

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Kristin Hilson, [khilson@franklinswcd.org](mailto:khilson@franklinswcd.org), (614) 486-9613 (office)

**Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District Awarded  
“District of the Year, Excellence in Soil and Water Conservation Education”**

**3/6/2016 FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**— Franklin Soil and Water attended the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Meeting last week. This meeting brought together over 600 conservation leaders from throughout the state, including Supervisors and staff from Ohio’s 88 county SWCDs, agency and staff from the Ohio Department of Agriculture, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Ohio EPA, The Ohio State University, and many more. The event focused on the theme: “All-In For Conservation”.

Participants convened to hear from special guest speakers, participate in specific trainings and policy initiatives, and more. Included in this year’s partnership meeting was a chance to meet with Ohio legislators and champion the important work conservation districts are doing at the local level and collectively in our state.

During the Annual Meeting, the OFSWCD presented their annual awards for Educator of the Year, District of the Year, and Administrator of the Year. Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District was nominated and awarded the “District of the Year, Excellence in Soil and Water Conservation Education” for our dedication to protecting soil and water natural resources through our community programs, educational presentations, partnerships, and our unique approach to outreach to our local communities.

The OFSWCD is a non-profit organization providing support and assistance to Ohio’s 88 county Soil and Water Conservation Districts. County SWCDs provide a variety of conservation related assistance and programs to landowners and users of Ohio’s working lands -- working hard to keep soils productive and waters clean throughout the state of Ohio.

Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District is honored to have been awarded the “District of the Year” title and will continue to push forward with our programs and public education to protect the conservation of soil and water resources.

-30-

The mission of Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District is to promote land-use decisions for the conservation, protection and improvement of soil and water resources by providing information assistance through effective partnering, technical guidance and education.



Above: Franklin Soil and Water Director, Jennifer Fish, with Ohio Department of Agriculture Program Specialist, Rob Hamilton



Above: Franklin Soil and Water Staff, Dorothy Park, Josh Garver (Assistant Director), Jennifer Fish (Director), & Kristin Hilson