

January 2015



# CNY Regional ENVIROTHON



## Upcoming Winter Events at Highland Forest Park

### Valentine's in the Forest

February 13, 14, 20 and 21  
6-10:00 p.m.

Enjoy an evening of food, music and fun with an all you can eat prime rib buffet, live music, horse drawn sleigh ride, and flowers for the ladies! This complete evening package is available for \$90 per couple, reservations are required. Call (315) 677-3303. This is a fundraiser for the Nordic Ski Patrol at Highland Forest.

### Full Moon Ski

February 1 and March 1  
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Enjoy a guided group ski tour of the trails at Highland Forest. Reservations are required and it's \$5.00 plus a day pass.

### Highland Forest Snowshoe Race 5 & 10k Run/Walk

February 22, 2015  
10:00 a.m.

This race is a benefit for Team Red, White and Blue, a veterans Support Group. The race will be held with snow or no snow and is ideal for beginners and experts alike. Snowshoe rentals are available. This race is a qualifier for Dion National Championship in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. The entry fee is \$20 and race day is \$25. Kids race for free! For more information, visit [www.runreg.com](http://www.runreg.com) or contact Chary Griffin at [chary@charygriffin.com](mailto:chary@charygriffin.com).

### Nordic Ski Lessons

Learn to cross country ski! Call Highland Forest Park to make a reservation. The cost is \$25.00 for the lesson and equipment rental, \$10.00 for just the lesson.

## CNY Envirothon Important Dates & Information

- Registration Forms should be turned into your County Representative by **March 6, 2015**.
- The event will be held on **April 29, 2015**.
- Students and advisors from Madison, Cayuga, Chenango, and Onondaga Counties should arrive at Highland Forest at 8:15 a.m. on April 29 and check in at the registration desk.
- Registration will be held in the hallway of the lodge. Once registered, please move the entire team to either the deck or into the Limestone Room to allow for other teams to easily access the registration table.
- School busses may park in Highland Forest parking lot, preferably on the far side of the lot to allow for other visitors to park near the entrance to Skyline Lodge.

## Previous Envirothon Participants, Where are they now?

The CNY Regional Envirothon Committee is looking to follow the paths of previous Envirothon students in an effort to sell our program to potential sponsors. We'd like to know what careers and fields of study some of the students have elected to embark upon. Did the Envirothon impact their decision on their chosen path? Did participation in the Envirothon pique their interest in a particular field of study? The committee would like to collect this data so that we can continue to fundraise for

the event and offer college scholarships to ensure that our event positively impacts the lives of our students and future decision makers. We are looking for creative and unique ways to show our sponsors how the Envirothon impacts the lives of the local students. Please email your County's Committee Representative if you have any information about a previous Envirothon student and have permission to share their story. We'd love to hear from you!

### SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS



#### CNY REGIONAL ENVIROTHON COMMITTEE

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*Soil and Water Conservation Districts across New York State strive to reduce soil erosion and maintaining clean ground and surface water by providing technical expertise and educating individuals on best management practices on agricultural lands, urban and residential areas. Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District for more information!*

## How to use the NRCS Web Soil Survey, an Important Envirothon Study Tool

The NRCS Web Soil Survey is a digitized, online soil mapping tool that engineers, planners and agricultural producers can use to predict potential crop yields and gather information about soil texture, drainage class, and other important soil characteristics. Approximately 98% of the United States has digitized soil information available on this website, so find the property you own to learn more about your soil! Here's how:

**Step 1:** Visit the webpage below (or type in NRCS web soil survey in your preferred search engine):

<http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>

**Step 2:** Define your Area of Interest. Use the Area of Interest Map to find your area of interest. You can either type in an address or zoom/pan into the area where you'd like to gather soil information. The area of interest cannot be several square miles. Use the polygon or rectangle "AOI" tool to do this.

**Step 3:** To view or print or view the soil map, click the TAB that says, "Soil Map". This action will show the names and percentage of area for each soil type.

**Step 4:** Click the "Soil Explorer Tab" to view a subset of tabs that offer more information on each soil type within your area of interest. Information that is available includes, suitability for building site construction, farmland, wildlife habitat, and chemical and physical properties. Remember, you must be within a specific range of scale to access much of this data.

**Step 5:** To get a pdf copy or to print out a soil report and the soil map with the aerial imagery, click the "Shopping Cart" tab. There is no fee associated with tab.

A firm **Understanding of the Soil Survey** can help students answer hands on questions at the Soil Station when looking at a soil map. If a map is presented with an associated soil report, an understanding of the soil survey could help in answering questions such as:

1. Using the map provided and using the soil report, which labeled site is most likely to be a wetland?
2. Using the map provided, which site would limit row crop production due to erosion factors?
3. Using the map provided, which site would limit building construction because of drainage limitations?