

Winter

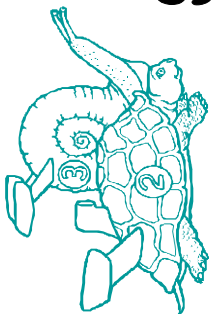
2012



FRANKLIN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

SWIFT

Soil and Water Information for Teachers



Spotlight on Resources:



Soil



Soil is a dynamic natural body made up of mineral and organic materials as well as living organisms. It is a living complex ecosystem at the surface of the earth's crust that provides the necessary ingredients for plants to grow. Soil is much more than meets the eye. There are more than 70,000 different kinds of **soil** in the United States, over 400 in Ohio, and 32 in Franklin County. **Soil** becomes dirt when we don't take proper precautions to minimize the potential of erosion. Erosion is the process where exposed soil is taken away by running water, blowing wind or moving ice and deposited somewhere else, usually in our streams, lakes or ponds. **Soil** conservation is being practiced in various forms in many places around the world. Conservation efforts aim to prevent erosion and maintain life-giving nutrients that are found in the **soil**.

Conservation Poster Contest



Franklin Soil and Water is proud to once again bring you the conservation poster contest. This year's theme is "**Soil to Spoon**", Posters should focus on our connection with and dependence on soil for all of the food that we eat.

Background information will be available for interested teachers and youth leaders. The contest is open to all Franklin County students in grades K-12. Entries should be submitted on 8 1/2" x 11" used paper. The contest runs from February to mid March. For more information or to register your class or youth group contact: Linda Pettit at (614) 486-9613 or

Linda-pettit@franklinswcd.org.



Inside this Issue:

Fun Stuff to Do	2,3,4
Upcoming Events for Educators	5
Calendar of Events	6



Check out Franklin Soil and Water's Annual Spring Tree and Wildflower Sale!

Franklin Soil and Water is offering their largest variety of items at this year's tree sale, including bare root tree and shrub seedlings, native grass seeds, wildflower seeds, mushroom kits, rain garden kits, rain barrels, composters and bat boxes. The deadline for tree sale orders is Friday, March 30th. Orders will be picked up at the District Office April 20th and 21st. Find more information and online order form at www.franklinswcd.org.



Fun Stuff to Do



Wildlife Diversity Conference

“THE GOOD THE BAD AND THE UGLY”, sponsored by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife. It is open to the public. It will be held Wednesday, March 7th at the Aladdin Shrine Center in Columbus. To register for the conference online, go to wildohio.com or call 1-800-WILDLIFE. The registration fee prior to February 25th is \$25. After that date, the fee is \$35.

- ◆ **Dances with Worms: The Great Lakes Worm Watch**
Cindy Hale, University of Minnesota
- ◆ **No Country for Old Clams: Fresh Water Mussel Restoration** Tom Watters, PhD, The Ohio State University
- ◆ **The Unforgiven: Aquatic Invasive Species**
Eugene Braig, OSU Extension and Ohio Sea Grant
- ◆ **Lonesome Duck: Lake Erie Pelagic Bird Survey**
Keith Lott, Wildlife Biologist, USFWS
Jenny Norris, Wildlife Biologist, Ohio Division of Wildlife
- ◆ **The Quick and the Dug: Terrestrial Crayfish-Nature’s Excavators**
Betty Ross, Glen Helen Raptor Center and Ohio Wildlife Rehabilitators Association
- ◆ **How The Wetland Was Won: Wetland Restoration Evaluation of Small Mammals**
Greg Smith, PhD, University of Akron
- ◆ **The Three Amigos: Beavers, Porcupines, and Fishers**
Suzie Prange, PhD, Ohio Division of Wildlife



**EXPLORE
SCIENCE.
DISCOVER
FUN!**

WATER

Exhibition showing March 17, 2012 - September 3, 2012 Water, this planet’s precious resource, plays a huge role in our lives. It surrounds us, covering nearly three-quarters of Earth’s surface. It sustains us as an essential component to life on Earth. And today, it challenges us to be more conscious of its consumption. Experience water as never before in this engaging and thought-provoking exhibition for the whole family.


Earth Day: Exploring Water

Saturday, April 28 (11am-3:30pm)
Water equals life. Meet the researchers and innovators who are helping to ensure that our water supply is clean, safe, and reliable, and find out how you can help.

Single-Day Summer Camp for Rising Kindergartners & First Graders Water June 14 OR July 10 (9am-Noon) (1pm-4pm) Explore the world of water! We’ll experiment to find out what will absorb water, what substances will dissolve in water, what floats in water, and even build our own boats.

