



The Bradford 'Weeping Angels,' Schuyler County winning Envirothon team. From left to right: Luke Campbell, Amanda Machuga, Nisa Stopka, Valerie Ball, and Austin Sorber

Bradford 2014 Schuyler County Envirothon Winners

OWEGO, April 25 -- Bradford Central School was the Schuyler County winner of the Regional Envirothon held at the Tioga County Sportsmen's Center on Thursday, April 24 defeating Odessa Montour after OM held the honors for a number of years. The 'Weeping Angels' (Luke Campbell, Amanda Machuga, Nisa Stopka, Valerie Ball, and Austin Sorber) not only came in first out of 8 teams for Schuyler County but were 4th overall out of the thirty four teams competing from 5 counties: Schuyler, Chemung, Broome, Tioga and Tompkins County. Two Odessa Montour students, Zach Peoples and Dan Rounds, were on the winning team for Chemung County, 'The Hardwoods,' of GST (Greater Southern Tier) BOCES. The 'Weeping Angels' will represent Schuyler County at the NYS Envirothon at Morrisville State College on May 21 and 22 and 'The Hardwoods' will represent Chemung Co.

The Bradford 'Ranger Rick and Pals' (Montana Towner, Mike Wood, Alex Wood, Liz McIlwain, and Olivia Spangenberg) were this year's Schuyler County second place team and the Bradford 'Bush Bandits' (Katara Buckley, Dustin Rogers, Jacob Campbell, Austin Sanford, and Rachael Bonning) came in third. Two other Schuyler County students, Colton Arcangeli of Watkins Glen and Brian McLean of OM, were on the 2nd and 3rd place teams for (GST) BOCES.

This outdoor education event is organized by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts with 44 Schuyler students participating this year. Battling for the chance to represent their county at the statewide event, the students' knowledge was put to the test as the teams completed tough exams in Aquatics, Soils, Forestry, Wildlife, and this year's Current Issue: 'Sustainable Local Agriculture/Locally Grown.'

Essential support for the Envirothon is provided by the school science teachers, the school districts and also local businesses who donate funds for financial support. This year's Schuyler County Envirothon sponsors, to date, are: Cotton-Hanlon Inc., Watkins Glen Elks Lodge #1546, Sawmill Creek Vineyards, Reisinger's Apple Country, Lakewood Vineyards, Montour Falls Moose Lodge #426, David L. Sidle Insurance Agency and the Watkins Glen Fire Company.

The Bradford teams are coached by high school science teacher, Rebecca Schrader; the Odessa Montour teams by science teacher, Doug Chapman; and the BOCES teams by Don MacNaughton and Fred Kelly.

The Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District provides programs and services to help residents and communities manage and protect the natural resources of Schuyler County.

Zach Peoples (white sunglasses) and Dan Rounds (black sunglasses), Odessa Montour members of the winning Chemung Co. GST BOCES team, 'The Hardwoods,' taking the Current Issues Envirothon test.

Posted in the Odessa File