoyouth.org/events/show-us-your-moves-workshop>

Learning Opportunity for Teachers

Forest Ed 2009 hosted by the Manitoba Forestry Association

Date: March 6 and 7, 2009

Location: Whiteshell Provincial Park

Registration Fee: \$75.00 (includes transportation from Wpg., accommodations, meals and resources)

A hands-on workshop for teachers of all grades interested in learning more about the “Forest Ecosystem”. In this two day workshop we will focus on studying forest ecosystems in the winter, visit a forestry operation in action, and learn some winter activities to do with your students. **More Information:** see attached pdf.

PLANNING AHEAD?

The 2010 Canon Envirothon will be hosted in California and the current theme is

“PROTECTION OF GROUNDWATER THROUGH URBAN, AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING”

For further information on Manitoba Envirothon, contact:



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