Weeklong Summer Camp for Rising Second & Third Graders Amazing H2O June 25-29 (9am-Noon) Water, water everywhere and so much science to learn! Dive into COSI’s traveling exhibition, WATER, and learn about how important water can be.

Two-Day Summer Camp for Rising Fourth & Fifth Graders River Rangers Special Two-Day Camp! July 5-6 (9am-4pm)
Announcing the new partnership between COSI and the Grange Insurance Audubon Center.



Canoe Creation offers "hands-on" and "get-in-it" field classes, adventures, and river trips for all age school groups. They travel to your area and do classes on every imaginable outdoor subject. Contact them at canoecreation@netzero.net



More Fun Stuff to Do



Bring the Farm to You!

Spring is right around the corner! Have you ever dreamed of a school garden? Would your students like to hatch chicks in their classroom? Have you wanted to grow plants right in your room? Would you like a bee-keeper to teach your students about honey bees? Have you ever wondered how sheep wool turns into yarn? If you answered yes to any of these questions, check out www.bringthefarmtoyou.com, a new venture of **Christa Hein** who has served the last 15 years as the Education Director of Stratford Ecological Center. She offers many on-location programs for schools, libraries and private and public events. Start your spring with a farm right in your classroom or on your school grounds!



The Dawes Arboretum

Explore. Experience. Enjoy.

It's that simple. The Dawes Arboretum is here for you to explore, experience, and enjoy.

Founded in 1929 by Beman and Bertie Dawes, The Arboretum now covers nearly 1,800 acres and includes eight miles of hiking trails and a four-mile Auto Tour. Come see

some of our more than 15,000 living plants. Relax in our Japanese Garden. Hike through our Deep Woods or Dutch Fork Wetlands. Climb our Observation Tower for an amazing view.

The Dawes Arboretum is a private, non-profit organization. The grounds are open 7am until dusk year-round. We are closed only on New Year's, Thanksgiving and Christmas days. Admission is free.

For more information, please call, fax, e-mail or write The Dawes Arboretum as listed below:

- Phone: 740-323-2355 or 800-44-DAWES Fax: 740-323-4058 E-mail: information@dawesarb.org
- This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it
- Mailing address: 7770 Jacksontown Rd., SE, Newark, OH 43056

We are located 35 miles east of Columbus, Ohio, four miles north of Interstate 70 and six miles south of downtown Newark. We hope to see you soon!



Even More Fun Stuff to Do



2012 Envirothon Competition

Sponsored by the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the

Envirothon competition is a perfect way to increase your high school students' awareness of environmental topics and issues. Teams of five students answer questions about forestry, wildlife, soils, aquatic ecology, and current environmental issues in an outdoor setting. The national environmental theme for 2012 is "Nonpoint Source Pollution/Low Impact Development" Our Area competition (17 counties in central and southern Ohio) will be held on Wednesday, May 9th at Slate Run Metro Park located at 1375 S.R. 674 North, Canal Winchester, Ohio.

If you are interested in this great opportunity for your students to meet professionals in the environmental field and test their knowledge of our natural resources, contact Linda Pettit at 486-4613 or Linda-pettit@franklinswcd.org.



Help raise awareness on water pollution prevention by participating in the City of Columbus "No Dumping, Drains to Rivers" storm drain marking project, part of the Department of Public Utilities' "We All Live Downstream" public education program. It's an easy community service activity that can be done by your class. You choose the neighborhood, which must be within Columbus; the city supplies the markers, adhesive and instructions. For more information please call 645-2926 or visit <http://utilities.columbus.gov>. To obtain markers outside Columbus, please contact that jurisdiction's public service or utilities department.



Ohio Nature Education (ONE) is currently booking for outreach programs or programs on-site at the William C. Kraner Nature Center. More information can be found at www.ohionature.org or by calling 740-967-8320. ONE provides a home for permanently injured wild animals which are incorporated into environmental education programs.

Check us out on Facebook.



Shepherd's Corner
ECOLOGY CENTER

Awakening the Dream, Changing the Dream
Saturday, March 24th 9 am – 2:30 pm Fee: \$15
Includes lunch. Register by March 19 by calling 614-866-4302 or email shepherdscorner@sbcglobal.net

Certificate of participation for contact hours will be provided for district committee for CEU's.

Join with others to stand for a new possibility for the future: an environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling, and socially just human presence on Earth.



Future City is an engaging way to build 6-8th grade students' 21st century skills while they apply math and science concepts to real-world problems and work with engineer-volunteer mentors. On Jan 21, 2012 the Ohio Future Cities competition was held at Columbus State Community College. The winning team from Immaculate Conception Academy in Norwood, Ohio designed a city of the future while recognizing the impact our society of today would have on that of tomorrow. Ohio's next statewide competition will be held January 19th, 2013. Registration is required by Oct. 31st, 2012 and mini-grants are available. For more information go to: www.futurecity.org/ohio.

