



# Wild About Wetlands



## Vernal Pools - Wetland Mysteries

Have you walked by a pond in the woods during the spring or early summer only to return in the fall to discover that it has disappeared? This area is most likely a vernal pool. Vernal pools are the ephemeral wetlands that fill annually from precipitation, runoff and rising groundwater. They are shallow depressions in forested bottomlands. The still, cool woodland pools are habitat for many species that need the water to complete their life cycles. Vernal pools share two distinguishing characteristics: they usually dry out in the summer and they are free of breeding populations of fish.

Amphibians and macroinvertebrates have evolved life cycles adapted to these temporary wetlands. The chorus of the spring peepers is heard from a distance as the little frogs seek mates. The salamanders scamper to the invitingly cool moisture to lay their eggs, then they disappear under a rock or log until the next spring. The fairy shrimp multiplies and scurries around in the still waters.

Join us at our 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Banquet for more insight on vernal pools as our guest speaker **David Celebrezze** describes their importance and illustrates with revealing pictures. David is Director of Air and Water Special Projects at Ohio Environmental Council.

### 61<sup>st</sup> District Annual Banquet October 18<sup>th</sup> at the Confluence Park Restaurant

Board of Supervisors Election	6:00 to 7:30PM
Silent Auction	6:00 to 7:30PM
in support of conservation projects	
Dinner Buffet	6:30 to 7:30PM
Program	7:30 to 8:30PM
Conservation Awards	
Guest Speaker	
Silent Auction results	

Mail-in banquet registration form is on page 3



*“Serving our clients, and through them society, with unequalled engineering, consulting, and project management excellence.”*



## *Thanks to our banquet sponsors*



## **Agricultural Wetlands**

Many people who are concerned about conservation of natural resources are not aware that existing wetlands can go largely undetected even with wetland regulations in place. Franklin Soil and Water has staff expertise in this area, which allows us the opportunity to work with partners in preserving the few remaining wetlands within the county. Our greatest opportunity is in the identification and protection of agricultural wetlands.

Wetlands are identified by the presence of water for a sufficient period of time, plant types, and unique soil characteristics. Long term farming, extensive land clearing, ditching, and tiling have resulted in the loss of all but the most persistent wet areas. Remaining agricultural wetlands may lack wetland plants, but do provide important wetland functions such as ground water recharge and flood flow alteration. These agricultural lands may also have long term implications for future applications, such as carbon

sequestration, and the opportunity to mitigate wetland habitat loss through restoration.

Frequently development plan reviews limit wetland investigations to referencing federal wetland inventory maps and requesting information from Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on previous site investigations. Identification of agricultural wetlands by the NRCS has been on a specific and as needed basis for landowners involved in various farm programs and subsidies. The existing federal wetland inventory maps are outdated, not field verified and are often inaccurate. Both of these resources are piecemeal, incomplete, and represent a small fraction of the possible regulatory wetlands existing in an area.

Affected wetlands can be accurately identified through a review of soil maps, contour maps, and aerial photography in conjunction with an onsite inspection. Soil surveys, USGS quad maps, and historic aerial photography are available from regional NRCS offices

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# Wild About Wetlands Banquet Registration

Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District will be celebrating its 61<sup>st</sup> banquet at the Confluence Park Restaurant, 679 W. Spring Street, Columbus, on Thursday, October 18, 2007. Annual Banquet Registration is due by October 12, 2007.

Make checks payable to FRANKLIN SWCD. Send reservation forms along with payments to Franklin SWCD, 1328 Dublin Road, Suite 101, Columbus, Ohio 43215. Your ticket(s) will be mailed to you; please present it that evening.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Guests Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate number of tickets and calculate total.

\_\_\_\_\_ Adult Ticket \$28 per person. After October 12, tickets are \$30 each.

\_\_\_\_\_ Child Ticket \$18 for children 12 and under. After October 12, tickets are \$20 each.  
(children 3 and under are free)

\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL

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## Affiliate Membership

Support District programs that educate about and protect our natural resources in Franklin County by becoming an Affiliate Member. All membership levels receive recognition in the spring newsletter and **complimentary Annual Banquet tickets** (individual receives one ticket; all other levels receive two tickets).

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual \$45/year      \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$80/year      \_\_\_\_\_ Sustaining \$100/year

\_\_\_\_\_ Organization \$250/year      \_\_\_\_\_ Corporate \$500/year

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Organization, Business or Corporation (if applicable)

Benefits of affiliate membership include District program news and updates. A portion of your donation goes towards a conservation project. Organization/business level also receives a certificate. Corporate level receives all of the above, free aerial document copies, and booth space at the Annual Banquet. Make your check payable to FSWCD and send it to Franklin SWCD, 1328 Dublin Rd., Suite 101, Columbus, OH 43215.

# Board of Supervisors Candidates

## Lindsay Bair



Lindsay Bair is a communications consultant with experience focused in media and government relations.

As a resident of Franklin County, Lindsay looks forward to serving her community by providing conservation education and information to citizens and public

representatives related to natural resource concerns.

