

Frankly Speaking

You're Invited! Our 2017 Annual Meeting is Thursday September 28th

www.franklinswcd.org

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Franklin Soil and Water's 71st Annual Meeting is Thursday, September 28th, 2017 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The event will be held at The Boat House at Confluence Park, 679 W. Spring Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. The Boat House Restaurant provides a unique view of the Columbus skyline and scenery of the Olentangy and Scioto riversides. Come and enjoy an evening of networking with fellow conservationists, local government staff, elected officials, Franklin County landowners and our staff!

This year's meeting will be a networking event with a flexible agenda focused on building new relationships and recognizing our partners.

Our theme "Be the Change for Clean Water" recognizes our past and is an exciting look ahead! In previous years we have appreciated ideas focused on clean water including "Acting for Clean Water" in 2011 and "Celebrating 40 Years of the Clean Water Act" in 2012.

At the event we will debut the new bethechangeformcleanwater.org website, a collaborative platform for residents, organizations, and businesses across county lines to take ownership of the future of clean water.

Registration will begin at 5 p.m. with appetizers and finger foods provided throughout the evening.

Con't, pg 2



She would like to know why you haven't planted that tree yet! Get your rebate at www.communitybackyards.org

Announcing . . . Be the Change for Clean Water

It is easy to take clean water for granted since we are very fortunate to have abundant surface and ground water here in Ohio. Water quality is usually not a common concern until a crisis or advisories make local and state headlines.

Ohio has had its share of water quality problems through the years. The Cuyahoga River caught fire many times, but received the most attention in 1969; in 1997, Cincinnati's Mill creek was named "the most endangered urban river in America"; and more recently, Toledo's toxic algae bloom in 2014 spanned 3 counties and left 500,000 without drinking water.

Incidents like these swiftly capture public attention, because they threaten

property, livelihood, or prevent the consumption of water from reliable sources.

Industrial uses and direct pollution of the past have given way to new threats including aging infrastructure, agricultural contamination, urbanization, and increasingly frequent downpours. It can be difficult to grasp how individual actions or behaviors influence water quality when water pollution has so many sources.

Public understanding and participation in long-term water quality protection is crucial and was recently highlighted in two local studies, Sustaining Scioto (lead by MORPC) and the City of Columbus Watershed Master Plan.

Con't, pg 2

Annual Meeting

Con't

A short welcome speech along with an awards presentation will begin at 6 p.m. A silent auction will be held all evening with bidding to end at 7:15 p.m. All proceeds from the auction will go towards our Conservation Fund which supports conservation projects all across Franklin County.

In addition to highlighting important local conservation achievements of the past year, the annual meeting provides Franklin County residents the opportunity to vote for new members to our Board of Supervisors. Two supervisors will be elected this year. Information on voting and candidates will be available on our website after September 7th. Contact our office for information on voter eligibility.

To attend the Annual Meeting, complete the registration form on Page 5 by September 18th and mail a check or invoice request with your registration form. Those who prefer to pay by credit card may register online at <https://fswcd71.eventbrite.com>.

Thank you to our Annual Meeting sponsors:

Meijer, Stantec, Stover and Turner Excavating, Boss Excavating & Grading Inc., TruGreen, Aqua Doc Lake & Pond Management, Coldwater Consulting, Scotts Miracle Gro, Kurtz Bros. Inc., 3C Technology Solutions, City Folk's Farm Shop, McMahan DeGulis LLP, Able Printing Co, and AEP.

Be the Change for Clean Water

Con't

This is why Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District is asking our supporters to participate in our Be the Change for Clean Water campaign. Our goals are to reach central Ohio residents through an aggressive clean water and pollution prevention marketing plan.

Our partners will pool resources and expertise while streamlining communications, and residents in agricultural, rural, suburban, and urban settings will be targeted. It will include paid advertising, graphics, presentations, educational materials, and even an interactive game show.

Participating collaborators span nine counties, and include fellow soil and water districts, local governments, several public planning or environmental agencies, and non-profit organizations. We are confident that water quality messages deserve attention and ambitiously hope that grant funding will kick-start *Be the Change for Clean Water* into 2018.

Over the long term we envision this partnership coordinating not only messaging, but also securing additional resources and support to improve and protect our water resources throughout Central Ohio!

Be the Change
for clean water .org

Top right: Paula Brooks, former Franklin County Commissioner, receives a conservation stewardship award at last year's annual meeting from Director Jennifer Fish. Ms. Brooks provided leadership to local and national environmental initiatives, including serving as the only Ohio representative on former President Obama's White House Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience.



Bottom right: Silent auction proceeds benefit our Conservation Fund that supports conservation projects in Franklin County each year.



Gardening for Clean Water Starts at Local Nurseries

Franklin Soil and Water is working with several new nurseries this year whose managers have welcomed the opportunity to help their gardeners use rainwater as a resource on their property, while providing much-needed habitat.

The nursery outreach program has successfully expanded its reach since 2012 when it was awarded initial funding from the Ohio EPA. The program currently involves education for nursery employees about stormwater pollution and reduction strategies, an outdoor store kiosk, and signs and stickers on rain garden-appropriate plants.

