

SWIFT

Soil and Water Information for Teachers

Spotlight on Resources



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Conservation Poster Contest - Highlight on Pollinators

Franklin Soil and Water is proud to once again sponsor the conservation poster contest.

This year's theme is "Local Heroes - Your Hardworking Pollinators."



See page 2 for details on the January 15th viewing of More Than Honey at COSI!

To contact the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District or to schedule a program, call or email Sherry Collins: 614-486-9613 ext. 110 scollins@franklinswcd.org

Did you know that worldwide, approximately 1,000 plants that are grown for food, beverages, fibers, spices, and medicines need to be pollinated by animals and insects in order to produce the goods on which we depend?

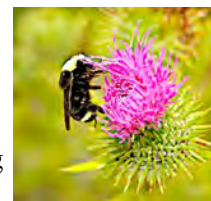
Today many pollinator species face threats, including habitat loss, pesticides, pests, diseases, climate change, and invasive plants.

The Conservation Poster Contest runs from February 23rd to March 13th. The winners for Franklin County will be announced in April. Any interested school class, home-schooler, youth/scout group, grades K-12, in Franklin County may participate in the Poster Contest. The focus of the posters should be the importance of pollinators, and possible solutions to increase pollinator populations and their habitats. Entries should be submitted on 8 1/2" x 11" paper, preferably pre-used on one side. Background information is available for interested teachers and youth leaders.

To obtain an entry form and register your class or group, or for more information contact Linda at 614-486-9613 or linda-pettit@franklinswcd.org.

Planting for Bees and other Pollinators

To help you participate in the effort to benefit our pollinators, Franklin Soil and Water is offering a "Trees for Bees" packet during our annual tree and plant sale. The packet includes willows, tulip poplars, red maples, redbuds, and flowering dogwoods. We are also offering two kinds of milkweeds (common milkweed and butterfly weed) that are great for monarch butterflies and bees, as well as a wide selection of unique grasses and sedges.



Our annual tree and plant sale (see page 8 for more details) will offer a variety of conservation-grade seedlings; spring wildflowers, perennials, and grasses; fruit brambles and trees; and an assortment of larger, gallon-sized shrubs and trees. With the exception of the fruit species, all these plants are native to Ohio.

Remember, when we use the plants that are meant to be here, this benefits the pollinators that rely on them!

Franklin Soil and Water dates to remember:

Poster Contest

February 23 - March 13

Fish Sale

March 31st

Tree & Plant Sale

April 24 & 25

Envirothon

April 28

www.franklinswcd.org for more details



Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District
Creating Conservation Solutions for Over 60 Years

1404 Goodale Blvd., Suite 100
 Columbus, OH 43212
 Phone: 614-486-9613



Fun Projects and Places to Visit

Sustainability Film Series at COSI's National Geographic Giant Screen Theater

Each evening includes a film screening, presentations from experts, and opportunities to connect with local resources and organizations. For registration, call COSI at (614) 228-2674. Cost is \$10 for COSI members and \$14 in advance for non-members or \$16 at the door.



More Than Honey

January 15, 2015 (Thursday) 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

The majority of humankind's food supply relies on honey bees for pollination. Honey bee populations are undergoing a sharp decline, and without them, conventional agricultural systems may collapse. *More Than Honey* explores the challenges modern and traditional beekeepers face. The film also features researchers and scientists working to save our most important pollinators.

Uranium Drive-In

February 19, 2015 (Thursday) 6:30 PM - 9:15 PM

Uranium Drive-In follows a proposed uranium mill in southwestern Colorado – the first to be built in the U.S. in 30 years – and the emotional debate pitting a population desperate for jobs and financial stability against an environmental group based in a nearby resort town. Without judgment, both sides of the issue are brought to life in heart-wrenching detail as the film follows conflicting opinions and visions for the future.

