



**Franklin Soil and Water
Conservation District**

Conserving for Our Future ~ Environmental Credit Trading

A look into the future of soil and water conservation in central Ohio may show some innovative practices added to the mix of traditional voluntary and government subsidized environmental protection practices. Environmental credit trading is a market-based approach that uses private sector investment in conservation on private lands (www.info.usda.gov/media/pdf/NB_190_7_17_a.pdf). “Greenhouse gas emission reduction (including carbon sequestration), wetland mitigation banking, water quality credit trading (including nutrient trading) and habitat credit trading are all examples of potential market-based opportunities that can produce win-win situations for the environment, agricultural and forestry producers, and the general public” (USDA).

Because of the Clean Water Act and wetland preservation regulations, wetland mitigation banking is already an accepted practice. Although there have been questions raised about non-local mitigation and the quality of mitigated sites, this practice has slowed the loss of wetlands in the state. Carbon credit trading however is on a different footing. It is a strictly voluntary market with relatively few buyers and many sellers. Its purpose is to remove carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, from the atmosphere by storing carbon in soils (sequestration). “The best known market for trading carbon credits is the Chicago Climate Exchange” (Mark L. Wilson in “All Ohio Chapter News” vol 10, iss 3). One of the more active carbon credit programs involves rangeland management practices for sustainable livestock distribution in several western states. Here in Ohio, food animal producers can receive payment for capturing methane emissions from manure storage structures (OSU Extension brochure “Manure Storage Covers Workshop”, 8/12/2008).

Franklin Soil and Water is studying these and other programs involving environmental credit trading to determine how they can help further our mission of protecting soil and water resources in Franklin County. An example of possible use could occur as we implement management plans on conservation easements; the thousands of hardwood trees planted could be a source of carbon credits.

Join us at our **62nd Annual Banquet, “Conserving for Our Future”** on October 23rd to hear David Robinson of The Climate Project speak on climate change and public policy. Share your thoughts on “Conserving for Our Future” as you meet with staff members, the Board of Supervisors, and other concerned citizens.

62nd Annual Banquet and Board of Supervisors’ Election

At the Confluence Park Restaurant, Columbus, Ohio

Thursday October 23rd

***Election: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

***Dinner: 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

***Speaker and Awards: 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

**For more information call (614) 486-9613 or visit
www.franklinswcd.org**

Banquet Registration and Absentee Ballot Application on page 4

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Dan Binder



Dan Binder has served as Supervisor for Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District for the last 3 years, and as co-chair of the Board of Supervisors the last year. He also serves as President of Friends of Big Walnut Creek and Tributaries, a non-profit watershed group dedicated to protecting water resources in Central Ohio. He also is Executive Director of the River Institute, a non-profit education organization dedicated to advancing river ecosystem restoration science.

He was supervisor of the Water Quality Labs, Water Quality Research, section for 25 years before retiring from the City of Columbus in 2004. He cites that helping bring partners together to form the Big Walnut and Scioto Conservation Reserve Enhancement projects was a significant accomplishment that helped not only the farm community but also the urban water consumer gain important benefits.

He is married to Sarah Kautz Binder and their family consists of 4 adult children, 2 dogs, 4 cats and a horse. Dan says all the pets are very well loved (as are the children) but all agree the horse is special. In his spare time Dan likes to grow bonsai, fish, and ride Central Ohio's growing network of bicycle trails.

Suzan Jervey

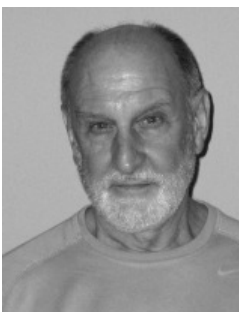


Suzan Jervey has a B.S. in Natural Resources and M.S. in Agricultural Education from Ohio State. She has 34 years experience in public education and outreach including work for Miami Soil and Water, ODNR, and Metro Parks.

She currently serves as President of Leadership Worthington, a nonprofit educational organization, and works part-time for the Licking County Parks. Suzan is very interested in environmental education and has partnered with Franklin Soil and Water for the past eight years with teacher workshops. She grew up in Columbus, currently lives in Worthington, but loves spending time at her family's cabin in Licking County.

She looks forward to the opportunity to serve as a supervisor so that she may become more familiar with the various conservation projects throughout Franklin County.

Robert K. Kyle



Robert Kyle is a retired graphic designer and production artist. He has a wife, three daughters, eight grandchildren and a great-grandson. He has time to devote to them and to work that will benefit their quality of life and the quality of life for their great, great, grandchildren.

