



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

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NEWS RELEASE

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2012 Annual Rhode Island Envirothon Competition at Goddard Memorial State Park in Warwick, RI; U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse Presented at Awards Ceremony



Students examine marine life at the aquatic station (left). U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse presented awards to students at the 2012 Envirothon Competition where the first place winning team was The Wheeler School (right).

Warwick, RI – May 23, 2012 – Rhode Island Envirothon, Inc. held its annual competition on Friday, May 18, 2012 at Goddard Memorial State Park in Warwick, RI. This one-day event marked the culmination of a year of dedicated, hard work by high school students from around the State who competed in teams of five to address environmental issues in four subject areas which include aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife, and soils and land use, plus one special environmental issue which changes annually. For 2012, the environmental issue was the “Low Impact Development and Nonpoint Pollution”. Six high schools participated in the competition with a total of 12 teams. The high schools included The Blackstone Academy, Coventry High School, The Greene School, Narragansett High School, Scituate High School, and The Wheeler School.

This year, it was a great honor to have U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse present at the awards ceremony where he commended the student who participated in the event and highlighted the importance in addressing environmental issues in Rhode Island. The winning team ranking in first place was from The Wheeler School which will represent Rhode Island in the Canon North American Envirothon which will take place in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania on July 22-27, 2012. Teams from Narragansett High School and Coventry High School ranked second and third, respectively, in the competition.



Envirothon is an environmental education program available to high school students where they take classes and participate in workshops on subjects including aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife, and soils and land use. The mission of RI Envirothon, Inc. is to cultivate a desire in students to learn more about our natural environment, develop a greater appreciation of our dependence on the environment, and promote a sense of personal stewardship of

natural resources to enhance the quality of life for all in Rhode Island. Each year, the one-day competition allows students to demonstrate their knowledge working in teams of five to address various environmental challenges.