



Enviro Web

Newsletter of the Manitoba Envirothon

Mark your calendar!!
May 22nd to 24th, 2008

Coordinator's Corner by Andrea Swain

The old expression "time flies when you are having fun!" has never been more true for me. Working on Envirothon is truly my dream job and my only challenge is trying to figure out how to implement the next great idea! As you will read in this newsletter we are working on a number of new initiatives in 2008. Learn more about these initiatives on page 4.

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.

Upcoming Presentations

I will be doing presentations and have a booth set up at:

- SAG on November 23 at Fort Richmond Collegiate

- Youth Conference on Climate Change at UofW on November 30 and December 7
- Manitoba Conservation Districts Association from December 10 to 11 at the Keystone Centre in Brandon

Looking forward to seeing some of you at these events!

Registration Fee Update

For those of you who have registered for Envirothon in past years you will notice that we now have to charge GST on Envirothon registration. New fees are 1st team \$500+GST=\$530, 2nd team from the same school \$750+GST=\$795

If you have any questions about registering please do not hesitate to get in touch with me!



Ayla is growing and changing every day! She is 6 months old already...like I said...time flies!

Details about the 2008 Manitoba Envirothon

When: May 22nd to 24th

Where: Pinawa, MB
(www.pinawa.com)

Why: To learn about this year's theme-Recreational Impacts on Natural Resources

What: A challenging environmental education competition!

Who: Registration begins today! You can find the registration form on page 5 of this newsletter.



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2008 Theme

Recreation, whether active or passive, is vitally important to everyone and offers physical, emotional, and spiritual benefits. The amount of time and money people spend on recreation is rising, along with the diversity of recreational opportunities. What impacts might these have upon the natural world? We need to more fully examine their 'footprints' upon our natural resources. This is especially true in the arid West, particularly in AZ where...

- The Sonoran, Mohave, Great Basin, and Chihuahuan Deserts together cover much of Arizona.
- The largest stand of ponderosa pine forest on the continent stretches from near Flagstaff along the Mogollon Rim to the White Mountains region.

Webster's defines recreation as "refreshment in body or mind, as after work, by some form of play, amusement, or relaxation" and includes games, hobbies, sports, and other activities. For our purposes, we will narrow the focus to outdoor activities within a natural setting. Examples for Arizona include hunting, fishing, hiking and backpacking, skiing, mountain biking, rock climbing, rafting and kayaking, bird watching, and cultural observations/explorations. These may be low- or high-tech, low- or high impact, and require little or strenuous physical exertion. No matter the form of recreation, humans are consumers and leave behind some trace upon the earth. This 'trace' often grows considerably as the number of people using that resource increases and can negatively impact vital natural resources.

Recreation is important to the economy. Consider these statistics for Arizona: in 2005, according to the National Park Service, more than 11.5 million people visited Arizona's 21 National Parks and National Monuments. According to Dr. John Silberman from Arizona State University West, fishing and hunting alone generated nearly \$1 billion in retail sales for 2001. Applying this data to Arizona's economy, these sales provided a statewide economic impact of \$1.34 billion, which supported 17,190 jobs, created \$314 million in household income, and added \$58.2 million to annual state tax revenues... just for hunting and fishing in Arizona! And, Dr. Silberman indicates that economic significance is tied to the location and natural resource as well.

How might recreation impact natural resources? One impact often gives rise to more, creating a cascading effect that may become difficult for land managers to control. Changes in water quality and alteration of surface flows impact water. Compaction and erosion often degrade soils. Non-native flora and fauna can be introduced into the ecosystem, causing shifts in the balance from native to non-native species. The frequency of wildfire can change, causing shifts in the flora and fauna of an area.

Recreation leads to an increase in the use of energy, especially fossil fuels, leading to air and water pollution. Noise pollution may alter natural range and habitat especially critical to sensitive species. And, how do we manage human waste that is a by-product of our lifestyle?