Scout Days for Boys - Winter 2015

Scouts can participate in Metro Parks programs specially designed to meet badge requirements and have fun in the outdoors! Two more programs remain for the winter season:



Bears: Sharing your World with Wildlife

January 31, 2015 (Saturday) 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, & 1:30 PM at Sharon Woods Metro Park

Bear Cub Scouts will participate in activities that meet requirements for the *Sharing Your World with Wildlife* achievement. Register now as this is a popular program (check for openings).

Cub Scout Day: Webelos Forester

February 8, 2015 (Sunday) 1:00 PM at High Banks Metro Park

Webelos (10- and 11-year olds) will participate in activities that meet part of the requirements for the Webelos Forester Badge. Registration is now waiting list only!

Programs will meet many, if not all, of the badge requirements. Scout leaders are responsible for providing badges if the children are eligible to receive a badge after attending a Metro Parks Scout Day.

Advanced registration is required. To register, go to <http://reservations.metroparks.net/programs/> and use the calendar to search for the programs and availability. Detailed information about each program can also be found in Metro Parks' *ParkScope* Winter 2014/15 (downloadable pdf at www.metroparks.net). Program start time will be given to you when you call to register. Call (614) 508-8111 and register individually or as a troop.

Celebrate Earth Day in Knox County

April 19, 2015 (Sunday) at Kenyon College's Athletic Center (221 Duff St., Gambier, Ohio)

The Brown Family Environmental Center (BFEC) offers two ways to celebrate Earth Day! Participants of all abilities are invited to walk, run or a little of both for the Earth Day Challenge *Half Marathon* or *4-mile*, starting at 8am. From 10am - 2pm, the FREE Earth Day Festival will offer the best of local resources for green and healthy living with exhibits, vendors, workshops, kids' activities, farm marketers, live music and more. Contact Heather at dohertyh@kenyon.edu or call 740-427-5052 for festival information or visit Kenyon.edu/earthday. Visit premieraces.com for race information.





Fun Projects and Places to Visit

Birdscaping - March 1, 2015 (Sunday) 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Transform an ordinary garden into a welcoming habitat for your feathered neighbors. Class includes a short lecture, demonstration and a tour of the ScottsMiracle-Gro Community Garden Campus and Pollinators Garden (rain or shine). Take home a bird-themed garden ornament. \$30 members/ \$35 non-members



Breakfast with the Birds - March 14, 2015 (Saturday) 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Also on the birding theme, join one of our educators on a birding adventure that includes a brief presentation, a hike, a birding guide, and a delicious scone from our Garden Cafe. \$5 members/ \$8 non-members

Backyard Birds: A Primer for the Great Backyard Bird Count

Franklin Park Conservatory will come to your school and give students an introduction to bird identification, anatomy, and habitat while preparing your class to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count. Citizen science will connect your students to research and environmental stewardship while meeting Ohio Core Curriculum standards. This program is available throughout the year for grades 1-12. \$125 for the first classroom, \$45 for each additional classroom.

Blooms & Butterflies - beginning March 7, 2015

Up to 2,000 butterflies flutter through our Pacific Island Biome for you to enjoy. *Daily releases* at 1pm & 3pm provide a chance to learn a bit more about our butterfly species. Reservations are being accepted now for school programs. Spots fill up fast so call soon. For school program information, please visit <http://www.fpconservatory.org/Plan-A-Visit/Group-and-School-Experiences/School-Programs>

Family Fun

Did you know we have family-oriented activities every weekend? Included with admission or membership, we have crafts and performers that can make your visit to the Conservatory extraordinary. Please visit our Web site for more information: <http://www.fpconservatory.org/The-Experience/Events/For-Families>

Please visit <http://www.fpconservatory.org/> to view upcoming information and to see a complete listing of our class offerings. We'd love to see you!

Arbor Day Festival 2015 at The Dawes Arboretum

April 25, 2015 (Saturday) 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

A celebration of trees and nature! — Expect a fun-filled day with many community organizations and hands-on learning opportunities for families including crafts, displays and tree climbing. Our friends from the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium are bringing their Animal Encounter show with performances at noon and 1pm. The Arboretum is showcasing a plant sale offering a variety of nursery plants. The first 250 families will receive a free tree. Admission is free! For more information, stay tuned to our Web site at www.dawesarb.org or call us at 1-800-44-DAWES. (Arbor Day Festival is presented by Park National Bank with media sponsor Ohio Magazine.)



