

Frankly Speaking

www.franklinswcd.org

Creating Conservation Solutions for Over 70 Years

The 2017 Annual Tree and Plant Sale is Now Open!

Visit www.franklinswcd.org to see what's available this year or continue reading for plant descriptions and photos.

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*The Fish Sale has been moved to Fall 2017. More information can be found on page 10.

2017 TREE SALE DATES!

Online Ordering Begins: January 9
Order by: April 10
Pick Up: April 28 & 29

Order online at <http://shop.franklinswcd.org>

Or fill out & mail order form:
1404 Goodale Blvd. Suite 100
Columbus, OH 43212

Managing Stormwater Ponds for Water Quality & Wildlife

When it comes to ponds, most people are familiar with either farm ponds used for livestock and watering crops, or recreational ponds for fishing, boating, and swimming. However, most of the ponds we receive calls about are actually stormwater ponds, and while they may look like any other recreational pond, they function much differently. In order to develop a successful management program it is important to first understand how and why these ponds function, whether your end goal is to improve water quality, attract more wildlife, or just have something that is more visually appealing.

About Stormwater Ponds

Stormwater ponds are designed and constructed to store and/or treat the stormwater that flushes off of our developed landscapes (including roadways, roofs, and lawns). This helps

prevent downstream flooding and keep pollutants from being discharged directly to our lakes, streams and other water bodies. This also means they are accepting high amounts of nutrients, sediment, trash, and other pollutants, which effectively cause the pond to "age" faster and lead to degraded conditions such as low dissolved oxygen, algal blooms, unsightly conditions, and odors. Fluctuating water levels can also make it difficult for vegetation to grow and encourage bank erosion, or flush away chemicals and colored dyes intended to prevent or treat problems. Thankfully, there are some simple things you can do to maintain the ponds primary function of stormwater management while also improving aesthetics and wildlife habitat.

Buffers and Native Plants

While the grassed areas surrounding

Continued on page 6



Floating white water lilies and wetland plants add beauty and habitat to this stormwater pond.



Water quality suffers with bank erosion and nuisance Canada geese.



Community Backyards Program



Participants send in photos of their rain barrel and compost bin to receive a reimbursement check.

Last year, Community Backyards provided over 750 rebates to participating residents that brought home rain barrels, compost bins, or native plants and trees. The majority of which were rain barrel reimbursements, now a regular feature in Franklin County landscapes.

Rain barrels not only capture soft, mineral-free rainwater that plants prefer, but they also help prevent stormwater pollution.

In addition, over 200 rebates were given to residents who purchased native trees such as shingle oaks, sugar maples, or magnolia trees. The City of Columbus and Franklin Soil and Water appreciate the positive difference these trees make in our urban tree canopy! In total, 20 communities and townships participated.

As for 2017, we will continue to host in-person workshops around the city and participating communities, as well

as offer an online course and quiz for residents. Conservationists will study improving water quality with rain gardens and rain barrels, learn why native plants are so important, and how composting improves soil conditions, among other themes.

Community Backyards will once again offer \$50 or \$100 reimbursements to residents after participation in the program and purchase of an approved backyard conservation item. Participation is necessary to receive a rebate, and participants must live in an eligible tax district. The program will relaunch its 3rd season on April 1, and will extend through October 31, 2017. So get ready for spring!

For more information on Community Backyards, a full list of participating districts, and information on how to participate, visit:

www.communitybackyards.org.

**Not all participants will qualify for every rebate item or amount. See our website for details.*

Get Grassy! Clean Water by the Yard.

Columbus Pledges to Get Grassy!

What you do in the comfort of your yard affects our local waterways. Launched in 2016 with the City of Columbus, the Get Grassy! campaign encourages central Ohio residents to take good care of their lawns.

Well-maintained lawns have deeper root systems, exhibit drought and disease tolerance, and are better for water quality since they're able to absorb more rain while preventing soil erosion.

