

## **John Cooper High School-Team B Wins First Place**

### **In 5th Annual Texas State Envirothon**

The Texas State Envirothon was held on April 10 and 11, 2005, at The Big Thicket National Preserve, in Kountze, TX. The Envirothon is an academic, extra-curricular environmental and natural resource education program and competition designed for high school students. Teams of five students work together to answer questions focusing on five areas of study (aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and a current environmental issue, which changes each year). In addition to the field experience, students also participate in an oral component focusing on a local environmental problem.

Nine teams participated in the fifth annual competition including:

**Chapel Hill High School Team - A (Mt. Pleasant)**

**Chapel Hill High School Team - B (Mt. Pleasant)**

**Churchill High School (San Antonio)**

**South Grand Prairie High School (Dallas)**

**John Cooper High School Team - A (The Woodlands)**

**John Cooper High School Team - B (The Woodlands)**

**Conroe Academy of Science and Technology Team - A (Conroe)**

**Conroe Academy of Science and Technology Team - B (Conroe)**

**Paschal High School (Ft. Worth)**

The competition began on Sunday afternoon at The Kirby Nature Trail in the Big Thicket National Preserve where students participated in the field test. The teams of students rotated from station to station, answering questions relating to each topic. Questions involved deductive thinking combining knowledge from all five areas, using the appropriate field equipment, and a total team effort. Sunday evening, the teams were presented with information focusing on managing cultural landscapes and were asked to develop a proposal addressing a management plan for the cultural landscapes of the Big Thicket National Preserve, the oral component of this competition. Areas of consideration included: Oil and gas drilling on park lands, control of feral hog populations, proper management of cultural resources, and environmentally responsible behavior. The presentation also considered the impact on economic, environmental and cultural issues. Leslie Dubey, Lisa

Jameson, and Mary Johnston (Ma Thicket), presented the background information to the students. The students were then sequestered with supervision for 3 hours to work on their presentations. The presentations were given to a panel of judges on Monday morning.

Awards are given to the top scoring teams on the field/written exam, by topic, and for the top team in the oral presentations. The winners were:

Aquatics – John Cooper High School - Team A (The Woodlands, TX)  
John Cooper High School - Team B (The Woodlands, TX)

Forestry – Paschal High School (Ft. Worth, Texas)

Soils – Chapel Hill High School - Team B (Mt. Pleasant, TX)  
John Cooper High School - Team A (The Woodlands, TX)

Wildlife – John Cooper High School - Team B (The Woodlands, TX)

Current Issue – John Cooper High School - Team A (The Woodlands, TX)

Oral Presentation – John Cooper High School - Team B (The Woodlands, TX)

**Top Three Awards:**

1<sup>st</sup> Place – John Cooper High School - Team B (The Woodlands, TX)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – John Cooper High School - Team A (The Woodlands, TX)

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Conroe Academy of Science and Technology - Team A (Conroe, TX)

John Cooper High School Team - B will represent Texas in the International Canon Envirothon, which will be held in Springfield, Missouri, July 18 – July 23, 2005.

Sponsors of the 2005 Texas Envirothon include: Eastman Chemical Company, National Environmental Education and Training Foundation, University of Houston-Clear Lake, the Environmental Institute of Houston, Canon USA, Texas Association of Environmental Professionals, Harris County Soil and Water Conservation District, Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District, Richardson Environmental Action League, Texas Association for Environmental Education, Texas A & M Extension, Lower Trinity Soil & Water Conservation District, Walker County Soil & Water Conservation District, Coastal Soil & Water Conservation District, Navasota Soil & Water Conservation District, and the Lower Neches Soil & Water Conservation. A

special thank you goes out to over 40 volunteers representing state and local agencies along with other interested groups and individuals that donated their time on Sunday and Monday.

For more information about the Texas State Envirothon, contact Wendy Reistle, Environmental Institute of Houston/UHCL, at (281) 283-3045 or visit the website at [www.texasenvirothon.org](http://www.texasenvirothon.org).