These are only a few of the potential impacts. And, all are intertwined. A prime example: as soils are disturbed they may erode with resulting debris creating runoff into nearby streams, thus changing the water quality. The change in water quality may have serious repercussions for native species that rely on cleaner water. Non-native species may outcompete native species if they can tolerate the sediment load while the natives do not. This, of course, is a simplified version of a possible chain of events. In reality, the impacts are far more extensive and complicated.

Some questions to ponder:

- What is your favorite recreational activity? How do you think this activity impacts natural resources? How might you reduce any negative impacts that directly or indirectly result from this pastime?
- What might be the impact of limiting certain recreational activities? Is preservation (no use) better than conservation (managed use)? How can we manage use in order to minimize negative impacts?
- In the face of increasing demand for both traditional and new forms of recreation, how can we balance our need to enjoy the natural world with maintaining the quality of the environment?
- Although recreation can add significantly to both local and state economies, are there options through preservation and conservation to off-set the losses due to decreased recreation?

2008 Theme

Recreational Impacts on Natural Resources

This summary is taken directly from the information provided by Arizona...you may have noticed that it is very focused on ARIZONA!?

The Manitoba Envirothon will refine the learning objectives and the information so that it is focused on Manitoba examples and references. We wanted you to see the theme as written by Arizona first.

2007 Canon Envirothon



CONGRATULATIONS!

The Swan Valley Regional Secondary School made Manitoba proud by placing eighth at the 2007 Canon Envirothon in Geneva, New York last summer. The cheques they are holding is a \$1,200 scholarship to be used towards their post-secondary endeavors.

We would also like to extend our congratulations to the other teams from Canada who had a great showing at Canon. The team from Ontario placed 14th, the team from Alberta placed 15th and the team from Saskatchewan won the Rookie Award!

Career Focus

Are you thinking about what to do after high school? Not sure what you want to be when you grow-up? We hope that Envirothon inspires you to pursue a career that has an environmental focus. If you are passionate about an environmental issue there are many exciting careers that can give you the tools to put your passion into action. Here are some websites that describe jobs in the environmental field:

- Environmental Careers Organization Canada <http://www.eco.ca/>
- Careers at Environment Canada <http://www.ec.gc.ca/recruit/english/english.htm>
- Good Work Canada <http://www.planetfriendly.net/goodwork.html>

In future newsletters, we will profile Manitoba professionals working in a variety of environmental careers. If you would like to know what it is like to work as a meteorologist, an executive director at a non-profit, or any other environmental field please let us know by emailing envirocoordinator@mts.net.

Sponsor Profile

The Manitoba Envirothon would not be possible without the generous support from our many sponsors and volunteers. In each newsletter we will be profiling one of our many sponsors who help make this program a success. We'd like to begin our profile with the Manitoba Model Forest.

Organization: Manitoba Model Forest

Funding Envirothon Since: 1998

Website: www.manitobamodelforest.net

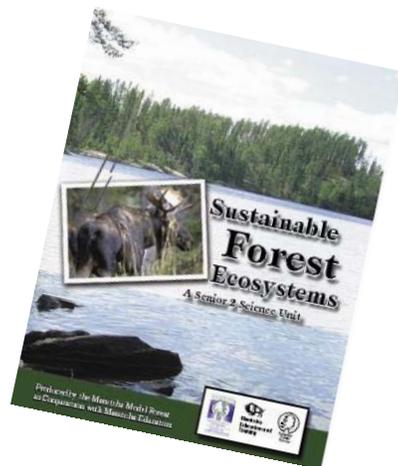
Member on the Manitoba Envirothon Steering Committee: Bob Austman, MBMF Education Coordinator

What do they do? The Manitoba Model Forest is one of a number of Model Forests across Canada. It is supported, in part, through funding from the Canadian Forest Service, and the contributions of a variety of organizations and individuals from across the Province of Manitoba. It brings together the most up-to-date science, technology and traditional ecological knowledge to generate new ideas and on-the-ground solutions for today's sustainable forest management challenges.