The Dawes Arboretum
Trees ◊ History ◊ Nature

Field Trip Investigations at The Dawes Arboretum

The Dawes Arboretum in Newark, OH offers a variety of educational field trips to engage young learners, including naturalist-led programs and parent- and volunteer-led science days. (Dawes on the Go outreach programs are also offered). Ohio's New Learning Standards (K-6) are complemented in all of our education program offerings. Students will routinely use scientific inquiry and application as they participate in classes such as Beautiful Birds, Incredible Insects, Pond Investigation, Rocks and Minerals, Wildlife CSI and more, across our beautiful grounds. For more information, visit us online at <http://dawesarb.org/learn/groups-scouts/> (or visit www.dawesarb.org) or email education@dawesarb.org.



Fun Projects and Places to Visit

Upcoming Events at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium (<https://columbuszoo.org/>)

Free Admission Days*—January 19, 2015 (MLK Jr. Day) & February 16, 2015 (President’s Day)

(*Parking fees still apply)

Eggs, Paws, & Claws—April 4 & 5, 2015 (Saturday & Sunday) 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Electronic Recycling Drive—April 18, 2015 (Saturday) 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Earth Day Celebration—April 25, 2015 (Saturday) 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM



Camp Wyandot’s summer camps - it’s not too early to sign up!

Camp Wyandot’s mission is to provide an inclusive, nurturing environment for youth to have fun, make friends, serve others, and explore the great outdoors. Packed with outdoor nature exploration, non-stop activities, friends and fun for boys and girls ages 7 to 18, Camp Wyandot offers programs like no other, whether it’s exploring Highbanks park in our Day Camp, hiking the Hocking Hills woods at our Overnight Camp, or making leaf creatures at our Explorer Club events. Our Overnight Camp is an American Camp Association (ACA) accredited camp. Overnight and Day Camps are held each summer. Each camp has week-long sessions, with additional longer and shorter sessions for the overnight camp as well. Registration online for our summer camps begins on January 1st each year. Our Explorer Clubs are always accepting new members. Open house information for both camps can be found on our Web site. Parents who register before April 1st receive an Early Bird Discount. There are other discounts available, including Campership assistance. For more information, please visit www.campwyandot.org or email us at info@campwyandot.org.

Indian Village Outdoor Education Center

Located on the west bank of the Scioto River at Griggs Reservoir, Indian Village Outdoor Education Center offers affordable environmental education and outdoor skills programs through the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department. Nature trails, caves, creeks, and the Scioto River form the backdrop for your students to explore and discover the many wonders of nature. Some of our programs offered include fossils, animal tracks, archery, canoeing, reptiles, river studies, and more! Unable to take a field trip this year? Don’t worry we can also come to you! Find more information (including pricing) on our Web site www.columbusrecreparks.com - go to Find a Program and click on Outdoor Education. Please call us at 614-645-3380. We look forward to seeing you soon!



How did the GreenSpot become green?

GreenSpot and the Dots is a great resource to teach your students how they can go green. The book follows GreenSpot to different locations in the city, like the Franklin Park Conservatory and Columbus Zoo. Throughout the travels GreenSpot learns about water conservation, energy conservation, recycling, local gardening, green transportation and more. The book is a great way to engage your students on how actions they can take do make a difference.

The book is part of Mayor Coleman’s GreenSpot Kids program which includes a classroom set of books and other free materials for teachers to engage their students on sustainability. The program is geared towards first graders and meets science standards regarding interactions within habitats. More than 100 classes have adopted GreenSpot Kids activities. To learn more about the program please visit our Web site: www.GreenKids.Columbus.gov. To request a classroom set of the GreenSpot and the Dots book, please contact GreenSpot@columbus.gov.





