



The Bradford "Diamond Head Hibiscuses," Schuyler County-winning Envirothon team. From left: Elizabeth McIlwain, Jesse English, Kara Waters, Derek Sorber and Brooke Scott.

Bradford wins Envirothon; O-M second

Special to The Odessa File

OWEGO, May 3 -- Bradford Central School was the Schuyler County winner of the Regional Envirothon held at the Tioga County Sportsmen's Center on Thursday, April 30, barely defeating Odessa-Montour for the second year in a row.

The "Diamond Head Hibiscuses" (Elizabeth McIlwain, Jesse English, Katra Waters, Derek Sorber and Brooke Scott) came in first out of seven teams from Schuyler County and were fifth overall out of the 33 teams competing from five counties: Schuyler, Chemung, Broome, Tioga and Tompkins.

One Watkins Glen student, Colton Arcangeli, was on the winning team for Chemung County, the "Wicked Weasels" of GST (Greater Southern Tier) BOCES. This team also came in second overall.



The "Hibiscuses" will represent Schuyler County at the New York State Envirothon at Hobart & William Smith Colleges on May 27 and 28, while "The Wicked Weasels" will represent Chemung County.

The Odessa-Montour "Otters" -- Nina Linton, Callie Stillman, Tela Wittig, Hailie Searles and Autumn Taylor -- were this year's Schuyler County second-place team, and were sixth overall out of the 33 teams. The O-M "Martens" (Jerry Jordan, Gage Sayre, Madison Lodge and Bryce Elliott) came in third in the county. Three other Schuyler County students -- Tory Pries of O-M, Cody Austic of Watkins Glen and Zach Roorda of Horseheads -- were on two other teams for (GST) BOCES.

This outdoor education event, organized by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts, saw 36 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: "Urban/Community Forestry." One of the purposes of the Envirothon program is for participants to develop a greater appreciation of human dependence on the natural environment.

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, Specchio Ford, 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.

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.

Photos in text:

Top: The Odessa Montour "Otters," second-place Envirothon team for Schuyler County. From left: Nina Linton, Callie Stillman, Tela Wittig, Hailie Searles and Autumn Taylor.

Bottom: The O-M Martens, third-place team for Schuyler County. From left: Jerry Jordan, Gage Sayre, Madison Lodge and Bryce Elliott. *(Photos provided)*



The Odessa-Montour and Bradford Central School Envirothon participants pose for a group photo. *(Photo provided)*
