



Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District

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Frankly Speaking

Franklin Soil and Water Awarded Grant to Demonstrate Effectiveness of Small Scale Green Infrastructure

Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District has been awarded a \$49,742 grant from the Ohio Environmental Education Fund of the Ohio EPA, Office of Environmental Education. The grant project, *Central Ohio Rain Gardens*, will provide funding for a cluster of demonstration rain gardens in a central Ohio neighborhood. A series of workshops, brochures, and a web site will be used both to solicit volunteers and to inform homeowners of the benefits of rain gardens.

Stephanie Suter, Habitat Conservationist, wrote the grant on behalf of a collaborative she founded in 2008, the Central Ohio Rain Garden Initiative (CORGI). Over the course of the next three years, they hope to not only introduce the concept of rain gardens to more homeowners, but also to demonstrate to policy makers that these small-scale green infrastructure practices can be an effective and cost-conscious way to improve water quality in central Ohio.

“Green infrastructure, a term still unfamiliar to some, is a practice that has been implemented successfully throughout the United State,” according to Emily Weber, Assistant Director. “It involves a creative approach to meet the end goals of improving water quality and growth management through innovative conservation methods.”

Rain gardens are a green infrastructure practice that can be implemented by

individual home owners on a small scale, but collectively, can be used to better manage both the quantity and quality of stormwater entering local waterways. By intercepting precipitation that would normally be piped to the curb, or in older sections of a city, connected directly to the combined sewer line, rain gardens help alleviate the burden on urban infrastructure. When rain water flows into sewer lines, they overflow, contaminating local rivers with raw sewage. Even when the rainwater empties into the storm drain system, streams are damaged. The runoff carries pollutants, raises the temperature of stream water, and causes stream bank erosion and flooding downstream.



What sets *Central Ohio Rain Gardens* apart is the cluster design of several rain gardens in a single neighborhood, allowing for pre- and post-installation monitoring of stormwater runoff. Monitoring will illustrate how these small, residential flower gardens can affect the amount of flooding and water pollution caused by urban/suburban development.

Upcoming Events

- Tree Sale Order Deadline.....March 13
- Sediment and Erosion Control EXPO.....March 19
visit www.franklinswcd.org for more information
- Fish Sale Order Deadline.....March 27
- Fish Pick-up.....April 2
- Tree Pick-up.....April 17 & 18 (am only)
- Spring Darby Watershed Tree Planting.....To be announced
visit www.franklinswcd.org for information on volunteering

News from Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District

Board of Supervisors Election Results

The terms of two supervisors, Kari Mackenbach and Dan Binder, ended with the close of 2008. Board Chair Kari Mackenbach decided not to run for a fourth term, so the three candidates running for the two seats were Dan Binder, Suzan Jervey, and Bob Kyle. Dan and Suzan were elected to three-year terms, and Bob has generously agreed to be on our Associate Board. The Board of Supervisors will be highlighted in the April issue of *Frankly Speaking*.

2008 Annual Banquet Another Success

The 62nd Annual Banquet and election for the Board of Supervisors, held at the Confluence Park Restaurant on October 23rd, came off without a hitch despite some initial challenges. Long-time Franklin Soil and Water Administrative Specialist Melissa Little resigned to become a full-time mom with the birth of her second child (Congratulations Melissa!). New employee Sherry Collins fearlessly leaped into the breach and completed the job. When the initial speaker was unable to come, Kim Brown, Education Manager at Franklin Park Conservatory, graciously offered to fill in and gave a lively and informative talk on carbon credit exchange programs. Kim was surrounded by a crowd of interested listeners after her presentation. Thanks, Kim!

Other highlights of the evening were the Conservation Awards, Franklin County Commissioner Paula Brooks stopping by to say a few words despite a busy election-year schedule, and a silent auction with some fabulous offerings. The Conservation Fund is \$700 larger thanks to the generosity of the bidders and these donors: CAPA, Shadowbox, Columbus Museum of

Art, Funnybone, the Ohio Historical Society, the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, Franklin Park Conservatory, Arena Grand Theatre, COSI, the Columbus Clippers, the Refectory Restaurant, Meineke, Net Advertising, Fender's Fish Hatchery, the Franklin County Dog Shelter, the Columbus Symphony, Village Squire Barber Shop, Undone, Canine Social Club, Jeni's Ice Cream, Dan Binder, Dance Plus Ballroom, Quicken Loans Arena, Tri-Village Studio, the Columbus Crew, Scott Sonnenberg, and It's a Dille.