Fun Projects and Places to Visit

Future City Competition: January 17, 2015 (Saturday)



If you have not heard of this annual competition, come out to Columbus State Community College and watch the Ohio's regional Future City Competition to see what it's all about. Although registration for this year's competition is now closed, the competition is open to the public for the top five presentations from 12:45-2 p.m. If you would like to get involved immediately, there may be still time to sign up to volunteer for judging. Please contact Ohio's Regional Coordinator, Debbie Morgan at ohfrc@hotmail.com or for more information, visit their Web site at <http://futurecity.org/ohio>.

Future City is a STEM program developed for middle school students (grades 6-8) to encourage careers in Engineering, Architecture, City Planning, etc. and is part of National Engineer's Week. The students design a 'City of the Future' in SimCity game software, write a themed essay about their city, build a physical model of a portion of their city, and give a presentation on the benefits of their city. The computer model and essays are judged in advance, but the physical models and presentations are judged at the regional competition.



Our educators provide two-hour programs designed as an extension of your science classroom and correlated to the ODE Science Standards. We meet the needs of students by giving them an experiential learning adventure in a unique ecosystem in the heart of Columbus. Instruction takes place at the Grange

Insurance Audubon Center, located at the Scioto Audubon Metro Park off Whittier Street just minutes south of downtown. For program descriptions and to schedule a program, contact Allison Roush, Education Program Manager, at aroush@audubon.org.



Field Trips to the Landfill!

SWACO offers field trips to the Franklin County Sanitary Landfill (FCSL) for school groups (1st grade and up) and other interested organizations and clubs. The presentation consists of a preliminary discussion and slide show that outlines the engineering, regulations and monitoring of a modern day sanitary landfill. Visitors will also learn about waste diversion and recycling, beneficial use of closed landfill sites, the difficulty of siting a sanitary landfill and the future outlook for waste disposal in Franklin County. Immediately following the presentation at the resource center, visitors will enter the landfill site to view the working face. The experience will offer first-hand knowledge that many will not forget! Visitors will remain inside the vehicle or school bus at all times. There is no charge for the trip and bus reimbursement is available to all Franklin County schools up to \$185.00 per bus.

Contact Jerry Olmstead, Education Specialist at (614) 871-5100 or jerry.olmstead@swaco.org to schedule your group. For more information, go to <http://www.swaco.org/Education/TourLandfill.aspx>.



Bring the Farm to You this Spring!

Spring on a farm is magical! Transport some of that magic right to your school with a *Bring the Farm to You* program. Imagine - you could have chicks hatching in your classroom, farm animals on your lawn, or a *beekeeper* suited up with all their equipment. Your students can experience the maple sugaring process, tend worms in their class, plant their own veggies, or experience how wool is spun into yarn or made into felt. All *Bring the Farm to You* programs come right to you and cover important topics such as pollination, life cycles, history, and how our lives are connected to the natural world. Programs are correlated to Ohio's New Learning Standards for K-8 science and social studies so it is easy to pick a program that supports your curriculum.

Visit www.bringthefarmtoyou.com for more information or contact christa@bringthefarmtoyou.com for a complete program and price list and a copy of the learning standard correlations.

Upcoming Events for Educators



New coordinator of Project Wet – Ohio

On January 1, 2015, Project WET in Ohio moved from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to Ohio EPA. Dennis Clement, the new state coordinator, will be presenting a 50-minute session about Project WET at the Science Education Council of Ohio (SECO) Conference on January 26th. There will be more details at SECO of other 6-hour workshops for educators to get the book coming in 2015 spring and summer. Ohio EPA/OEEF also will be doing a 50-minute Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF) session at SECO on January 27th.



