

Winter

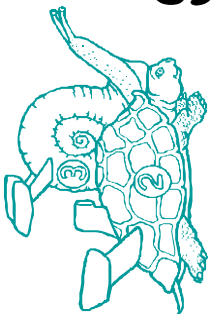
2011



FRANKLIN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1328 DUBLIN RD., STE. 101

SWIFT

Soil and Water Information for Teachers



Spotlight on Resources:



The International Year of The Forest



Trees Please !

2011 has been declared as International Year of The Forest by the United Nations in an effort to raise awareness and strengthen the sustainable forest management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, for the benefit of current and future generations.

The goal of this year is to increase awareness of the importance of forests and the connections between healthy forests, ecosystems, people and economies. A year dedicated to forests seems very fitting for the year 2011, as it follows the year of biodiversity (2010) which not only celebrated the variety of biodiversity on earth but also issued the message that we are at the top of a rollercoaster ride looking at a very steep plunge if we don't take action to preserve our earth.

To learn what you can do to help right here in Franklin County, join us on facebook or visit us on line at www.franklinswcd.org.

When the land does well for its owner, and the owner does well by his land—when both end up better by reason of their partnership—then we have conservation”. - Aldo Leopold



Conservation Poster Contest



Franklin Soil and Water is proud to once again bring you the conservation poster contest. This year's theme is "Forests for People: More Than You Can Imagine", in correlation with the International Year of the Forest. Posters should focus on our connection with and dependence on trees. Background information will be available for interested teachers and youth leaders. The contest is open to all Franklin County students in grades K-12. Entries should be submitted on 8 1/2" x 11" used paper. The contest runs from late February to mid May. Contact: Linda at (614) 486-9613 or Linda-pettit@franklinswcd.org for more information or to register your class or youth group.

Inside this issue:

Fun Stuff to Do	2,4
Upcoming Events for Educators	3,5
Calendar of Events	6



Check out Franklin Soil and Water's Annual Spring Tree and Wildflower Sale!

Franklin Soil and Water is offering their largest variety of items at this year's tree sale, including bare root tree and shrub seedlings, native grass seeds, wildflower seeds, mushroom kits, rain garden kits, rain barrels, composters and bat boxes. The deadline for tree sale orders is Friday, March 25th. Orders will be picked up at the District Office April 15th and 16th. Find more information in the newsletter, "Frankly Speaking" or the new and improved website:

www.franklinswcd.org.





Fun Stuff to Do



2011 Wildlife Diversity Conference



“Connecting Wildlife, Habitat and People”, sponsored by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife. It is open to the public. It will be held Wednesday, March 9th at the Aladdin Shrine Center in Columbus. The conference will feature presentations on how to interconnect wildlife, habitat and people to conserve our native wildlife. To register for the conference online, go to wildohio.com or call 1-800-WILDLIFE. The registration fee prior to February 25 is \$25. After that date, the fee is \$35.

Wildlife Watching: Mark Damian Duda, Executive Director, Responsive Management

In the Sky with Sandhill Cranes: Dave Sherman, Biologist, Division of Wildlife

Lessons in Expanding Birding and Outdoor Recreation: John Roinson, Ornithologist

Doing what we do best: working with people to Conserve Wildlife and Habitat Chris Gilkey, Wildlife Officer, Division of Wildlife

Looking for Leatherbacks: an updated Distribution of Ohio's Softshell Turtles. Jeff Davis, Herpetologist

Integrating Genetics as a tool for Managing Biodiversity: examples from Ohio's Snakes and Salamanders Lisle Gibbs, PhD, The Ohio State University

Focusing on Riparian Corridor protection Benefits Wildlife Diversity and the Pursuit of “Silver Bullets” Phil Hillman, Division of Wildlife

Evaluating Heath and Stress in Hellbenders and Freshwater Mussels with cutting edge science: Barb Wolfe, DVM, the Wilds