And Thanks to Our Banquet Sponsors

American Electric Power, EMH&T, and Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission.

Mackenbach Resigns from Board After 9 Years



Kari Mackenbach is resigning from the Franklin Soil and Water Board of Supervisors after nine years of service as Supervisor, Treasurer, Vice Chair, and Chair. Her leadership has provided support to the District in navigating through critical transition years. During her tenure on the Board, Franklin Soil and Water has more than doubled services, programs, and partners. "Kari is passionate about the conservation of our natural resources in central Ohio and we look forward to having her continue with us as an Associate Supervisor" stated Jennifer Fish, Director. The staff and Board offer Kari a sincere "Thank You."

2008 Conservation Awards Focus on Darby

A diverse group of individuals and organizations were recognized for their continuing efforts to preserve one of

the most beautiful natural resources in central Ohio. "It was not planned," said Jennifer Fish, Director, "but it wasn't surprising that the staff picks for these Conservation Stewardship Awards all happened to focus on the Big Darby watershed. Big Darby Creek is a National and State Scenic River and a lovely illustration of the high quality of life in the county."

The Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department was recognized for its "collaboration, perseverance, and determination to integrate the Big Darby watershed riparian setbacks into the Franklin County Zoning Resolution. This was an important step forward in protecting the Big Darby and will maintain and improve the biological diversity and aquatic life use designations, achieve sediment, pollutant, and nutrient removal, and maintain stream functionality" according to Emily Weber, Assistant Director. Present to receive the award were Planning Department Director James Schimmer; Ben Weiner, Planner; Lee Brown, Planning Administrator; and Matthew Brown, Planner/ Floodplain Administrator.

Pastor Brent Bond and his wife Nancy accepted a Conservation Stewardship Award on behalf of The Church in Galloway. The church community was recognized for its stewardship of the land when making decisions about the development of the church property along Hellbranch Run. The church has enrolled 15 acres of agricultural land in the Conservation Reserve Program, donated a conservation easement to permanently protect land along the Hellbranch, planted 10,000 trees, and worked to remove invasive species from the property. It has also allowed the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to install monitoring wells

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Fish Stocking Rates for Ponds

A properly stocked and managed pond will support fish for food and sport. Largemouth bass, channel catfish, and bluegill are recommended species for stocking ponds in Ohio. All three provide excellent fishing and fine eating. Largemouth bass feed almost exclusively on other fish. Flathead minnow or bluegill should be stocked as a food source. Stocking rates vary according to pond size. General guidelines for a one-acre pond are 100 largemouth bass, 200 bluegill, 100 yellow perch, 50 channel catfish, and 5 to 10 white amur. Do not add fish from other ponds or streams because fish such as carp and crappie can upset the balance in a pond by competing with more desirable fish for food and space. Once these fish become established, they are difficult to remove.

White amur (grass carp) can attain weights in excess of 50 pounds and live up to 15 years. These fish are used for vegetation control. Leafy, rooted aquatic plants such as pondweed and coontail are their preferred food. White amur are not effective for controlling milfoil, water meal, filamentous algae, or pond lilies. It is important to stock only as many as are needed as some aquatic weeds in ponds are desirable for oxygen production and fish habitat.

Franklin Soil and Water sells sterile triploid white amur that cannot reproduce. They also have a tendency to migrate out of lakes and ponds toward moving water. Pond owners who have inflows or outflows should install barriers prior to stocking to prevent escape.

- The last day to order fish is Friday, March 27, 2009.
- Fish pick-up is Thursday, April 2, 2009, from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. at the Franklin Soil and Water office, 1328 Dublin Road, Columbus 43215. Call (614) 486-9613 for directions.
- Bring water from your pond in a plastic bag placed in a gallon trash can. You will need approximately 5 gallons per 100 fish. For white amur, bring 5 gallons per 2 fish.
- Deliver fish to your pond immediately for best survival.
- No refunds are available.

