



Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs

2426 North Second St. • Harrisburg, PA 17110

Phone: 717-232-3480 • Fax: 717-231-3524

info@pfsc.org • www.pfsc.org

Providing leadership and advocacy for the enhancement of our fish and wildlife resources for the benefit of all hunters, trappers, anglers and conservationists. Protecting our 2nd Amendment Rights.

"Conservation is our obligation to the future of Pennsylvania"

Pennsylvania's "Early Successional Habitat" 2017 Poster & Photo Contest Winners

Senior Division Poster Contest Winners (Grades 10-12)

1 st Place Nicole Graham Potter County	2 nd Place Delena Howell Potter County	3 rd Place Abbie Inzana Potter County
 <p style="text-align: center;">(Click on Photo to Enlarge)</p> <p>Early succession is a habitat with growing trees, grasses, forbs and shrubs; however, it needs disturbance to be maintained. Early successional habitat is important because it provides an excellent food source and shelter for wildlife. In my painting, I drew a Cerulean Warbler, a songbird of the eastern deciduous forest. This bird has declined extremely since 1966. However, in Pennsylvania, it has increased among some ridges, the Allegheny Front, and in some eastern counties. The Cerulean Warbler is connected to early succession because it likes spaces between trees, some windfall-created openings, and small gaps in the tree cover. In my poster, a Cerulean Warbler is resting on a black berry bush, which is found in early succession.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">(Click on Photo to Enlarge)</p> <p>The Eastern Cottontail rabbit is conducive to living in an early successional ecosystem. The Cottontail rabbit eats a variety of plant materials including wild strawberries, clover, plantain, and grasses which make up 50% of the rabbit's diet. Early successional habitat not only provides forages for the rabbit's diet, but also provides cover and nesting opportunities. Foxes, hawks and owls are the most specific predators of the Cottontail rabbit. So they also can be observed hunting in early successional habitat.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">(Click on Photo to Enlarge)</p> <p>In Pennsylvania, the black bear favors plant foods such as blackberries and blueberries. Berries are a plant found in early successional habitat. About 75% of the black bear's diet consists of plant foods such as fruits, nuts, seeds, roots, and acorns. However, bears are omnivorous and will also eat beetles, ants and bees. My art work consists of a black bear ambling through an early successional habitat browsing on some blackberries.</p>

Continued

**Junior Division Poster Contest Winners
(Grades 7-9)**

<p style="text-align: center;">1st Place Mackenzie Gertzen Potter County</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2nd Place Alyssa Hoopes Potter County</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3rd Place Samantha Vannatter Potter County</p>
<div> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">(Click on Photo to Enlarge)</p> <p>When you think of the gray fox, you must think a carnivore that is an intelligent predator. Early successional habitat provides highly nutritious forage for the herbivores such as the Eastern Cottontail rabbit. The gray fox feeds on rabbits, mice, woodchucks, opossums, squirrels, game birds, songbirds, insects, fruits and grasses. All found thriving in the habitat of early succession. My poster depicts a gray fox in early successional habitat on the look for its next meal.</p>	<div> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">(Click on Photo to Enlarge)</p> <p>The cerulean warbler is a songbird that lives in Pennsylvania's deciduous forests. The male has a blue upper body, white below, and a black "necklace" across its chest. The female is a greenish gray color. The cerulean warbler favors oaks, maples, and black locust. Black locust is a tree found in early succession habitats. Since 1966 the cerulean warbler has declined almost 70%. In my poster the male cerulean warbler is resting on a blackberry bush found in early successional habitat before hunting for insects on the black locust tree.</p>	<div> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">(Click on Photo to Enlarge)</p> <p>The red fox is adaptable to most habitats, but prefers early successional habitat. Where it can hunt rabbits, grouse, wood chucks, insects, squirrels, songbirds, and fruits. My poster shows a beautiful red fox hunting in an early successional habitat.</p>