The Dawes Arboretum Science Days Program

The Dawes Arboretum A wonderful alternative to the “ordinary” school field trip. Students in kindergarten through sixth grade study natural history subjects at outdoor stations. A new Science Days area includes a pond, white pine glen, wildflower fields and a rustic barn, making it a perfect site for a true science-immersion experience. Parent volunteers attend a training session to prepare them to teach your class using Arboretum materials and curricula. Other parent volunteers assist as guides by leading students to station locations. The cost for this program is \$2 per participating student. Registration for Science Days 2011 is open now and will close with a Teacher’s Meeting on Tuesday, March 8. Field trip dates begin May 2. Look for details in the mail or call The Arboretum at 740.323.2355 or 800.44.DAWES to register. For more information, contact Sara Lowe, Education Director, at sblowe@dawesarb.org.



Nominations are being accepted for *The SWACO 6th Annual Central Ohio EMERALDS*. Each year, SWACO honors the best and most innovative local ideas in waste reduction and recycling through Ohio’s premiere green awards program. This year’s *EMERALDS* will be presented Tuesday, May 17, 2011 at The Ohio Union, 1739 North High Street on OSU’s campus. Nominees may be local businesses, institutions, communities, individuals, or students who fall into one of the following categories: Leadership, Small Businesses/Non-profit/Institution of the Year, Large Businesses/Non-profit/Institution of the Year, Good Neighbor, Environmental Education, Young & Green (high school students), and Community of the Year. All 2011 nominations must arrive at SWACO by **midnight March 18, 2011**. To nominate go to: <http://www.swaco.org/EmeraldNominationForm.aspx>.



Canoe Creation offers "hands-on" and "get-in-it" field classes, adventures, and river trips for all age school groups. They travel to your area and do classes on every imaginable outdoor subject. Contact them at: canoecreation@netzero.net

Upcoming Events for Educators



Charting a Course for the Future...in Environmental Education



The Environmental Education Council of Ohio will host their 44th Annual Conference, “Charting a Course for the Future...in Environmental Education” on April 14–17, 2011 at Maumee Bay State Park Ohio. Registration information is available at: www.eeco-online.org.

During the conference, participants can:

- Explore new ways of thinking through workplace interactions and technology
- Discover new and rediscover little used resources at both the local and state level
- Map out ways to partner with other organizations to combine educational opportunities

Information regarding the recruitment of leadership for concurrent sessions is forthcoming. Please think of ways you can bring a learning opportunity to the conference as a presenter. Our best teachers come from within our organization!

For more information: www.eeco-online.org



**EXPLORE
SCIENCE.
DISCOVER
FUN!**

Come to a COSI Teacher Workshop to develop your science skills and increase your science content knowledge. Participate in inquiry-based lessons that connect to Ohio's science standards. Meet experts who connect theory to everyday applications. Save the date for these Professional Development opportunities coming to COSI this summer! Please email teacherprograms@mail.cosi.org for details

June 14-15, 2011 **Integrating Science and Mathematics for PreK–8 Teachers** Force and motion, measurement, probability, behavior, growth, and change.

June 16-17, 2011 **Integrating Science & Literature for PreK–8 Teachers** Astronomy, Earth's resources, habitats, environment, and sound.

June 21-22, 2011 **Inquiry into Geology for PreK–6 Teachers** Rocks, minerals, soil, forces that change the earth, fossils, and dinosaurs

June 23-24, 2011 **Science Inquiry & Applications in Physical Science for Elementary PreK–6 Teachers** Force and motion, properties of matter, energy, and states of matter

July 19-20, 2011 **Inquiry into Robotics for Grades 4–8 Teachers** LEGO WeDo / LEGO Mindstorms robotics kits, programming robots, and careers in robotics.

July 21-22, 2011 **Inquiry into Energy for Grades 4–8 Teachers** Conservation of mass & energy, matter and motion, light and sound energy, cycles of matter, and flow of energy.

July 26-27, 2011 **Inquiry into Plants for PreK–3 Teachers** Plant life cycles, observations of living things, behavior, growth, and change.