SECO Conference - January 26 & 27, 2015

The 2015 Ohio Science Institute, hosted by SECO (Science Education Council of Ohio), is January 26-27 at the Easton Hilton. There will be over 130 presentations for K-12 teachers of science! Featured presentations include author Sam Kean, edutainer and author Michael DiSpezio, NSTA President-Elect Carolyn Hayes, and ODE (Ohio Department of Education). ODE will be featuring presentations on OTES (Ohio Teacher Evaluation System) and the Next Generation of Assessments. More information, including an interactive online program, is available at www.secoonline.org. Contact Tracy Cindric, Conference Coordinator, at tlkcap@yahoo.com with questions.

Science Smorgasbord

January 24, 2015 (Saturday) 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Discover the best of 4-H Science in this hands-on workshop designed for teachers and afterschool providers. This workshop will include: making a robot out of a toothbrush, Rocket Science, Test Tube Science, Science in a Bag, and making a non-breakable egg catcher. Cost: \$10 (includes all materials). Make checks payable to OSU Extension, Franklin County.



2015 School Garden Conference: *Growing a Sense of Place*

April 24, 2015 (Friday) 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Educators, after-school personnel and others are invited to attend. Scheduled speakers are from Edible Schoolyard Pittsburgh, OSU Extension, Franklin SWCD, Franklin Park Conservatory, local educators engaged in school gardening and more. Cost: \$55, includes lunch and materials.

For more details, go to <http://franklin.osu.edu/events>, or contact Sue Hogan at hogan.239@osu.edu.

Ohio Woodland Water and Wildlife Conference

March 4, 2015 (Wednesday) 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM Mid-Ohio Conference Center, Mansfield, OH

Providing up-to-date information on timely natural resource issues for natural resource professionals and land managers

Ohio River Valley Woodland and Wildlife Workshop

March 28, 2015 (Sunday) 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM Sharonville Convention Center (Cincinnati area)

Providing forestry and wildlife related educational opportunities for landowners

Tree School

April 18, 2015 (Saturday) 8:30 AM - 4:45 PM OSU Mansfield, Mansfield, OH

Providing a variety of different educational sessions on tree-related topics for anyone wanting to learn more about trees

For more details and online registration, please go to <http://woodlandstewards.osu.edu>, or contact Kathy Smith at smith.81@osu.edu or call 614-688-3136.



Upcoming Events for Educators



EECO Winter Conference - February 6 & 7, 2015 Winter Snow – Creative Ways to Teach STEM



This annual conference will go from Friday evening through all day Saturday at Camp Nuhop located at 1077 Hanover Twp. Rd. 2916, Perrysville, OH 44864 (adjacent to Mohican State Park). There will be a keynote speaker and activities on teaching climate change from the OSU Byrd Polar Research Institute, as well as a viewing of the film *Chasing Ice*. Concurrent sessions will include interactive methods for teaching topics like acid mine drainage, aquaponics, environmental careers, *honeybees*, rocket science and thermal insulation. Sponsored by the Environmental Education Council of Ohio. For more details and online registration, go to <https://eeco.wildapricot.org/event-1817111>.

36th Annual OEFFA Conference - February 14 & 15, 2015

The Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association (OEFFA) conference called *Sustainable Agriculture: Renewing Ohio's Heart and Soil*, will include sessions on community gardens, season creation, and urban biodiversity (and so much more!). Web site: <http://www.oeffa.org/conference2015>



Exploring Our Resources Naturally! Educator Workshops

Join naturalists, environmental educators and teachers as we explore, explain and experience the value, variety and vulnerability of our natural resources through a series of interactive workshops.

To register through Paypal go to: <http://shop.franklinswcd.org> and select Educator Workshops on the left.

Project Learning Tree (PLT)

January 24, 2015 (Saturday) 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM



PLT is an interdisciplinary approach to understanding trees, forests, and woodland habitats. Through activities students discover how trees live and grow, the many useful items that we get from trees, and the important role trees play in an ecosystem. Materials are geared for grades preK-8. The registration fee is \$25.

Windows on the Wild: Biodiversity Basics

February 21, 2015 (Saturday) 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM



Become a species seeking a new habitat, a researcher measuring biodiversity, or a detective solving an ecological mystery. Windows On the Wild, developed by the World Wildlife Fund, explores the meaning of biodiversity, its significance, current status, and ways to maintain and enhance the world's biodiversity. Geared for grades 6-9. The cost is \$30.