Since the campaign's launch, over three hundred individuals pledged to perform simple behaviors on their home turf. Some easy commitments include using a rain barrel to reduce stormwater runoff; keeping storm drains free of

litter and yard debris; leaving clippings and mulched leaves on the lawn to improve soil with organic materials; and sharpening mower blades for clean, damage-free cuts during mowing.

Franklin Soil and Water is joined in its effort to protect water quality through proper lawn care by several partnering agencies, professional organizations, and non-profit groups. In addition, 6 local lawn care companies have worked with us to help shape our campaign: BioGreen Ohio, Good Nature Organic Lawn Care, Grassroots Lawn & Irrigation, Safe Lawns, Scotts LawnService/TruGreen, and Watershed Organic Lawn Care. These companies receive stormwater pollution training and resources, and distribute our

educational "Seasonal How-To" literature to customers.

We are thankful that our partners and these private businesses allow us to reach a wider audience with consistent and sensible advice.

Take the pledge and learn more at www.getgrassy.org!



Aquatic Plants: Now Available in the 2017 Tree and Plant Sale

As you may be aware, we here at Franklin Soil and Water love plants. Ponds with aquatic vegetation are more attractive, healthier and offer habitat benefits for local wildlife.

There are three main categories of aquatics: submerged, marginal/bog, or floating. Submerged plants have roots anchored in the pond bottom with leaves and flowers at or just above the water's surface, and are important for oxygenating. Marginal/bog plants are also referred to as emergent and their roots are usually underwater or in boggy, wet soil (like the margins of ponds or streams). Finally, floating plants are free floating with roots suspended below leaves.

This year, you have an opportunity to dress up your pond or wetland with a few selected aquatic plants. The white and yellow lilies are available in 4" pots, while the remaining plants are smaller plugs.

Floating Aquatic Plants

(Available in 4" pots)

- Spatterdock (*Nuphar lutea*)
- Fragrant Waterlily (*Nymphaea odorata*)

Grasslike Marginal/Bog Plants

(Available in plugs)

- Softstem Bulrush (*Scirpus tabernaemontani*)
- Woolgrass (*Scirpus cyperinus*)

Marginal/Bog Plants (con't)

- Arrow Arum (*Peltandra virginica*)
- Arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia*)
- Lizard's Tail (*Saururus cernuus*)
- Marsh Hibiscus (*Hibiscus moscheutos*)
- Pickeralweed (*Pontederia cordata*)
- Soft Rush (*Juncus effuses*)



Marsh hibiscus

Photo credit: Robert H. Mohlenbrock, hosted by the USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

Ohio's Rare Plants: Now Available in the 2017 Tree and Plant Sale

Did you know that out of nearly 2,000 plant species in Ohio, almost a third are considered rare? Rare plants may range in status from being a "Species of Concern", to potentially threatened, locally extinct (extirpated), or federally endangered. While some are inconspicuous and easily overlooked during surveying, many thrive only in unique niches and are naturally uncommon. Others lack necessary habitat, face increasingly heavy competition from non-native invaders and pests, or are threatened by illegal collection and climate change.

Six Ohio plants are also federally listed as threatened or endangered. Our home here in Franklin County lists 14 state-listed plants, according to the Ohio Natural Heritage Database. This database is administered by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' (ODNR) Division of Natural Areas and Preserves and is revised every two years.

For more information, see <http://naturepreserves.ohiodnr.gov/rareplants>.

This year, we're excited to offer a few species that are listed in the state of Ohio. Be sure to check our most up-to-date selections online as weather may allow more vendor availability.

- Aromatic Aster (*Aster oblongifolius* 'Raydon's Favorite'): Threatened
- Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*): Threatened
- New York ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*): Presumed extirpated
- Savanna Blazingstar (*Liatris scariosa*): Threatened
- Sweet Goldenrod (*Solidago odora*): Threatened

"There are several dozen native species and all look good, although shale-barren aster is hard to top in the looks department. Obviously they aren't just eye candy - animals galore flock to the flowers, and by having some asters in the corral, you'll be truly green."

