

# Press Release



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## **Local High School Students put their Environmental Knowledge to the Test**

### **Odessa Montour 2012 Schuyler County Envirothon Winners**

**Owego, NY** - Schuyler, Chemung, Broome, Tioga and Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation Districts have combined efforts to provide high schools in the 5 counties with a regional, Southern Tier 2012 Envirothon competition to determine county champions. Battling for the chance to represent their county at the statewide event, the student's knowledge was put to the test as the teams completed tough exams in Aquatics, Soils, Forestry, Wildlife, and this year's Current Issue: Nonpoint Source Pollution/Low Impact Development.

Three schools from Schuyler County participated in the event held at the Tioga County Sportmen's Center in Owego on April 26, 2011, involving a total of 39 teams from 13 schools. Odessa Montour had two teams, Bradford Central School had six and Watkins Glen sent two teams.

The Odessa Montour 'Otters' was this year's Schuyler County winning team, and were also the 4<sup>th</sup> highest scoring team overall for the competition. The Bradford 'Perfect Storm' came in second, and the Bradford team, 'Benjamin's Angels,' was third.

The OM 'Otters' will represent Schuyler County at the 2012 New York State Envirothon to be held at Hobart & William Smith Colleges in Geneva on May 23 and 24. The winning team at the statewide competition will compete at the Canon National Envirothon at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania this July.

The Soil and Water Conservation Districts help to organize the Envirothon and essential support is provided by the school science teachers, the school districts and also local businesses who donate funds for financial support. To date, this year's Schuyler County Envirothon sponsors are: Cotton-Hanlon, Watkins Glen Elk Lodge 1546, Sawmill Creek Vineyards, Fagan Engineering, Hunt Engineers, Architects and Land Surveyors, Schuyler County Environmental Management Council, Mary L. Crainey Financial Institutions of Schuyler County, Montour Falls Moose Lodge, Watkins Glen Fire Company, Tom Brace, Chris Wickham and Trout Unlimited: Catharine Creek Chapter 430.

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.



*The Odessa Montour Otters, Schuyler County winning Envirothon team. From left to right: Matt Kautz, Joe Markley, Ryan Gardner, Brandon Evans, Ruben Weisser and team advisor, OM teacher, Mr. Doug Chapman*



*Many of the 49 Schuyler County participants from Odessa Montour, Bradford and Watkins Glen Central Schools at the 2012 Southern Tier Regional Envirothon.*