Robert serves on the boards of Sierra Club, Ohio Chapter, Central Ohio Group (COG) and The Friends of Big Walnut & Tributaries. He is active on the Conservation Committees of both the Sierra Chapter and COG levels. He has worked closely with Franklin Soil and Water, MORPC, Ohio EPA, ODNR, City of Columbus and other jurisdictions in central Ohio to protect our wetlands, waterways, and forests from being destroyed by development and sprawl. He believes that green space and clean waterways have a greater social value than buildings, highways, and parking lots.

With your support he can continue to improve the environment that will support all those who will follow us.

ELECTION RULES

The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission will cause an election of Supervisors of the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District to be held in accordance with Chapter 1515 of the Ohio Revised Code at **Franklin Soil and Water's Annual Meeting on October 23, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. at the Confluence Park Restaurant, 679 West Spring Street in Columbus, OH 43215.**

Voting that evening will take place from **6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

Nominees are:

1. Dan Binder
2. Suzan Jervey
3. Robert K. Kyle

Two (2) supervisors are to be elected.

You may vote at the **annual meeting** as noted above, at the **office** October 23, 2008 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., or vote **absentee** by requesting the proper absentee request forms from the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District office at 1328 Dublin Road, Suite 101, Columbus, OH 43215. The telephone number is (614) 486-9613.

***An official ballot may be secured and cast only by the eligible voter.**

***Eligible voters must be Franklin County residents or landowners who are at least 18 years old and a citizen of the United States.**

Voting Absentee by Mail:

1. Call or write for Application for Absentee Ballot. (An application can be found on page 4.)
2. You can receive only one ballot per request, unless a husband and wife both sign the request. (Then you will receive two ballots.)
3. Mail or hand deliver your request for absentee ballots to the Franklin Soil and Water office.
4. Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District will send you the official ballot. You may vote only for two (2) candidates on the ballot. You will receive two envelopes, one self-addressed stamped envelope and one registration envelope. The ballot is to be sealed in the registration envelope and placed into the self-addressed stamped envelope. Absentee ballots will be mailed after September 15, 2008. Please mail both envelopes back to Franklin Soil and Water.
5. Absentee ballots must be received no later than the day of the election, October 23, 2008 by 4:00 p.m. at the Franklin Soil and Water office.
6. Your hand delivered ballot must be in the office by 4:00 p.m., Thursday, October 23, 2008. You can deliver only your own absentee ballot.

APPLICATION FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT ON PAGE 4

**PLEASE MAIL OR HAND DELIVER COMPLETED ABSENTEE FORM TO:
Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District
1328 Dublin Rd., Suite 101
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: (614) 486-9613**

**OHIO SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
OFFICIAL APPLICATION FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT AND REGISTRATION
ENVELOPE**

PLEASE SEND TO:

PRINT NAME OF APPLICANT

PRINT ADDRESS

STREET & ROAD NUMBER

PRINT CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

I hereby apply for absentee voter ballot and registration envelope from the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District. The Official Election to be held at the Confluence Park Restaurant, 679 West Spring Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215 on Thursday, October 23, 2008 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

I am an eligible voter of the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation district because I am:

1) _____ 18 years old and reside in Franklin County.

OR

2) _____ I am 18 years old and own land within Franklin County.

Written Signature

**62nd ANNUAL BANQUET REGISTRATION:
Thursday, October 23rd, 6:00 p.m., Confluence Park Restaurant**

Please register by October 16, 2008. Make check payable to Franklin Soil and Water. Mail registration and payment to Franklin Soil and Water, 1328 Dublin Road, Suite 101, Columbus, Ohio 43215. Your tickets will be mailed to you. Please present tickets at the door.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Guests Names: _____

Please indicate number of tickets and calculate total.

_____ Adult Ticket: \$32.00 or \$35.00 after October 16, 2008

_____ Child's Ticket: \$22.00 for children 12 and under, or \$25.00 after October 16, 2007.
(Children 3 and under are free.)

_____ Table of 8: \$225.00

_____ Total Payment Enclosed

To Help You Conserve...

In addition to thinking of new ways to conserve our soil and water resources (see article on page 1), Franklin Soil and Water partners with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) District Conservationist Mary Ann Core to use proven programs for conservation. Working together we are able to provide technical and financial assistance to help both agricultural producers and private landowners care for the land.