*-Jim McCormac
Central Ohio Naturalist*



Monarch nectaring on aster
Photo courtesy of Jim McCormac
<http://jimccormac.blogspot.com/>

Aquatics & Grasses

Blue Vervain



Fast-growing, hardy, tall (to 6') plant for pond margins and stream edges. Burst of deep blue in late summer. Provides soil stabilization.

Arrowhead



Spikes of white flowers in late summer. Lobed leaves resemble arrowheads. Underground tubers provide food for waterfowl, muskrat, and beaver.

Big Bluestem



A drought-tolerant quintessential prairie grass, extending 6'-9' with equally impressive deep root systems.

Side-oats Grama Grass



Short bunchgrass (to 2') with delicate, attractive seeds arranged along the sides of flowering stalk. Good companion for low-growing flowers.

Plant Descriptions & Photos (Not all plants sold are listed with photos)

For a complete list view the order form or visit our website: <http://shop.franklinswcd.org>



Soft rush plug (top) and quart (right)



Perennials Available in Plugs, Quarts, and Gallons

Plugs are young plants grown in individual cells, and are ready for immediate transplant.

Perennials are also available in larger quarts and gallons.

Perennials

Butterflyweed



Brilliant orange blooms of this milkweed are irresistible to native bees, monarch butterflies and wasps. Prefers dry soils in full sun.

Common Milkweed



The most commonly distributed milkweed in Ohio, producing the most monarchs according to ODNR. Strongly aromatic, tenacious grower.

Twinleaf



Protected species in several states, occurring in rich woodlands. Showy ephemeral flowers and twin identical leaves resembling butterfly wings.

Rattlesnake Master



Pointy and yucca-like with tiny white flowers packed into spheres. Typically grows to 3' in full sun and well-drained soil. Weird and wonderful.

Virginia Bluebells



Lovely spring flower of shady woods and floodplains. Clump forming to 2' tall with pink-purple pendulous blooms. Dormancy follows bloom.

Cardinal Flower



Top pick for hummingbird lovers. Showy blooms in late summer. Grows up to 4', preferring full to partial sun and moist or wet soils.

Trees & Shrubs

(Not all trees sold are listed below with photos. For a complete list, view our order form or visit our website.)

American Beech



Handsome tree that does best in full sun and moist, well-drained soil. Can grow 50-100' tall and wide with a dense, rounded form.

White Pine



Fast growing, long-lived evergreen that commonly reaches 50-80' tall. Prefers full sun, is very drought tolerant, and a good cover tree for birds and other wildlife.

Bur Oak



One of longest-lived and largest oaks at 80 x 80' or more. Widespread throughout eastern and plain states.

Tree Packets

Choose from five themed tree packets. Each packet contains a total of ten plants & includes two seedlings of each of the five different species.

Riparian: Suitable for planting along pond margins, streambanks, and wet areas to provide erosion protection, bank stabilization, and wildlife habitat.

All the Buzz: Includes plants chosen for the pollen and nectar they provide. The colorful flowers and foliage add beauty to the landscape as well as provide food for pollinators.

For the Birds: These selected trees and shrubs attract birds with their fruits that provide much-needed energy and fat for friends who will migrate or overwinter. Winterberry feeds more than 48 species of birds!

Honeysuckle Replacement: Exotic (non-native) bush honeysuckle has infested much of our woodlands, severely reducing biodiversity. Remove it and plant these understory shrubs instead, and look for wildflowers you never knew existed beneath their shade.

Backyard Bounty: Fruits and berries in this packet feed wildlife and humans alike. The red mulberry is similar to the introduced Chinese white mulberry. The female fruit of sumac can be collected, soaked and washed in cold water, strained, sweetened and made into a pink lemonade.

Pussy Willow



Shrub growing to 15'. Males produce showy late winter catkins. Grown in moist soils along streams, ponds or in low spots. Available in Riparian packet.