2009 Fish Sale Order Form

- Order online at www.franklinswcd.org using a credit card and PayPal
- Mail order form and check payable to Franklin Soil and Water to:
Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District
1328 Dublin road, Suite 101
Columbus, OH 43215
- Please write separate checks for Fish Sale and Tree Sale
- *Last day to order* is Friday, March 27, 2009
- *Pick-up is Thursday, April 2, 2009, at the Franklin Soil and Water office, from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.*

Keep
this as a
REMINDER
Pick-up trees
at our office!!!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE/ZIP _____

DAYTIME PHONE _____ EMAIL (for pick-up reminder) _____

**Mail
This**

Species	Size	Price per fish	Quantity	Total
Bluegill	2-4"	\$0.75		
Channel catfish	4-5"	\$0.75		
Largemouth bass	2-4"	\$0.75		
Perch	2-4"	\$0.75		
Minnows	1-2"	\$0.10		
White amur	8-14"	\$12.00		
			Total Cost	

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date _____

Cash/Check _____

Receipt # _____

By _____

Helpful Information on Tree and Shrub Selection

COMMON NAME	SPECIES	MATURE HEIGHT	GROWTH RATE	FLOODING TOLERANCE	SHADE TOLERANCE	DROUGHT SENSITIVITY	FALL COLOR
EVERGREENS							
Arborvitae (white cedar)	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	40-60'	medium	moderate	tolerant	sensitive	evergreen
Eastern white pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	50-80'	fast	intolerant	intermediate	resistant	evergreen
White spruce	<i>Picea glauca</i>	40-60'	slow-med	tolerant	intermediate	tolerant	evergreen
SHRUBS							
Red chokeberry	<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	6-10'	slow	tolerant	intermediate	tolerant	red-reddish purple
American hazelnut	<i>Corylus americana</i>	8-15'	med-fast	intolerant	intermediate	tolerant	yellow-green-reddish
Elderberry	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	5-12'	fast	tolerant	intermediate	sensitive-tolerant	yellow-green
Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	6-12'	slow-med	tolerant	tolerant	sensitive	golden yellow
SMALL TREES							
Eastern redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	20-30'	medium	tolerant	tolerant	resistant	yellow
American hornbeam	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	20-30'	slow	tolerant	tolerant	intermediate	orange-reddish-purple
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	6-20'	medium	tolerant	intermediate	sensitive-tolerant	yellow-gold with some orange-red
Common pawpaw	<i>Asimina triloba</i>	25-35'	slow	moderate	tolerant	sensitive	yellow
LARGE TREES							
Shagbark hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i>	60-80'	medium	moderate-intolerant	intermediate	tolerant	yellow-golden brown
American elm	<i>Ulmus americana</i>	60-80'	med-fast	tolerant	intermediate	intermediate	yellow
Pin oak	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	60-70'	fast	tolerant	intermediate	intermediate	yellow
Common persimmon	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	35-60'	slow-med	tolerant	intermediate-sensitive	intermediate-tolerant	reddish-purple-yellow
Wild black cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	50-60+'	medium	tolerant	tolerant	intermediate-tolerant	yellow-red
Black gum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	30-50'	slow-med	moderate-intolerant	intermediate	intermediate-tolerant	orange to scarlet to purple
Ohio buckeye	<i>Aesculus glabra</i>	20-40'	medium	tolerant	tolerant	sensitive	yellow to orange-red to reddish brown
Red maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	40-60'	med-fast	tolerant	intermediate	sensitive	yellow to orange to brilliant red

Perennials Available for Purchase Day of Pick-up Only

Native perennials in 2" pots will be available for purchase on a first-come, first-served basis the two days of the tree pick-up, April 17 from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and April 18 from 8:00 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$3.00 each.

Available perennials will include:

- Sweet black-eyed Susan
- Rough blazingstar
- Ox-eye sunflower
- Marsh milkweed
- Blue flag iris
- Sweet Joe-pye
- Golden Alexander
- Nodding pink onion
- New England aster
- Prairie dropseed
- Butterfly weed
- Purple coneflower
- Wild quinine
- Royal catchfly

2009 Tree, Plant, and Seed Order Form

Keep
this as a
REMINDER
Pick-up trees
at our office!!!

- Make check payable to Franklin Soil and Water Tree Sale and mail with order form to:
Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District, 1328 Dublin Road, Suite 101, Columbus, Ohio 43215
- Please write separate checks for Tree and Fish Sales
- Order online at www.franklinswcd.org using a credit card and PayPal
- **No refunds** are available unless sold out; we may receive substitutions from our suppliers
- **Last day to order is March 13; pick-up is April 17 from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and April 18 from 8 a.m. to noon**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____

