

Macomb Expo Site of Students' Glory in Ford/AAA Auto Skills Contest

The two-man student team from Oxford High School took home the first place trophy at the Michigan state final of the annual Ford/AAA Student Auto Skills competition, held April 24 at Macomb Community College Expo Center in Warren.

Joshua English and Michael Doell, both 17, took top honors for flawlessly diagnosing and repairing the deliberately planted electrical and mechanical "bugs" in the 2013 Ford Focus SE they were assigned in just 29 minutes, 10 seconds. Their instructor is Dan Balsley.

A total of 31 Michigan schools had teams competing in the contest, diagnosing and repairing identically equipped and "bugged" Ford Focus cars. For finishing in first place, English and Doell each received a trophy and a \$10,000

scholarship.

"It was a great contest. There was a lot of excitement," AAA Michigan spokeswoman Nancy Cain said. "We had a lot of spectators."

"The winning team was the first to close the hood, and drive their car to the judging area. They had a perfect car, so there was a big round of applause for them."

She noted that isn't always the case. Sometimes, the first team to finish has failed to make all the repairs without mistakes. The first-place rank goes to the first team to correct all the bugs without mistakes.

The Oxford team will go on to represent Michigan at the national Ford/AAA Student Auto Skills Competition, which will be held at Ford World Headquarters in

Dearborn June 11. AAA Michigan spokesperson Nancy Cain said they will have a chance to win their share of hundreds of thousands of dollars in additional scholarships and prizes up for grabs, and perhaps get a start to their automotive careers.

Capturing second place was the team of Matt Schultz and Jimmy Ritzenheim of Dickinson Iron Technical Educational Center in Kingsford, winning trophies and prizes. Third-place honors went to Ethan Westfield and Coby Nykerk of Careerline Technology Center in Holland, who also took home trophies and prizes.

Cain said that including the state and national contest, millions of dollars in scholarships and prizes will be awarded for this year's competitions.



From left, Michael Doell and Joshua English, both of Oxford 'debug' a Ford Focus during the Ford/AAA Student Auto Skills state competition.



Sixteen percent of General Motors' land mass is actively managed as wildlife habitat. Pictured is the Saginaw Metal Casting Operation's Wildlife Habitat at Work - Rain Garden.

GM Employees Can Talk to the Animals At 25 Habitats in Plants Around World

General Motors is transforming corporate lands at its global facilities into tailored areas for wildlife habitats.

Together with the Wildlife Habitat Council, dozens of companies, including GM, are foregoing cement buildings for a different sort of structure: the kind that house animals.

"We strive to increase biodiversity around the world at our facilities, and we have 25 habitats certified by the Wildlife Habitat Council," said Sue Kelsey, GM Biodiversity Program manager. "Within these sites, 16 percent of the land mass is actively managed as wildlife habitat."

Turning unused land into a home for wildlife fits GM's overall goal of getting the most out of its products, recycling or reusing more than 90 percent of the waste generated.

Some of these projects find homes at wildlife habitats, including scrap Chevrolet Volt battery covers that are turned into wood duck nests. At last count, GM has installed more than 400 of these structures at designated wildlife habitat areas surrounding GM facilities, giving employees a valuable tool in protecting animals.

"The habitats on our properties wouldn't thrive without the help of our employees," said Kelsey. "Their work exemplifies the deep respect and appreciation our company has for the nature that surrounds and interacts with our facilities."

GM also works with local schools, nongovernmental organizations, nonprofits and environmental preservation groups to enhance our habitats and increase community awareness about wildlife preservation.

GM's Green Processes, Products Honored

General Motors has won bronze and silver Edison Awards for two corporate initiatives, its global landfill-free program and OnStar Family Link service, respectively. The competition honors game-changing products, services and processes.

"These awards reaffirm our ability to lead in the transformation of the automotive industry with a commitment to innovation that benefits our customers around the globe," said Jon Lauckner, GM chief technology officer and vice president of global research & development.

OnStar's Family Link is an opt-in service allowing OnStar subscribers to stay connected to loved ones using location-based data. Subscribers can visit the Family Link website to view a map with their vehicle's location and even set up email or text notifications alerting them of its whereabouts.

Family Link gives subscribers peace of mind, whether it's checking on the progress of young drivers or staying updated on family members who may be driving in inclement weather.

"OnStar continues to evolve because we spend time listening to our subscribers so we can develop new technologies and applications that meet their needs," said Terry Inch, OnStar chief operating officer.

"Family Link is the result of OnStar turning what our subscribers imagine into a solution they can use."

Since Family Link was introduced last April, more than 23,000 OnStar subscribers have signed up. Users send a combined total of more than 800,000 text and email location alerts each month.

GM's commitment to environmental stewardship helps it to consistently innovate and oper-

ate leaner and more efficiently. It recycles 90 percent of its global manufacturing waste and has 105 landfill-free facilities that recycle, reuse or convert to energy all waste from daily operations — more than any other automaker. GM developed a blueprint called "The Business Case for Zero Waste" with tips for all companies seeking ways to reduce their waste.

"Our expertise enables us to reimagine waste and recycle some of it into car parts, facility supplies and even items that benefit the community—from urban garden beds to coats for the homeless," said John Bradburn, GM waste-reduction manager.

Now in its 26th year, the Edison Awards represent the spirit of innovation personified by inventor Thomas Edison, inspiring America's drive to remain at the forefront of creativity and ingenuity in the global economy.

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