Pawpaw



Unique understory tree with large tropical-looking leaves. Edible fruits ripen from July to September. Available individually and in Backyard Bounty packet.

Redbud



This small tree is a spring-time favorite. Purple-pink flowers develop along branches before leaves emerge in the early spring.

Black Cherry



Easily grown in loamy soils with full sun. White flowers bloom in spring, followed by clusters of red cherries.

Stormwater Ponds Cont'd

stormwater ponds are commonly mowed to create park land or open-space, mowing right to the water's edge compacts the soil, reduces root growth and grass vigor, and commonly leads to bank erosion. Establishing a simple, un-mowed buffer zone around the perimeter of the pond (4-10 feet wide) can prevent bank erosion, filter/absorb nutrients, reduce maintenance time and costs, provide wildlife habitat, and even help deter Canada geese from taking up residence.

Replace invasive species and other unwanted trees and shrubs with native plants, but refrain from planting woody vegetation on engineered earthen dikes or dams or around stormwater structures; this prevents root intrusion and allows access for inspection and maintenance activities. To further enhance your buffer, consider adding a chemical-free zone where no pesticides or fertilizers will be used and install pet waste collection stations to prevent bacterial contamination.

Export the Bad and Import the Good

The nutrient-enriched environments of stormwater ponds are especially subject to quick plant growth and subsequent decay that rapidly depletes dissolved oxygen (DO). One of the easiest ways to remove nutrients from a pond is to periodically harvest the plants (and fish) that have been using them to grow before they can decompose and release the nutrients back into the system. Dispose of this material like any other yard waste or compost instead. Eventually, when 25% of the pond's volume is occupied by sediment and decomposed organic material, the pond should be dredged. Before dredging, take a quick inventory of any plant material that you want to save or transplant and look for opportunities to retrofit the pond to maximize its environmental services.

Aeration systems are another tool that can be used to add DO back into the system to help sustain fish, invertebrates, and the beneficial aerobic



Floating islands remove excess nutrients that can contribute to algal growth in ponds and wetlands.

bacteria needed to break down organic material. In deeper ponds aeration also helps manage the release of excessive phosphorus (P) from sediments, and helps prevent pond turn-over by mixing the warm and cool layers of water. Agitating the water's surface also helps discourage egg-laying mosquitos.

Making Plans with Good Neighbors

Unfortunately, maintenance is often an afterthought until issues arise, leaving the property owner(s) or homeowners' association (HOA) financially unprepared. If you are not the sole owner of the pond, start a discussion with its users, owners, or

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Instructions for Tree Sale Ordering

1. Tear & fill out the order form on the next page and return with check to Franklin Soil and Water, 1404 Goodale Blvd., Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43212 or, place your order online at <http://shop.franklinswcd.org>.
2. Last day to order from the tree sale is Monday, April 10 at midnight.
3. **Pick up your order at Ohio Division of Wildlife (1500 Dublin Road, Columbus, 43215) Friday, April 28 (Arbor Day) from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. or Saturday, April 29 from 8 a.m. to noon.**
4. Arrange for someone to pick up your tree-sale items for you if you are unavailable. **Items from the tree sale that are not picked up during pick-up hours will be donated to local non profits at noon on May 3.**
5. It is important to plant bare root seedlings immediately. Do not leave them in your car or hot garage. Please read about proper tree planting on our Web site, www.franklinswcd.org.
6. Conservation-grade, bare root seedlings are generally small, so a large-capacity vehicle is not necessary.
7. **There are no refunds.**
8. Order early as there may be limited quantities of some plants. Your payment will be refunded if a plant is unavailable.
9. Additional information and photos of trees, shrubs and perennials are available on our Web site, www.franklinswcd.org.
10. The species we sell (except for edible landscaping) are Ohio natives or cultivars, but may not be native to Franklin County.

Stormwater Ponds Cont'd

neighbors to identify who can help, and how these community members envision the pond functioning. Gather any engineered drawings or existing management plans, and then assess the physical characteristics of your pond and determine the current depth to help prioritize areas to focus your efforts. You may also consider forming a designated committee to help make recommendations and set realistic management goals based on available funds and resources.