July 28-29, 2011 **Science Inquiry & Applications for Early Elementary for PreK–3 Teachers** Explore atmosphere & weather, living things, life cycles, Earth's resources, and the sky.

Programs can be offered for college credit through Ashland University or Ohio State University for an additional fee. For details and pricing, email COSI at teacherprograms@mail.cosi.org.



Fun Stuff to Do



Envirothon Competition

Sponsored by the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Envirothon competition is a perfect way to increase your high school students' awareness of environmental topics and issues. Teams of five students answer questions about forestry, wildlife, soils, aquatic ecology, and current environmental issues in an outdoor setting. The national environmental theme for 2011 is "Salt and Fresh Water Estuaries" Our Area competition (17 counties in central and southern Ohio) will be held on Tuesday, May 3rd, 2011 at Lake Vesuvius at Wayne National Forest in Pedro, Ohio. **Franklin and Delaware Soil and Waters are hosting a coaches meeting on March, 17th at 3:30 pm at the Delaware Area Career Center—South Campus.** For more information, to confirm for the meeting or to register a team contact Linda Pettit at 486-4613 or Linda-pettit@franklinswcd.org.



Your classroom can become a GreenSpot in the Community Group category by making three commitments toward responsible environmental stewardship. Learn more at www.columbusgreenspot.org.



The Storm Drain Marker program is a great way to directly involve students in protecting the city's stormwater system, **and now is the time to plan ahead for this warm-weather activity.** Learn more at

<http://utilities.columbus.gov/Conservation/StormDrainMarkerProgram.htm>.



The Columbus Department of Public Utilities has educational materials appropriate for grades 3-6, including colorful booklets like How Wastewater

Treatment Works, and Respecting the Water Cycle. Call (614) 645-2926 for more information.



Stewardship Week 2011 April 24th to May 1st

The National Association of Conservation Districts' Stewardship and Education Committee is pleased to announce the 2011 Stewardship theme: "Forests for People: More Than You Can Imagine." Stewardship Week will be officially celebrated April 24 to May 1, 2011. (NOTE: April 24th is Easter Sunday) For more than 50 years, NACD has sponsored this national program to encourage Americans to focus on stewardship. The program relies on locally-led conservation districts sharing and promoting stewardship and conservation activities. While the program encourages good stewardship year round, Stewardship Week is officially celebrated from the last Sunday in April to the first Sunday in May. NACD prepares a variety of materials around the theme each year, including educational booklets for different age levels, church bulleting covers, placemats and posters. To view the materials available for this year check: <http://www.nacdnet.org/stewardship/2011/index.phtml>. If you have further questions regarding Stewardship Week or education materials available, please contact Linda at Linda-pettit@franklinswcd.org or 614-486-9613.



Shepherd's Corner
ECOLOGY CENTER

Shepherd's Corner is an ecology ministry of the Dominican Sisters of Peace located in Blacklick, Ohio. They offer educational programs for groups in grades 3-5. Program offerings include animals on the farm, plants and gardens, soil, compost and recycling, bees and pollination, wetlands, orienteering, sheep and wool. Students can also walk the labyrinth and walk the meditation trails. Check the website www.shepherds corner.org for more information. Contact them at shepherds corner@sbcglobal.net to receive a flyer about the programs or call (614) 866-4302.

Upcoming Events for Educators



Leopold Education Project on Saturday, April 2, 2011 8:30 am – 4:00 pm



The writings of Conservationist Aldo Leopold teach land ethics and responsibility. They are the basis of this national curriculum for grades 6–12. The interdisciplinary activities provide direct experience with the natural world while instilling land ethics for tomorrow's land stewards. The workshop fee is \$15. Formal classroom teachers, non-formal educators, homeschooling parents and scout leaders are welcome to attend. This workshop will be held at the Nature Center at Highbanks Metro Park on Route 234 just north of I-270.