EMAIL (for pick-up reminder) _____

Mail
This

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date _____

Cash/Check _____

Receipt # _____

By _____

Packet	Plant	Seedlings per packet	Type of seedling	Price per packet	Quantity (# packets)	Total Cost
A	Arborvitae (white cedar)	10	bareroot	\$7.00		
B	Eastern white pine	25	bareroot	\$15.00		
C	White spruce	10	bareroot	\$10.00		
D	Red chokeberry	5	bareroot	\$10.00		
E	American hazelnut	5	bareroot	\$10.00		
F	Elderberry	5	bareroot	\$9.00		
G	Spicebush	5	bareroot	\$9.00		
I	Eastern redbud	5	bareroot	\$9.00		
J	American hornbeam	5	bareroot	\$10.00		
K	Serviceberry	5	bareroot	\$10.00		
L	Common pawpaw	5	bareroot	\$12.00		
M	Shagbark hickory	5	bareroot	\$10.00		
N	American elm	5	bareroot	\$8.00		
O	Pin oak	5	bareroot	\$8.00		
P	Common persimmon	5	bareroot	\$8.00		
Q	Wild black cherry	5	bareroot	\$8.00		
R	Black gum	1	3 gallon	\$16.00		
S	Ohio buckeye	1	2 gallon	\$10.00		
T	Red maple	1	2-3 gallon	\$12.00		
Native Warm Season Grass Seeds						
1	Little bluestem (4 oz.)			\$6.00		
2	Indiangrass (4 oz.)			\$6.00		
3	Sideoats grama (4 oz.)			\$6.00		
4	Switchgrass (4 oz.)			\$6.00		
Native Wildflower Seeds (see page 6 for information on contents)						
5	Hummingbird Wildflower Mix (1/8 oz.)			\$7.00		
6	Butterfly Wildflower Mix (1/8 oz.)			\$7.00		
7	Native Ohio Prairie Wildflower Mix (1/4 oz.)			\$7.00		
Rain Garden Kit (see page 6 for details), Rain Garden Manual, and Live Stakes (see page 8 for information on live stakes)						
RG	Rain Garden kit containing 49 pots (see page 6 for details)			\$115.00		
BT	Blue Thumb Rain Garden Manual			\$18.00		
SD	Silky dogwood, 2' live-cutting stake, bundle of 5			\$10.00		
SW	Streamco willow, 2' live-cutting stake, bundle of 5			\$10.00		
Donate to the conservation fund \$5, \$10, \$25 or more					Donation	
					Total	\$

Rain Garden Kit Helps You Blossom as Backyard Conservationist

If planting a rain garden seems too intimidating, we have just what you need to get started. In the “2009 Tree, Plant, and Seed Order Form” on page 5, you’ll find a Rain Garden Kit and *The Blue Thumb Guide to Raingardens: Design and Installation for Homeowners in the Upper Midwest* by Rusty Schmidt, Dan Shaw, and David Dodds. This easy-to-follow and profusely illustrated book contains all the information you need to site, design, dig, and plant your own rain

garden. Franklin Soil and Water is encouraging land owners to add these beautiful gardens to their yards because rain gardens also improve the quality of local streams and rivers. The more rain and snow melt we keep on our property, the less run-off there is to carry pollutants to streams and cause erosion of the streambanks.

The Rain Garden Kit costs \$115.00 and consists of 49 2” pots of native perennials, enough to cover 75 sq. ft. of garden. The species included are:

- Sweet black-eyed Susan 3 pots
- Rough blazingstar 5 pots
- Ox-eye sunflower 3 pots
- Marsh milkweed 3 pots
- Blue flag iris 5 pots
- Golden Alexander 7 pots
- Nodding pink onion 7 pots
- New England aster 3 pots
- Butterfly weed 5 pots
- Purple coneflower 3 pots
- Wild quinine 5 pots

Wildflower Seed Packet Information

Seed packets are of native Ohio perennials and North American annuals. Order on page 5.

Hummingbird Wildflower Seed Mix

1/8 oz. packet covers at least 100 sq. ft. Native Ohio perennials: eastern columbine, dense blazingstar, bergamot, foxglove beardtongue, royal catchfly, obedient plant. Native American annuals: scarlet sage, Texas sage, lemon mint, cleome.

Butterfly Wildflower Seed Mix

1/8 oz. packet covers at least 100 sq. ft. Native Ohio perennials: butterfly

milkweed, smooth aster, purple coneflower, dense blazingstar, lance-leaved coreopsis, showy goldenrod. Native American annuals: plains coreopsis, black-eyed Susan, cosmos.

Native Ohio Prairie Wildflower Seed Mix

1/4 oz. packet covers at least 200 sq. ft. Grasses: big bluestem, little bluestem, side-oats grama, indiagrass, nodding wild rye. Forbs: butterfly weed, smooth aster, partridge pea, purple coneflower, rattlesnake master, dense blazingstar, bergamot, foxglove

beardtongue, grey-headed coneflower, black-eyed Susan, royal catchfly, prairie dock, showy goldenrod, Ohio spiderwort, ox-eye, baptisia.



