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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dublin Coffman Envirothon Team Headed to State Competition

Are you up on your soil layers? Familiar with field measurement of Ohio's trees? Ready to ID fish, macroinvertebrates, and animal skins and skulls? Students at Dublin Coffman High School are—and are ready to prove it. Five students at Dublin Coffman and their advisor are headed to the statewide Envirothon competition at Salt Fork State Park on June 9 and 10. The team consists of team captain Lindsay Decker, Matt Patti, Maggie Borders, Michael Chen, and Alex Vompe. They will be accompanied by team advisor Donna Parker, an AP environmental science and biology teacher at the school.

The Envirothon is an outdoor team competition where students demonstrate their knowledge of environmental science and natural resource management by answering questions on soils, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife and current environmental issues. It is a hands-on competition, with students entering a soil pit to identify the local soil and recommend best uses and limitations; identifying skulls and skins; and determining the quality of a stream by identifying the macroinvertebrates collected from it. It is also a team competition, with students working together and collaborating on answers. Linda Pettit, environmental education specialist with Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District, sees an additional benefit to students' participation, "The Envirothon is a great opportunity for students to meet professionals in the environmental field and learn first-hand the issues that they are working with to conserve our natural resources." Each year more than 500,000 students from the US and territories, Canada and Mexico participate in regional Envirothons.

The area and state Envirothons are sponsored by Ohio's soil and water conservation districts, the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The North American Envirothon is sponsored by the National Association of Conservation Districts' National Conservation Foundation.

The team, named 'Dublin 1' because Coffman fielded two Envirothon teams this year, advances to the state competition after placing third out of 45 teams in the Area 5 competition, which was held at Tar Hollow State Park on April 29. A team from Coffman also went to the state competition in 2013. The top four teams in each of the five areas in Ohio advance to the state competition. The top team in each state then competes in a North American Envirothon in Georgia in July.

Other Franklin County 2014 Envirothon teams: (high school, team name, if more than one team, student captain, students, advisor, place in Area 5 competition)

Dublin Coffman High School, Dublin 2: Kiersten Ahms, Kathy Guo, Emily Reutter, Anuja Jayanti and Nicole Tabit. Advisor: Donna Parker. 10th out of 45 teams.

Bexley, 'Mountain Men': Robert Reed, Andrea Dressel, Sarah Gundy, Sam Harrison and Parker Murphy. Advisor: Jennifer Messerly. 8th

Bexley, 'Bill Nye's Children': Megan Niermeyer, Emily Gatterdam, Jocie Steinke, Sivan Zovela and Chloe Seletz. Advisor: Scott Logsdon. 9th

Canal Winchester: Joe Warnimont, Kate Bliven, Morgan Jenkins, Shawn Kilbarger and Tylar Packard. Advisors: Julie Aldrich and Steve Cvetanovich. 5th

New Albany, 'A': Victor Chamberlain, Cameron Rodney, Tori Davis, Reed Patrick and Devon Kress. Advisors: Chad Schwinnen and Bill Somerlot. 33rd

New Albany, 'B': Trey Miller, Joe Siegenthaler, Nick Clemons, Will Mooney and Triston Henry. Advisors: Chad Schwinnen and Bill Somerlot. 29th

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The mission of Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District is to promote responsible land use decisions for the conservation, protection and improvement of soil and water resources by providing information assistance through effective partnering, technical guidance and education.

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