This workshop is coordinated by the Delaware, Franklin and Union Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Delaware General Health District, Preservation Parks and Highbanks Metro Park. The workshop is co-sponsored by the Environmental Education Council of Ohio and made possible in part by a generous grant from the Ohio Environmental Education Fund.



New 5th grade programs at the Stratford Ecological Center

This spring, Stratford is introducing their new “Messages from the Earth” programs. These one-day curriculum-focused courses engage students in discovering how their world works while building upon the Ohio Academic Content Standards for 5th grade science. Teachers can choose from the topics of energy flow, cycles and change, or community.

In the fall, schools can participate in the internationally recognized Sunship Earth program. The first of its kind in Ohio, the curriculum not only aligns wonderfully with 5th grade science standards, it also provides students with a complete picture of how life functions on our planet. This 5-day experience is breathtaking !

Both programs include activities that are immersive, meaning that students participate in their learning. To learn photosynthesis, they go inside a giant leaf and actually perform photosynthesis. To learn about the air, they go to a city of the future and ride the “air cycle.” To learn about community, they become first responders at a plane crash. All of the activities will be make science unforgettable for your students. Full details are available at

www.stratfordecologicalcenter.org. Contact Christa Hein at (740) 363-2548 or treebeing@aol.com for information.

SAVE THE DATE for our 36th annual 101 Educators' Conference October 7-9, 2011 at YMCA Camp Kern (32 miles northeast of Cincinnati) This conference will inspire teachers, outdoor educators, and all adults with creative and fun ways to provide exciting learning experiences. The cost of the conference is \$82 (\$42 for Saturday only). Discounts and scholarships available. For more information contact Dave Moran at YMCA Camp Kern, 5291 SR 350 Oregonia, OH 45045 phone: (513)-932-3756 x1527, email: dmoran@daytonymca.org This event made possible by: YMCA Camp Kern, The Environmental Education Council of Ohio, and The Ohio Environmental Education Fund



SWIFT

**February: National Bird Feeding Month
Library Lovers' Month**



February 28: National Science Day

March: Youth Art Month

March 9: Check Your Batteries Day

March 14: Albert Einstein's Birthday (1879)

March 16-22: Brain Awareness Week

March 22: World Day for Water

April: Humor Month / Lawn and Garden Month

April 12: National Drop Everything and Read Day

April 16-22: National Environmental Education Week
celebration ideas: www.eeweek.org/index.html

April 20-26: International TV Turn Off Week

2011 Spring Fish Sale

Looking to stock your pond this spring? Check out Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District's Annual Spring Fish Sale. Choose from minnows, bluegill, yellow perch, channel catfish, largemouth bass and white amurs. The deadline to order fish is March 25th. Pick up your fish at the Franklin Soil and Water office from Noon-1 pm on Thursday, March 31st. Find out more information in the Franklin Soil and Water newsletter, "Frankly Speaking" or the website: www.franklinswcd.org.



If you would like to see the SWIFT newsletter in color you can receive it via e mail as a PDF file or view it on our website listed above. To start receiving SWIFT via e mail contact Linda Pettit at Linda-pettit@franklinswcd.org.

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

FRANKLIN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT is a federal/state/local partnership funded by the Franklin County Commissioners, the Ohio State Legislature, and the cities of Columbus and Gahanna. Additional funding is provided by the cities of Bexley, Dublin, Hilliard, Reynoldsburg, Upper Arlington, Westerville, and Worthington; the Villages of Canal Winchester, New Albany, and Obetz; Plain Township; Franklin County Board of Health, County Engineer, Sanitary Engineer and Economic Development and Planning Department; the Ohio Environmental Education Fund; the Clean Ohio Fund; Nature Works; and with natural resource assistance from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and ODNR, Division of Soil and Water Conservation.



**FRANKLIN SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1328 DUBLIN RD., STE. 101
COLUMBUS, OH 43215**

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
COLUMBUS, OH
PERMIT NO.1568

Address Service Requested