



Trumbull
SWIFT
Trumbull
Soil and Water
Conservation
District

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Trumbull SWIFT

Soil & Water Information for Teachers

Winter, 2019

Environmental Education at its finest... the annual Envirothon Competition

Save the date for the Area 2 Envirothon
– April 25, 2019 at Camp Beaumont,
Ashtabula County

Envirothon is designed to stimulate, reinforce and enhance interest in the environment and natural resources among high school students. A competitive outdoor team event, Envirothon offers a unique and enjoyable learning experience. A team consists of 5 students, all from the same school. An adult advisor (or advisors) must accompany the team, but is not permitted to assist the team during the competition.

Registration deadline for Area 2 Envirothon is March 15

Envirothon tests students' knowledge of soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatic ecology and current environmental issues. Natural resource and environmental specialists from many agencies, organizations, colleges, universities, park districts and businesses devise the Envirothon questions and staff the various testing ecostations. This year's current environmental issue is "Agriculture and the Environment: Knowledge & Technology to Feed the World". In addition, the Envirothon encourages cooperative decision-making and team building. While each student on an Envirothon team is challenged to contribute his or her personal best, the score that counts at the end of an Envirothon is the team score.

Five Area Envirothons are conducted around Ohio each spring. Trumbull County is in Area 2. This year's Area 2 Envirothon is hosted by Ashtabula and Trumbull SWCDs. The top four teams from Area 2 will join the winners from the other four Area competitions and progress to the Ohio Envirothon held in June. The top-scoring team in the Ohio Envirothon is eligible to compete in the National Conservation Foundation Envirothon representing Ohio. The NCF Envirothon is hosted by a different state or Canadian province every year. For more information, go to www.envirothon.org.

For more information on Envirothon or to schedule an Envirothon introduction or training program, please contact Amy Reeher, District Administrator/Watershed Coordinator at 330-637-2056, ext. 8624 or amy@trumbullohswcd.org



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New Program Investigation

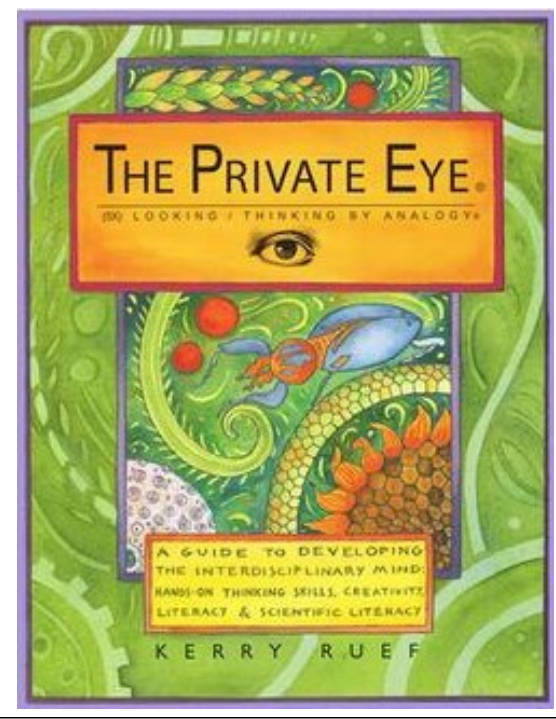
Are you familiar with [The Private Eye](#) program? If you are not, here is a very general overview of the program. Basically, it is using an eye loupe and common everyday natural items to answer questions. Items are as simple as your fingerprint and as complex as a one inch vernal pond. The idea is that observing with analogy in mind develops critical thinking. By asking the question, "What else does this remind me of?", students engage in higher order thinking.

The program is research-based and correlates to CCSS, NGSS and the 5 E's.

After being introduced to this program last summer, I realized what a valuable program this could be for our schools. It is engaging at all levels and because there are no wrong answers all learners find success.

The program supplies may be prohibitive for many schools. The Private Eye loupe sets are \$144. The complete Private Eye class set runs about \$700. If there is enough interest in the county for this program, I will ask the Board of Supervisors to consider purchasing a set for programming or loan.

PLEASE let us know if you are interested in this program. Interest will determine if we will go ahead with the purchase.



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Trumbull Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) are equal opportunity providers and employers.

2019 Essay/Poster Contest & Theme

The 2019 theme for Stewardship Week from National Association of Conservation Districts is *Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper*.



Trumbull SWCD is sponsoring essay and poster contests. Kindergarten through high school seniors can participate in the poster contest. The essay contest is open to 6th through 12th graders.

The submissions for last year's contest were very light and students missed out on \$310.00 in prizes. This could have been due to the submission date being the end of Spring break or the national requirement of paper size.