Why you should contact the Manitoba Model Forest: The Manitoba Model Forest offers a number of programs and resources that you can use in your class. Some of the ones that are particularly relevant to high school students include:

- Sustainable Forest Ecosystems Curriculum for Senior 2 Science
- Boreal Woodland Caribou Curriculum for Senior 4 Biology
- Biomonitoring program
- Classroom tours of a working Model Forest

Once again we would like to thank our long-time sponsor the Manitoba Model Forest and we hope that teachers and students across Manitoba have a chance to use their innovative resources and participate in their engaging programs.



New Initiatives for 2008

Ever since hosting the 2006 Canon Envirothon momentum has been building around the Manitoba Envirothon program. The Manitoba Forestry Association is committed to growing the Envirothon program. Our volunteer committee is developing a 3-year strategic plan that includes new programs that will help us reach more students, and will help us secure long-term funding. Here are some highlights from the plan:

Northern Outreach Program

- We are currently piloting an Envirothon Course that was written by a teacher in Cormorant Lake.
- We are working on hosting a workshop in The Pas for registered teams and interested teachers, funders, and volunteers from Northern Manitoba.

Middle-School Program

- We are researching Envirothon programs across North America that are focused on grades 7,8,9.
- We want to develop a middle-school program that may encourage students to participate when they reach the high school level.

Training Trail

- We are developing a mock field test on our existing trail system at the Sandilands Forest Discovery Centre.
- Registered teams and/or classes will be able to book time on the trail where they will use equipment and answer questions similar to those at the Envirothon.

Canon Envirothon Mentorship

- Our Steering Committee is developing a mentorship program that will be offered to the winning Manitoba team before they go to the Canon Envirothon.
- This mentorship may include additional training, tips on site specific resources, and other help that will give the Manitoba team an added boost before competing at the Canon Envirothon.

All of these programs are in various stages of evolution and we welcome your participation if you are interested in committing time to developing the details of these programs!

2008 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

2008 Manitoba Envirothon Deadlines for Registration

All teams must be registered by February 15, 2008

2nd Team Registration begins January 1, 2008

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

1st team is \$500 + GST= \$530

2nd team from same school is \$750 + GST= \$795

Registration deadline is February 15, 2008. All registrations received after this date are subject to a late fee.

Paid by:

Money Order "

Personal Cheque "

School Cheque "

Once your registration is received your resource materials will be mailed to you in early December.

Upcoming Events

Networking Opportunity

An online group called "GreenSpace for Environmental Youth" was formed on Google groups as a follow-up to and Environmental Youth Forum that took place in mid-October. The group is open to all environmentally-friendly youth in Manitoba. The forum is a place to exchange ideas, share skills, and collaborate on projects. This group is affiliated with the Manitoba Eco-Network. To become a member, visit <http://groups.google.com/group/greenspaceyouth> and click on the "Apply for group membership" on the right of the screen.

Learning Opportunity

Youth Conference on Climate Change – Winnipeg

www.climatechangeconnection.org

Date: November 30th For all schools within the River East Transcona, Seven Oaks, and Winnipeg School Divisions, including independent and out-of-town schools close to this area.

Date: December 7th For all schools within the St. James Assiniboine, Pembina Trails, and Louis Riel School Divisions, including independent and out-of-town schools close to this area.

For more information about the events, please contact Susan at susan@climatechangeconnection.org or 943-4836.

Funding Opportunity

2008 Toyota Earth Day Scholarship

<http://www.earthday.ca/scholarship/>

Deadline: January 31, 2008

Every day, in communities across Canada, young people are actively demonstrating their passion for the environment through the important work they accomplish. These dedicated young Canadians are emerging as tomorrow's environmental leaders and advocates.



For further information on Manitoba Envirothon, contact:



Andrea Swain, Manitoba Envirothon Coordinator
900 Corydon Avenue, Winnipeg, MB, R3M 0Y4
Phone: (204) 453-3182
Fax: (204) 477-5765
Email: envirocoordinator@mts.net

Do you use Facebook to stay connected with your friends? To meet new people? Check out these Facebook groups about Envirothon:

- Swan Valley Envirothon
- I Survived Envirothon 2006 Winnipeg, Manitoba