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**Franklin Soil and Water Recognizes Local Leaders with Conservation Steward Awards**

**10/4/2017 FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**— Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District recognized three awardees with Conservation Steward Awards at its 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting and Board of Supervisors' Election on Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>.

Conservation Stewardship Awards are given to individuals, businesses or organizations that have exemplified during the past year Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District's mission of promoting responsible land-use decisions for conservation, protection, and improvement of soil and water resources.

Support for the Annual Meeting and Supervisors' Election for 2017 was provided by Boss Excavating & Grading Inc., Meijer, Stantec, Stover and Turner Excavating, TruGreen, American Electric Power, Aqua Doc Lake & Pond Management, Coldwater Consulting, Scotts Miracle-Gro, Kurtz Bros. Inc., 3C Technology Solutions, City Folk Farm Shop, McMahan DeGulis LLP, Able Printing Co., and Franklin County Engineers Office.

**Jamie Drsata, Lowe's Home Improvement**, was awarded for going above and beyond in implementing Franklin Soil and Water's Gardening for Clean Water program at her local store. Despite a busy season she made our display a priority and offered a wide selection of beautiful native perennials to the customers. Her passion for the Gardening for Clean Water program was evident and in sharing that passion with the community she undoubtedly contributed to its success.



*Board Member Dr. Anuja Sriparameswaren with award winner Jamie Drsata*

**Jerry Holloway, Friends of Alum Creek and Tributaries**, earned this recognition for his work as a longtime member of Friends of Alum Creek and Tributaries (FACT), where he has worked to preserve and protect the Alum Creek watershed through leadership of educational and volunteer opportunities in the community. His years of service in watershed groups has been invaluable to

the work Franklin Soil and Water does in our district bringing backyard conservation education to Franklin County residents through the Community Backyards workshops.



*Board Member Emily Weber with award winner Jerry Holloway*

**Eli Ortiz-Barbosa, USDA NRCS**, was recognized for his outstanding work as a Soil Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. He continuously excels at getting things done and done well, often with limited resources, and as a district, we are consistently impressed by his dedication to improving water quality in agricultural communities by educating landowners on, and aiding them in finding funding for high tunnels, conservation plans, and more.



*Board Member John Moorehead with award winner Eli Ortiz-Barbosa*

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