Continued

**Sub-Junior Division Poster Contest Winners
(Grades 4-6)**

<p style="text-align: center;">1st Place Nataly Cann Cambria County</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2nd Place Mackenzie Mulraney Cambria County</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3rd Place Chase Rogal Cambria County</p>
<div> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">(Click on Photo to Enlarge)</p> <p> Early sessional habitats usually have fox, mice, and mosquitos. As you can see, the fox is stalking its prey. This is an example of the food chain. The mosquito is at the bottom of the food chain because it's getting devoured by the mouse. The mouse is the middle of the food chain. Soon, the mouse will be the next victim of the fox. Last but not least, the fox is the top of the food chain. The fox is eyeing the mouse getting ready to pounce on its prey. I'm happy I'm not the mouse. </p>	<div> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">(Click on Photo to Enlarge)</p> <p> In the mysterious woods of Pennsylvania, a brown bear eats blackberries to prepare for hibernation. His eyes are keen and looking out for prey. He has a strong sense of smell. His teeth are sharp and ready to strike his target. He sees something rustling in the leaves. It's a rabbit hopping around. He gets ready to strike but the rabbit scurries off. The brown bear goes through many hardships, but he can still make it through. </p>	<div> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">(Click on Photo to Enlarge)</p> <p> One early morning in an old Pennsylvania field with tall grass, a red squirrel was looking for food. He was looking for anything he could eat. Then he lays his eyes on a patch of raspberries. As he scampers over to the raspberries he hears a noise. He searches around and sees nothing. So he goes back to eating. He hears another noise so he scurries of into the woods in case there was a predator. </p>

Continued

**Senior Division Photo Contest Winners
(Grades 10-12)**

<p style="text-align: center;">1st Place Delena Howell Potter County</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2nd Place Diamond Button Potter County</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3rd Place Kassidi Freeborn Potter County</p>
<div> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">(Click on Photo to Enlarge)</p> <p>My photograph contains different stages of early succession. Most of the area in the photograph is in the pioneer weed stage. In the background there is Quaking Aspen that is a fast growing and spreading tree. The Quaking Aspen provides nesting areas, shelter, and food in the form of insects for wildlife. Goldenrod adorns the photograph. The abandoned car has become a fortress and home for many species. Field mice, garter snakes, chipmunks, and squirrels could take ownership. Man has unknowingly provided a niche for some of Pennsylvania's wildlife.</p>	<div> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">(Click on Photo to Enlarge)</p> <p>The early stage of succession comprises my photo. The grasses, weeds, and shrubs provide a habitat for a variety of Pennsylvania wildlife. It provides cover and nesting areas. Insects, birds such as the Cerulean Warbler, and small reptiles and mammals call this home. I have seen many cottontail rabbits and grouse in this type of setting.</p>	<div> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">(Click on Photo to Enlarge)</p> <p>The sun rises through the Elderberry shrubs. The Elderberry shrubs provide good cover and nesting sites for certain birds such as the yellow warbler, gray catbird, and American Goldfinch. The whitetail deer may browse leaves and twigs of this shrub. I wonder, "How did they get here?" The land just seems to spring up with shrubs, weeds, and vegetation that was not there at one time. Succession is the answer!</p>

Continued

**Junior Division Photo Contest Winners
(Grades 7-9)**

<p style="text-align: center;">1st Place Samantha Vannatter Potter County</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2nd Place Autumn Button Potter County</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3rd Place</p>
<div> </div> <div> <p style="text-align: center;">(Click on Photo to Enlarge)</p> </div> <div> <p>The Quaking Aspens reach up to the blue sky. They grow very fast. They provide nesting areas for many of Pennsylvania's wild birds. When photographing these trees for an early succession theme, I observed a red-headed woodpecker pecking the trees and moving about up and down. I tried to photograph him, but with each click he went behind the tree trunk! Maybe he was camera shy.</p> </div>	<div> </div> <div> <p style="text-align: center;">(Click on Photo to Enlarge)</p> </div> <div> <p>When looking at an early succession habitat in Potter County, I see that many pastures when left not grazed by domestic animals such as the cow or horse become a pioneer weed stage of succession. The invasive weeds grow creating a habitat that provides cover for many Pennsylvania wildlife species such as the cottontail rabbit, the ruffed grouse, the ring-necked pheasant, the wild turkey, field mice, and a variety of song birds. My photo reflects an animal or bird looking up to the sky. Maybe if it is a bird, it's ready to take flight avoiding becoming a predator's meal or maybe if it is a rabbit, it is ready to outrun a dreaded enemy and hide in the maze of weeds.</p> </div>	

“My PA Watershed” 2018 Poster & Photo Contest Theme
[Click Here for Details!](#)