Two new rule changes have been made. The National contest will only accept digital entries for posters. To comply with this rule change, submissions need to be 11 x 17 or smaller so that we can scan the entry with our equipment. Digital entries must be submitted in JPEG format. The second change is to the essay contest. All entries must have a bibliography page attached to the essay. Submissions must follow APA format for bibliography page and in-text citations. For a complete list of contest rules, go to the essay or poster tabs under the education menu on the [home page](#)

[NACD](#) has resource material on their web site.

The poster entries must include the stewardship theme and be submitted to Trumbull SWCD by April 5, 2018. Judging will be at the April Board of Supervisors meeting tentatively scheduled for April 24 at 6:00 pm. More information will be coming closer to the submission due date.

Field Trip Programs

Our on-site field trips have been a great success. Several schools have taken advantage of this program and the teachers and students have not been disappointed.

The day's schedule typically starts at 10:00 am with two sessions in the morning, then BYO lunch, a tour of the facilities, and a game before going home around 1:30 pm.

Session programs range from the Recycle Relay outside to story time inside with programs like *Little Lily and Eddie the Earthworm* and a worm observation experiment. Edible Soil and The Incredible Journey programs are only offered at field days. You can choose any program for a full day experience or we can customize a program for your specific requirements.

What is a GREEN SCHOOLYARD?

While we encourage visits to the Agriculture Center for field trips, we understand there are many barriers to bringing your students out to the center. How about building your own green space? Green schoolyards are multi-functional school grounds designed for and by the school that offer places for students, teachers, parents, and community members to play, learn, explore, and grow. During out-of-school time, these schoolyards are ideally open to the community to use.

There are many resources for planning and building these sites. Here are a few ideas.

References /planning

- [Green Schoolyards America](#)
- [Children and Nature Network](#)
- [Green Schoolyard Network](#)
- [Wild School Site/ODNR](#)

Labor

- Trumbull County Master Gardeners
- PTA/PTO/PIE
- Your community's garden club
- Students needing community service hours

Funding

- [Funding Strategies for Philadelphia Green Schools](#)
- Local businesses



Program Highlights

Here are some highlights of popular programs. For a full listing of all programs, please refer to the [Trumbull website](http://www.swcd.co.trumbull.oh.us/pdfs/Education%20Web%20Sitepics.pdf) at: <http://www.swcd.co.trumbull.oh.us/pdfs/Education%20Web%20Sitepics.pdf> (or Classroom Presentations under the Education tab)

Animals in Winter—This program is popular with **Pre-K through grade 2**. Adaptation, hibernation and migration are discussed by reading two books by Jenny Fretland Van-Voorst, *Animals in Winter* and *Birds in Winter*. These books are on PPT or Google Slides so that the students can read along. The question and answer presentation asked the student to respond to decisions animals have to make in winter.



Students at Howland Springs enjoy making birdfeeders.

A hands on activity is part of the program. Students make a birdfeeder from bread, lard, and birdseed. The response to this program is great. Teachers and student alike have a wonderful time. We are still scheduling this program through the end of February.

Soil Formation Processes—The new and improved hands on activity helps develop a student's creative thinking and problem solving. Instead of giving the student the experiment, the student must design an experiment that uses the tools provided to demonstrate the concept of the stations. Stations include water weathering and erosion, ice weathering and erosion, physical weathering, chemical weathering, and if the weather permits exploration of a decomposing log. Students write a complete lab report suitable for class presentation.

We still have open dates in January and February!

Stream Watch— If your school is close to a body of water, this program is a good fit. Students love to "play" in the water looking for tiny macro-invertebrates identification of the organisms give clues to the water's health in this introduction to stream quality monitoring. All materials are provided for this activity.



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The Web of Life—Not just the old string game, this program covers a vast amount of information. Vocabulary includes predator/prey, herbivore/carnivore/omnivore, apex predator, food chain/web, energy flow, habitat, population, producer/consumer/decomposer, biome, and ecological niche. Many teachers use this program as a review for state testing. This program needs a large space to play the web of life game.

Up Close with Ohio's Wildlife—The students love looking at the animal pelts and skulls in this program. Ohio mammals are grouped by eating habits to show how the dentition of animals identifies what it eats. Animal facts are shared along with how to interact safely with these animals if contact is made. A worksheet is included for older grades that demonstrates students knowledge of skull features.



Red fox, raccoon, and beaver skulls and pelts show the differences between carnivores, omnivores, and herbivores.

Loan Materials

Trumbull SWCD has a variety of models that can be borrowed for your classroom for up to a week at a time.

Envision 3000 Series Bedrock Model (black) – bedrock cross-section to illustrate groundwater flow. It can be used to show porosity, aquifers and permeability. It can be used to illustrate groundwater flow and contamination and septic system functions.

Enviroscape Drinking Water and Wastewater Treatment Model (brown) – used for Source Water Environmental Education Teams (SWEET) events. It illustrates water paths under ground and what happens to the water we use at home.

Enviroscape Nonpoint Source Model (green) – watershed model to illustrate point and nonpoint source pollution.