Native Warm Season Grass Seed Packet Information

Seed packets are of native Ohio grasses and are sold in 4 oz. packets. Order on page 5.

Little Bluestem

Covers 300 sq. ft. A fine-leaved bunch grass, it grows well on uplands or lowlands. Turns brilliant red in the fall after frost. Height is 1-3 ft.

Indiagrass

Covers 200 sq. ft. One of the most beautiful native grasses, waving its golden, plume-like head in September. Reddish-yellow in the winter. Variety is Neb. 54. Height is 5-8 ft.

Side-Oats Grama

Covers 250 sq. ft. Characterized by oat-like seeds that hang down one side of its stem. Turns a beautiful reddish-white after frost. Height is 12-18 in.

Switchgrass

Covers 300 sq. ft. Grows under a variety of conditions and is drought tolerant. Has feathery, open heads. Turns orange-yellow in the winter. Height is 4-5 ft.



The graceful stems of Side-oats Grama

Your Conservation District ~ Creating Conservation Solutions

The second in a continuing series sharing with you who we are and what we do. In the next issue, look for the Board of Supervisors, those publicly-elected volunteers who provide guidance and direction to the district.



The Management Team consists of Jennifer Fish, Director, left, and Emily Weber, Assistant Director. Jennifer manages District operations and programs. Emily provides coordination and oversight for program management.



The Administration Specialist is Sherry Collins. Sherry ensures that all your requests for assistance are directed to the right individual. She also manages accounts receivable and payable, payroll, benefits, and events.



The Communications Specialist is Mary Ann Brouillette. Mary Ann provides leadership and assistance with public relations, media, and community outreach. She is pictured here with Josh Garver, **GIS Natural Resource Specialist**. Josh is a member of the Stream Resource Geodatabase and Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Team. Josh assists in GIS data management for both the resource inventory and IDDE projects.



The NRCS District Conservationist is Mary Ann Core. Mary Ann provides leadership on implementing conservation on agricultural lands and lands with recent agricultural activity.

continued from page 2

on the property to track groundwater recharge in the Hellbranch Run watershed.

The final award went to Scott Sonnenburg, P.E., L.A., of Eco-Design and Engineering for his leadership in ecologically- and economically-based low impact design

in Franklin County. His designs for the stormwater infrastructure at the Dublin Methodist Hospital and Hilliard Bradley High School have shown how environmentally conscious ideas can be successfully incorporated into traditional plans in an economical way. Martha Gilson, Urban Conservationist, shared that

staff members often ask Sonnenburg to lead tours or give presentations on innovative stormwater concepts and that his voluntary efforts to promote conservation within the development community have been invaluable to the agency in achieving its mission to preserve soil and water resources in Franklin County.

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.

Streambank Stabilization with Live Stakes

Many urban streams and creeks are suffering from erosion and bank instability due to pressures from development and upstream land use change. The resulting increase in impervious surfaces reduces the land's ability to absorb and filter stormwater, causing unstable flows and increased streambank erosion.

Woody vegetation planted along streams can be extremely useful in controlling soil erosion, providing wildlife habitat and improving water quality. Dormant woody stakes can be used to stabilize banks while bare-root transplants of trees and shrubs can be used at the top of banks in the flood plain area. Properly selected and planted, they can withstand flooding and high velocity water and often can be used instead of costly structural practices to stabilize the streambank and reduce further erosion.

Dormant or live stakes are used on small to medium sized streams with steep or eroding banks. Live staking involves the insertion and tamping of dormant, rootable vegetative cuttings into the ground. Many willow and shrub dogwood species, sycamore, and box elder are ideal for use as live stakes. If correctly prepared, handled, and placed, the live stake will root and grow, forming a living root mat that reinforces and binds soil particles.

1. Use straight branches or main stems 1-4 inches in diameter and 18-36 inches long.
2. Use a tree planting dibble bar, pry bar or drive the stake into the bank with a mallet until 3-6 inches remain exposed. Do not force or split the stake or scrape the bark off.

3. Space stakes 2-4 feet apart in staggered rows starting 1 foot above the low water line. Three rows are usually the minimum for most sites.

For all dormant plantings, ample sunshine and moisture are needed for successful growth. Planting in low light or heavy shade results in poor survival rates. Silky dogwood and Streamco willow stakes are available to order on page 5.



**Franklin Soil and Water
Conservation District**

Franklin Soil and Water
Conservation District
1328 Dublin Road, Suite 101
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 486-9613
www.franklinswcd.org

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