Upcoming Events for Educators

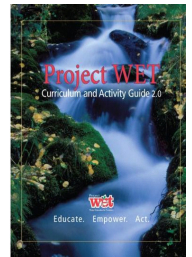


Get WET and WILD With Environmental Workshops for Educators

A pair of science based workshops introducing educators of all types and grade levels to interdisciplinary, hands-on activities will be held at the nature center of Highbanks Metro Park on Route 23 just north of I 270. Completion of these workshops and an additional assignment qualifies participants for 1 graduate semester hour of Ashland University credit for an additional fee of \$182.

Project WET, Generation 2.0 on Saturday, February 25, 2012 8:30 am – 4:00 pm

Experience and receive the new edition of Project WET: Water Education for Teachers. Now in full color, Guide 2.0 offers new activities on topics such as National Parks and storm water. This resource guide contains teacher-tested and classroom ready interdisciplinary activities developed to engage students in a better understanding of water as a resource, a habitat and a source of life. Guide 2.0 includes dozens of new activities, updates of many original activities and extensive literature connections. Activities for grades K-12. Registration fee is \$25.



Project WILD's Science and Civics: Sustaining Wildlife, Saturday, May 5, 2012 8:30 – 4:00

Designed to serve as a guide for involving students in environmental action projects aimed at benefitting the local wildlife found in a community, this curriculum can help teachers effectively meet state science and social studies standards. It is also designed to involve young people in decisions affecting people, wildlife, and the habitat they share in their community through the development and implementation of a Service Learning Project. Geared for grades 9-12. The registration fee is \$10, materials are provided by ODNR: Division of Wildlife.



For more information contact:

Linda Pettit at the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District (614) 486-9613, ext. 115 or Linda-pettit@franklinswcd.org

These workshops are coordinated and facilitated by Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District, Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District, Highbanks Metro Park and Delaware General Health District. The workshops are co-sponsored by the Environmental Education Council of Ohio and made possible in part by a generous grant from the Ohio Environmental Education Fund.



Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District



Delaware Soil & Water Conservation District
Helping You Help the Land



COLUMBUS
OHIO

February: Library Lovers' Month



National Bird Feeding Month

February 28: National Science Day

March: Youth Art Month

March 9: Check Your Batteries Day

March 14: Albert Einstein's Birthday (1879)

March 16-22: Brain Awareness Week

March 22: World Day for Water

April: Humor Month

Lawn and Garden Month

April 12: National Drop Everything and Read Day

April 16-22: National Environmental Education Week
celebration ideas: www.eeweek.org/index.html

April 20-26: International TV Turn Off Week

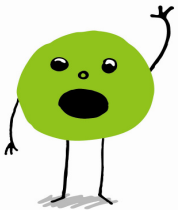
Fish & Pond Spring 2012



The last day to order is Friday, March 23,

- Fish pick-up is Thursday, March 29th, 2012, from noon to 1 p.m. at Franklin Soil and Water, 1328 Dublin Road, Columbus 43215. Call (614) 486-9613 for directions.
- To pick up fish, bring water from the pond you plan to stock, approximately 5 gallons of water per 100 fish of each species. For white amur, bring 5 gallons of water for every two fish. The best container is a 30-gallon trash can with a plastic bag containing pond water.
- When you pick up your fish, deliver them to your pond immediately.
- The fish are guaranteed to be in good condition, however Franklin Soil and Water does not guarantee survival after you have stocked them in your pond.

No refunds are available



The **GreenSpot** program is expanding to include a new kids program!

The new GreenSpot mascot and materials were designed to support existing first grade curriculum while empowering students to help the environment. Students learn to make simple choices like recycling, turning off lights, conserving water and more. Integrate sustainability into every day classroom life with these free resources:

- Copies of the Columbus based children's book, "GreenSpot and the Dots".
- A laminated, reusable chart for classrooms to track their daily green accomplishments.
- Activities including an audio walking tour of green features common on all school grounds.
- A website built specifically for kids at GreenKids.Columbus.Gov.
- Opportunity to schedule a guest presentation from program partners.
- A guide of suggested ways to integrate GreenSpot into daily classroom life.
- A resource guide highlighting programs, grants, materials and more to further inform teachers of the many environmental resources available to classrooms in central Ohio.

www.GreenKids.Columbus.gov will be ready for you on April 1, 2012



District programs and services are offered on a non-discriminatory basis.