One recent success is the **Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program** (WHIP) agreement with Columbus Recreation and Parks. Friends of Alum Creek and Tributaries (FACT), a watershed group, acquired grant money to remove two low-head dams on Alum Creek that will lower the water level by up to four feet. The land along Alum Creek in the affected area is Columbus parkland, including parts of Academy, Wolf, and Nelson Parks. The WHIP agreement will provide technical and financial assistance to improve both the aquatic and streamside habitats by providing stream bank stabilization, the removal of invasive species, and by the planting of native vegetation.

In addition to WHIP, other NRCS programs include the **Environmental Quality Incentives Program** (EQIP) which assists landowners and agricultural producers with conservation practices such as strip tillage, cover crops, designs and plans for managing animal waste (including horses), fencing for grazing management, forest stand improvement, reforestation, grassed waterways, streamside buffers and filter strips, and nutrient management. The **Conservation Reserve Program** (CRP) provides assistance for cropland or pasture land with environmentally sensitive areas bordering streams and wet areas in crop fields. It also addresses gullies in cropland. Idle land is eligible if it borders a permanent water feature. The **Wetlands Reserve Program** (WRP) addresses wetland, wildlife habitat, soil, water, and related resource concerns. It is an opportunity for landowners to receive financial incentives for retiring marginal land from agriculture.

In addition to these 2008 Farm Bill funded programs, Franklin Soil and Water is able to provide locally funded technical and financial assistance for targeted conservation projects on private lands. One of our most successful of these cost share programs acquires and maintains conservation easements in targeted riparian (riverside) corridors. Another growing program is our Backyard Conservation program, which promotes nontraditional ways of handling storm water, including rain gardens.



Using NRCS programs, Franklin Soil and Water helped The Church in Galloway to restore this riparian corridor and provided additional protection by placing a permanent conservation easement on the property. The property is on the main stem of Hellbranch Run, a tributary of the Big Darby.

Rain Barrel Raffle a Success at County Fair



County Engineer Dean Ringle draws a name as Franklin Soil and Water Assistant Director Emily Weber assists

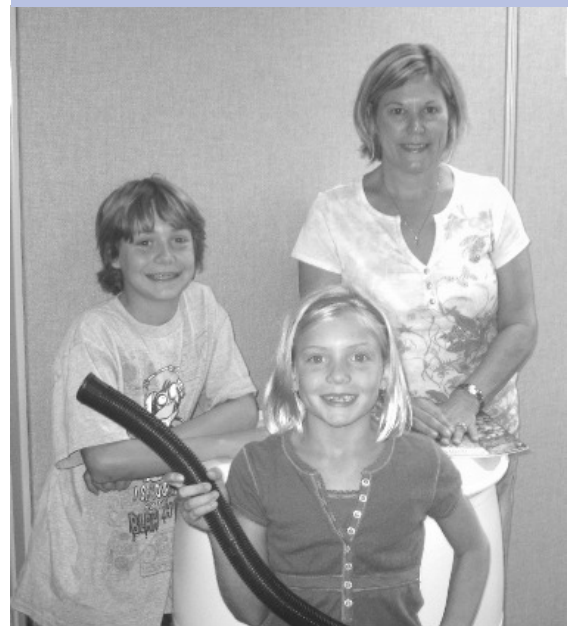
Each year Franklin Soil and Water has a display in the County Engineer's tent at the Franklin County Fair. At this year's fair we shared information on Backyard Conservation, including the use of rain barrels, rain gardens, and composting bins. A rain barrel, donated by Backyard Experience, allowed visitors to see how easy it would be to use. At the conclusion of the fair, the rain barrel was raffled off to one lucky visitor from among the nearly 250 entries.

County Engineer Dean Ringle encourages home owners to consider ways they can reduce storm water run-off from their properties and was happy to

help by drawing the winning name. Even happier was the winner, Jill Miller from Hilliard, pictured here with her children Marcus and Marley. Marcus, a 6th grader, was quick to point out the importance of preserving the Big Darby and how run-off can contain pollutants.

Franklin Soil and Water has an active Backyard Conservation program that aims to reduce the amount of storm water entering local streams, improve the quality of storm water, improve soil function, and provide wildlife habitat. We offer displays, presentations, and cost share for the installation of rain gardens. For more information, call (614) 486-9613 or visit www.franklinswcd.org.