Last year, the Ohio EPA Office of Environmental Education notified Franklin Soil and Water that the project

was recently reviewed and selected as an Outstanding Project!

The kiosk also features information about our popular conservation rebate program, Community Backyards. County residents who purchase rain barrels, composters, or native plants and trees can receive a \$50 reimbursement after participating in online or in-person conservation classes.

Find our displays at Oakland Nurseries (Columbus, Dublin, and New Albany branches); Strader's Garden Centers (Grove City and Reynoldsburg branches); Lowe's Home Improvement (Central Columbus store); Dill's Greenhouse; Scioto Gardens; and Darby Creek Nursery.



Kathie Rath ("perennial lady") poses at our outdoor kiosk at Oakland Nurseries' New Albany branch.

Pup Program Encourages Dog Owners to "Doo" the Right Thing

Did you know that dogs produce up to .75 pounds of poop a day? There are over 277,000 dogs in Franklin County. That's over 100 tons of poop a day that can pollute water when it rains! Dog waste that is washed into storm sewers on the streets drains directly into rivers, carrying extra nutrients and disease causing pathogens from the waste.

Communities around Columbus are taking part in the 'Pick Up Poop' (PUP) program. The PUP program encourages dog owners to 'doo' the right thing and pick up after their dogs! Animal waste pollutes water resources, and this program is aimed at limiting the amount of waste that ends up in our water resources. Clean water is our goal!

We care about picking up dog poo and keeping it from the water because our quality of life depends on the quality of our water.

Dog waste is cited as one of the top bacterial polluters of urban watershed resources. There are about 23 million bacteria per gram of waste. Dogs have lots of extra digestive bacteria to help them digest foods, since they eat almost anything. Another reason dog waste is more harmful than that of other animals is the large amount of dogs in one area. Wildlife moves about freely, while dogs are generally confined to their owners' yard and the dog parks. This means that toxic doggy doo is concentrated in a community.

PUP
Pick Up Poop



Locally Led Conservation Starts with Board of Supervisors

Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District leadership starts with our Board of Supervisors, locally elected experts and residents who volunteer their time to oversee the final authority on our operations. Board Supervisors are Ohio public officials just like the governor, mayors and township trustees, and are held to the same fiduciary and ethical standards.

We would like to thank our outgoing board members David Donofrio and John Moorehead for their service. David helped foster connections to our state elected representatives and has been an advocate of using and improving our social media, website and online resources to connect with the public. John excelled as technical advisor to District projects and provided guidance for updating policy and procedures.

Finally, we would like to welcome Emily Weber to our Board. Emily was previously employed with Franklin Soil and Water as Urban Conservationist and more recently as Assistant Director. We are excited to retain Emily's leadership on our Board of Supervisors!



John Moorehead has served on the board since 2015. He served as an active member and as Secretary and Vice Chair.



Emily Weber worked for the District for 8 years prior to a temporary move out of state. We are very glad to have her back as Board Treasurer.



David Donofrio served on the board since 2011 until recently. He has acted as Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

Thank You to Our Annual Meeting Sponsors



Sponsorship opportunities still available!
Contact Dorothy Park by phone: (614) 486-9613 or email: dpark@franklinswcd.org



BetheChange
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2017 Annual Meeting Registration

You may also register online: <https://fswcd71.eventbrite.com>

Please join Franklin Soil and Water for our 71st Annual Meeting and Board of Supervisors' Election on September 28th, 2017 at The Boat House at Confluence Park. We invite you to enjoy an evening of networking, a silent auction, food and drink, and our conservation awards ceremony.

Franklin County residents and landowners 18 years of age and older, as well as firms and corporations that own or occupy land in Franklin County may cast a vote for new members of the five-person, publicly elected Franklin Soil and Water Board of Supervisors. Election rules and applications for absentee ballots can be found on our website.

All profits from the annual meeting and proceeds from the silent auction go to our Conservation Fund, which supports student, landowner and community conservation projects throughout the county.

Be the Change for Clean Water 2017 Annual Meeting
September 28th, 2017 from 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

The Boat House at Confluence Park • 679 W. Spring Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215

Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District

Creating Conservation Solutions for over 70 Years

Name: _____ Email: _____

Organization: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Number of Annual Meeting Tickets Requested (Ticket Price: \$35): _____

Please make check payable to Franklin Soil and Water. Total Ticket Cost: _____

Additional Guests Attending:

Please mail by September 18th or call our office. Send form with payment or invoice request to:

Franklin Soil and Water
1404 Goodale Blvd. Ste. 100
Columbus, Ohio 43212

Tickets will be e-mailed to main contact; otherwise, they can be picked up at the annual meeting registration desk.

Thank you to our 2017 Annual Meeting Sponsors! If you are interested in sponsoring our Annual Meeting, contact our office at (614) 486-9613 or visit:

<https://2017eventsponsorshipregistration.eventbrite.com>

For more information, contact Dorothy Park by phone: (614) 486-9613 or email: dpark@franklinswcd.org

Get Grassy! Clean Water by the Yard

The Beginning of Lawns and Curb Appeal

Franklin Soil and Water launched its **Get Grassy!** lawn care program last year to complement our suite of Backyard Conservation programming. When thinking about conservation, we don't usually consider lawns. However, numerous studies demonstrate that healthy lawns do a good job at absorbing rainfall and prevent polluted runoff.

