

[From Fall 1996]

## **Local Envirothon Team Places Ninth in Nation**

The Nandua Nature Nurturers, after winning the state-wide competition for the third straight year, represented Virginia at the National Envirothon held in Nebraska from July 28 to August 2, 1996. In competition with teams from 31 states and two Canadian provinces, the Nandua High School team placed ninth.

In addition to a special topic which changes each year, the Envirothon tests students in the areas of aquatics, forestry, soils, and wildlife. This year's special topic was "landuse greenways." The students also had to develop and present a strategy for a current environmental issue. Earning the top three spots in the competition were the teams from Connecticut, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.

Testing took place at Mahoney State Park and Platte River State Park. The teams also toured the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, home of the largest indoor rain forest, and took a river boat cruise on the Missouri River, which was the site concerned in the environmental issue part of the testing.

Team members are Sarah Kaylor and Tim McMath, co-captains, Kate Grillo, Joseph Mora and Donald Bowling. Their coaches were Pat Defosse and Donna Noll.

The local Envirothon competition was held at the Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge and was supported by the staffs of both the Eastern Shore and Chincoteague refuges.

The local Envirothon program is sponsored by the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District, and the state competition is sponsored by the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.