Marcus, Marley, and Jill Miller with their new rain barrel



Rain Garden Technical Workshop Offered in October

Franklin Soil and Water, in conjunction with the Central Ohio Rain Garden Initiative (CORGI), is sponsoring a rain garden workshop and installation on October 21st and 22nd in Columbus at the Ohio Department of Transportation offices on West Broad Street. The two-day workshop will include a rain garden installation and technical seminars. The workshop is designed for professional landscapers, engineers, designers, consultants, municipal leaders, and developers.

For an agenda and registration visit www.franklinswcd.org.

For more information, call Stephanie Suter at (614) 486-9613.

Your Conservation District ~ Creating Conservation Solutions

The first in a continuing series sharing who we are and what we do. In the next issue look for the Administration and NRCS Teams.



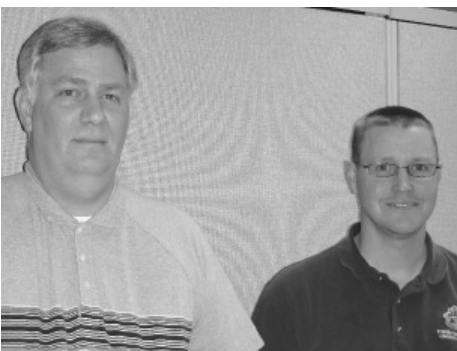
The Conservation Implementation Team consists of Stephanie Suter, Habitat Conservationist, and Kyle Wilson, Natural Resource Conservationist. Stephanie assists landowners with backyard conservation with a focus on stream protection, habitat improvement, and water quality. Kyle coordinates and administers our conservation easement acquisition efforts and assists with stream restoration projects.

The Developing Lands Team consists of Urban Conservationists Martha Gilson and David Reutter. Martha and David assist local governments, developers, contractors, and landowners with natural resource conservation on developing land. Martha and David also review development plans, inspect construction sites, and assist with storm water management.



The Environmental Education Team consists of Linda Pettit, Environmental Education Specialist, and Doc Jordan, Education Assistant. Linda assists students, teachers, youth groups, and informal educators with education programming related to soil management and water quality. Doc provides assistance for both the education and outreach programs.

The Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Interns are Michelle Braun and Sarah Matheny. Water Quality Technicians Michelle and Sarah assist in collection of IDDE data and collect water quality samples.



The Stream Resource Geodatabase and Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Team consists of Jeff Pierce, Natural Resources GIS Coordinator, John Bailey, Natural Resources Conservationist, and (not pictured) Josh Garver, Natural Resources GIS Specialist. Jeff manages the geodatabase and assists partners with drainage and natural resource data. John coordinates the collection of field data for both the resource inventory and IDDE projects. Josh assists in GIS data management for both the resource inventory and IDDE projects.

Clean Ohio Up For Renewal

On November 4th, voters in Franklin County and all across Ohio will have the opportunity to vote to protect and preserve Ohio's quality of life through the renewal of the existing Clean Ohio Fund. It will ensure quality of life for all Ohioans by preserving natural areas and farmland and protecting waterways. It will also help clean up polluted industrial sites, helping to stimulate economic development in urban areas by creating high-quality jobs and investment.

Clean Ohio won't raise taxes. It will be paid with state bonds and existing state revenue. Passage of Clean Ohio will allow Ohio to receive matching federal funds, which may be used by communities like ours for projects to protect and preserve the environment.

Franklin County has received \$32,789,210 from the Clean Ohio Fund. Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District has used Clean Ohio Funds in the acquisition of conservation easements allowing us to establish buffers along targeted waterways to protect water quality and enhance wildlife habitat.

NRCS and Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District programs and services are offered on a non-discriminatory basis.

FRANKLIN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT --- A Federal/State/Local partnership funded by: Franklin County Commissioners; State of Ohio; Columbus; Dublin; Gahanna; Hilliard; Reynoldsburg; Upper Arlington; Westerville; Worthington; Villages of Canal Winchester, New Albany, and Obetz; Blendon, Brown, Clinton, Franklin, Hamilton, Jackson, Jefferson, Madison, Norwich, Plain, Pleasant, Prairie, and Sharon Townships; The Nature Conservancy; Columbus Outdoor Pursuits; Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks; Darby Creek Association; Franklin County Board of Health, County Engineer, Sanitary Engineer and Economic & Development Dept.; Ohio Environmental Education Fund; Clean Ohio Fund; Nature Works, and with natural resource assistance from USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service and ODNR, Division of Soil & Water Conservation.



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1328 Dublin Road, Suite 101
Columbus, OH 43215**

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