Our initiative is reinforced by the EPA which recognizes lawn care practices as part of its national menu of best management practices (BMPs) for stormwater. Since urban Franklin County residents work, play, and live around turf grass, there's a lot of potential!

Lawn care and environmental stewardship are not mutually exclusive! Care for both with few simple guidelines:



Keep It On the Lawn for Clean Water.

Fertilizers and lawn care chemicals are intended for the lawn, not the driveway, sidewalk, or road. Grass clippings and mulched leaves can also be kept on the lawn or composted, but should not be allowed to clog stormdrains or wash away. Even "natural" products can



cause nutrient pollution and spur algae growth. If you decide to use pesticides or herbicides to meet your lawn care goals, be sure to follow the label, consider spot application, and dispose of any unused product properly with your hazardous waste.

Breathe Easy by Going Electric.

Gas powered lawn and garden equipment emit particulates, stir up dust, and cause noise pollution. When you purchase your next mower consider going electric. If you have an especially small lawn, look into reel mowers- they've come a long way!

Choose Natives for Biodiversity.

Healthy bird, butterfly and bee populations are not supported by lawns because turfgrass isn't allowed to bloom, provides no pollen, nectar, or shade, and is functionally limited. Native plants provide energy to animals directly or indirectly, as much as 29 times more than non-natives.



Andrea Thompson won our monthly raffle and picked up gardening books at our office.



Learn More.

Learn more about our **Get Grassy!** lawn care program as well as our Community Backyards rebate program by browsing our website, or visiting us at public events like Earth Day, the Ohio State Fair, or the September Home & Garden show in Columbus. Find simple, commonsense lawn care tips at getgrassy.org and take the pledge to remind you to keep your lawn healthy. We'll even send you a gift!

Pond Stocking

Largemouth bass, channel catfish and bluegill are recommended species for stocking Ohio ponds. Forage species, such as minnow or bluegill, should be stocked as a food source for largemouth bass. Stocking rates will vary according to pond size. Below is a general stocking recommendation from our vendor for a one-acre pond:

100 Bass	Best predator + best forager = balance
200 Bluegill	
100 Catfish	These fish add variety to the menu. Remember to add fish that you would enjoy catching and/or eating.
100 Perch	
100 Black crappie	
100 Hybrid bluegill	
1000 Minnows	
5-10 White amur	Depends on the quantity and species of pond weeds.

Yellow perch are commonly thought of as competitors of bluegill. While they do eat the same food, they cohabit well when they are stocked with a 1:1:1 ratio of bass, bluegill and perch. Yellow perch will spawn in early April, while bluegill will spawn in late May. Yellow perch prefer overhanging brush or vegetation in about four feet of water for their eggs.

The white amur sold by Franklin Soil and Water are sterile triploid and cannot reproduce. It is important that you do not overstock these fish, as some aquatic weeds in your pond are desirable for oxygen production and fish habitat.

It is also important to remember that any type of fish has the potential to take over a pond if overstocked or if not properly managed. Information about each species we sell can be found in our online shop at <http://shop.franklinswcd.org/index.php?route=product/category&path=83> or on the ODNR Wildlife website at <http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/fishing/fishing-tips-by-species>

Additional resources for pond stocking guidance are the Fender's Fish and Llama Farm's *Farm Pond Management Guide* (which can be purchased for \$20 on the order form to the right), and the online *Ohio Pond Management Handbook*, available from ODNR at <http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/species-and-habitats/pond-management>

Instructions for Fish Sale Ordering

1. Fill out the order form and return with check to Franklin Soil and Water, 1404 Goodale Blvd., Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43212.
2. Or place your order online at www.franklinswcd.org
3. Last day to order fish is Tuesday, October 3^d at 4:30 p.m.
4. **Pick-up your order at Ohio Division of Wildlife (1500 Dublin Road, Columbus 43215) on Thursday, October 12 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**
5. Line a five-gallon bucket with a clean plastic bag and fill it half way with water from your pond (see graphic to right). The fish are fingerlings and quite small, except for the white amur. Two white amur will fit in a five-gallon bucket.
6. **Deliver fish to your pond immediately.**
7. Fish are guaranteed to be in good condition, but there is no guaranteed survival.
8. There are no refunds. Please have someone pick up the fish for you if you are unavailable.



Species	Size (inches)	Cost	Quantity	Total Cost
Largemouth bass	2-3	\$0.85 each		
Bluegill	2-4			
Channel catfish	4-5			
Yellow perch	2-3			
Black crappie	2-4			
Hybrid bluegill	2-4			
Fatheaded minnow	1-2	100 for \$6		
White amur (triploid)	8-10	\$15.00 each		
<i>Farm Pond Management Guide</i>			\$20.00 each	
My fish sale total cost				\$

My name _____

My organization's name _____

Complete address _____

Daytime phone number _____

E-mail address _____

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

August 2017

Frankly Speaking

Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District

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