This stormwater treatment wetland, located at Crawford Farms Park in Blacklick, filters water through its pools and plants.

Franklin Soil and Water encourages landowners to take pond management one step at a time and remember that no matter the current condition of your stormwater pond, you always have some options. Have more questions? Contact us directly or visit us online.



These female wood ducks are flanked by aquatics and black-eyed Susans.

Conservation Mini-Grant Applications

Now being accepted for 2017 through March 3

The Mini-Grant program is made possible through the District's Conservation Fund, which utilizes profits from the District's Annual Meeting, Tree Sale, and operational fees to support the implementation of conservation projects throughout Franklin County. To date, thirteen grants have been awarded to deserving non-profits.

Any remaining funds are then utilized throughout the year by Franklin Soil and Water to implement projects and programs, many times in coordination with our partners. The Mini-Grant program is open to non-profit organizations such as schools, watershed groups, municipalities,

community groups, and civic associations.

Applications for this competitive program will be accepted January 2nd-March 3rd, 2017. Awardees will be announced the week of March 10th, 2017. For more information or to apply, please visit our Web site: www.franklinswcd.org. Applications can be submitted on-line or mailed in.

Questions and applications may be directed to Sara Ernst, Conservation Implementation Specialist, at sernst@franklinswcd.org or (614) 486-9613.

Congratulations to some of our recent Conservation Mini-Grant recipients!



Franklin County Public Facilities was awarded grant funding in 2015 to seed this pollinator mix on an easement property on Frank Road.

- Chadwick Arboretum and Learning Gardens: Their annual Arboblitz event provides education on proper tree planting while increasing tree canopy. (30 trees in 3 hours!)
- Columbus Zoo and Aquarium: Installation of a butterfly garden to improve habitat and educate visitors.
- FLOW/Cranbrook Elementary: The restoration of Slyh Run with invasive species removal and native tree planting.
- Friends of the Ohio Governor's Mansion and Heritage Garden: Gardening and landscaping with natives demonstration and education.



Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District

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1404 Goodale Blvd., Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43212
614.486.9613

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

January 2017 Vol. 71, Issue 1

Frankly Speaking, Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District

Fish Sale Moves to the Fall

The best time to stock your pond is when the water is cool in spring or fall, around 65 degrees or lower. Historically, we've sold our fish in the spring, but we've recently moved our fish sale to the fall. Spring weather means cooler water, but also rising temperatures that correspond with bacteria, viruses, and microorganisms. In autumn, these same harmful pathogens and parasites are declining- meaning that fish generally survive the stress of moving to their new home.

Look for our next fish sale in October 2017!



2017 Board of Supervisors & Management

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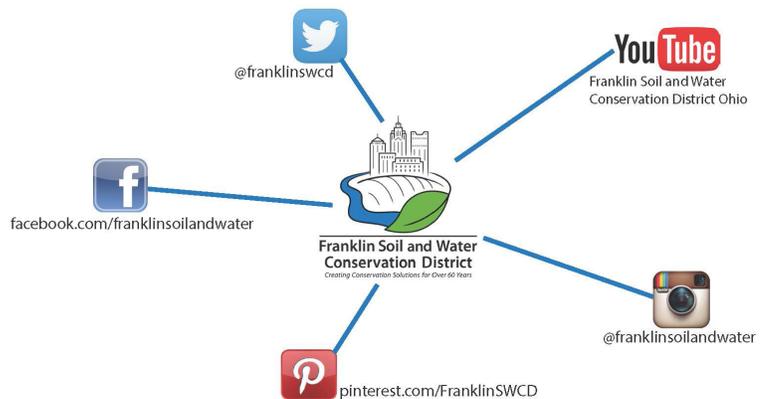
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Linking ourselves to our community

Connect With Us



1404 Goodale Blvd. Suite 100 Columbus, OH 43212



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