This workshop series is provided by: Franklin and Delaware Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and Metro Parks.

Earth Science Resources for the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT)

The Ohio Graduation Test (OGT) in Spring of 2015 will be dual aligned, meaning that this OGT will still contain questions around Earth Science content. In districts that have realigned to Ohio's New Learning Standards, students taking the OGT this year may have missed Earth Science content. In order to help these students (and their teachers), the Ohio Department of Education has worked with the Ohio Resource Center to collect resources that will address these gaps. These resources and additional information about the OGT can be found at <http://communities.ohiorc.org/science-window/essogt/>.

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January: National Book Month

- 11th: Aldo Leopold's birthday (1887)
- read *Sand County Almanac!*
- 19th: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 19th: National Popcorn Day
- 31st: National Seed Swap Day



February: National Forgiveness Month

- 1-7: National Green Week
- 2nd: Wetlands Day / Groundhog Day
- 4th: Homemade Soup Day
- 23rd: Banana Bread Day
- 28th: National Tooth Fairy Day



March: Youth Art Month

- 2nd: Dr. Seuss's birthday (1904) - read the *Lorax!*
- 3rd: World Wildlife Day
- 20th: Frog Day
- 21st: World Planting Day



April: Recycling Month

- 3rd: Walk to Work Day
- 4th: National Birding Day
- 5-11: Bat Appreciation Week
- 10th: Moment of Laughter Day
- 11th: Global Warming Day
- 18th: Electronic Recycling Drive at the Zoo



Franklin Soil and Water Happenings

2015 Envirothon Competition - April 28, 2015 at Lake Hope State Park, Vinton County

It is time to register teams for the Envirothon! Any high school team of five students with an adult sponsor can compete. Throughout the year, each team studies and learns in four environmental areas—forestry, soils, wildlife, aquatic ecology—and a current environmental issue: “Urban and Community Forestry.” (Fortunately, Vinton County has plenty of forests!)

All teams compete in a final hands-on outdoor contest by answering questions developed by real Ohio scientists. Envirothon has a long history of effectively reaching young eager learners of the natural world. To register a team or find out more details, please contact Linda at linda-pettit@franklinswcd.org.



Annual Tree and Plant Sale - Pre-order will start late January (order deadline - April 5th)

Franklin Soil and Water is offering native tree and shrub seedlings (bare root and container-grown), honeysuckle replacement packets, as well as the following packets of seedlings: Trees for Bees, Bird Habitat, Floodplain, Oak Offerings, and Urban Champions. In addition there will be perennial flowers, native grass and wildflower seeds, and edibles. The plants are all native to Ohio except for the fruit trees. The sale is *pre-order* with limited day-of-sale plants and materials available. Order forms will be posted on our Web site www.franklinswcd.org and in our newsletter, *Frankly Speaking*, along with an online purchasing option. Profits from our annual spring sale go to our Conservation Fund, which we use for conservation projects across Franklin County. The deadline to order is Sunday, April 5th. Orders will be available for pick-up on Friday, April 24th (7 a.m.- 6 p.m.) and Saturday, April 25th (8 a.m.-12 p.m.). The pick-up location will be at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, located at 1500 Dublin Road (please note this is not our office location).



Fish Sale - Pre-order will start late January (order deadline - March 23rd)

For pond owners, we are also offering fish for stocking. All species, except the white Amur (grass carp) are fingerlings. The deadline to order is Monday, March 23rd. Orders will be available for pick up on Tuesday, March 31st from 11 a.m. to noon. The fish pickup day is different than the tree pickup day and lasts only an hour because customers receive their fish directly from the Fender's Fish Hatchery truck. Customers need to bring a plastic five-gallon bucket lined with a plastic bag containing pond water. Leave room in the plastic bag for oxygen to be added and for the bag to be tied off. Please check the Web site www.franklinswcd.org for information on the pick-up location.