Lindsay studied political science and communications at The Ohio State University, graduating in 1999.

She has previously worked for the State of Ohio Lieutenant Governor's Office, the Ohio Department of Insurance and Nationwide Insurance as a public relations, communications and marketing professional.

Lindsay currently resides in Hilliard with her husband and two children.

## Linda Paul



Linda Paul currently works for Earth Share of Ohio to raise funds and awareness of environmental and non-profit organizations.

Linda's involvement on the board complements her existing commitment to help Columbus and Franklin County residents become more knowledgeable about the environment and natural resource issues.

Linda currently serves on the board for Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed and Earth Day Coalition. This is in addition to numerous other endeavors as a community volunteer. Linda has worked for non-profit boards as both a board member and a staff member. She advocates for board involvement and leadership.

Linda currently lives in Clintonville with her husband.

## Partnering for Wetland Protection

The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District work together to identify areas for potential wetland protection. Through NRCS programs 319 acres of wetlands and 603 acres of supporting habitat have been restored since 2002. Both agencies partner with the US Fish and Wildlife and Ohio Department of Natural Resource (ODNR), Division of Wildlife for additional resources and funding for wetland protection.

### How the partnership works for landowners

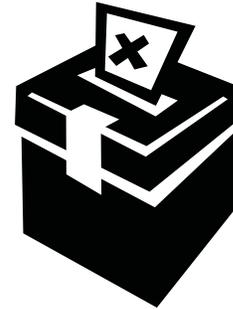
- USDA CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) pays cash rent in lieu of cropping through agricultural wetlands.
- USDA WRP (Wetland Restoration Program) purchases a perpetual or 30 year easement and pays for the cost to restore the wetland.

- USDA WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program) offers incentives for creation of vernal pools and wetlands through a statewide ranking process.
- Landowners who want to protect wetlands in perpetuity are guided through the conservation easement process.
- Landowner assistance is available to restore wetlands that were converted to agriculture prior to 1985.
- Landowners learn how to plan wetland fringes when building ponds.

Call the office at 614-486-9613 for more information on wetland assistance and USDA/NRCS cost share programs. Planning must begin this year if you are to receive cost share under the current Farm Bill program.

# Franklin SWCD to Hold Election at Annual Banquet - October 18, 2007

Those attending our Annual Banquet will find the process of voting for the supervisor candidates very similar to voting in the general election. County residents and/or landowners 18 years of age or older will be immediately directed to the election registration table. Voters will verify their eligibility, be given a ballot and proceed to a nearby voting booth. Upon completion of marking the ballot it will be deposited into the ballot box.



Voting will take place at the restaurant from 6:00 to 7:30PM. **Those who cannot vote at the banquet or at the office from 8:30AM to 4:30PM on Thursday, October 18, 2007 may request absentee ballots** and registration forms from the Franklin SWCD office at 1328 Dublin Road, Suite 101, Columbus, OH 43215. All absentee ballots must be turned in no later than Thursday, October 18 by 2PM.

## Board Responsibilities

Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors consists of five volunteers who set the policy and direction for the District staff. A supervisor serves for a term of three years. The Ohio Revised Code Chapter 1515.08 specifically outlines the Supervisors' powers and responsibilities.

## Candidate Qualifications

Candidates for open Board Supervisor seats must be at least 18 years of age, legal residents of Franklin County, and be able to commit a minimum of 100 hours per year.

When voting for a Board candidate, test your choices against these criteria:

- ✓ General knowledge of natural resources within the District.
- ✓ Leadership ability.
- ✓ Interest in or currently involved in community outreach.
- ✓ Complement existing make-up of the District Board.
- ✓ Possess an interest in soil and water conservation.

## Nominated & Petitioned Candidates

The SWCD nominating committee works throughout the year looking for candidates who are interested in conservation and protection of natural resources and whose qualifications best meet current needs. We invite all interested individuals to contact our office and work with our nominating committee. Individuals who do not wish to work with the nominating committee may obtain a petition form from the Franklin SWCD office. Candidates meeting eligibility requirements and deadlines will be listed on the ballot.

## FSWCD Board of Supervisors

Kari Mackenbach, Chair  
Dan Binder, Vice Chair  
Tony Swaneck, Treasurer  
Mark Dilley  
Katie Renner

District Staff thanks the board members for their dedication to conservation efforts in Franklin County and volunteer hours spent in guiding the District toward our goals.

# Application for Absentee Ballot

## Send Ballot(s) To:

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*Print Name of Applicant*

*Telephone*

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*Print Address (Street Number or Post Office Box)*

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*Print City or Village*

*State*

*Zip Code*

I hereby apply for an absentee ballot for the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor Election to be held at Confluence Park Restaurant, 679 W. Spring Street, Columbus, Ohio on **Thursday, October 18, 2007 from 6:00 – 7:30PM.**

I am a qualified voter of **Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District** because I am at least 18 years of age, a U.S. citizen and:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ I live within the District.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ I own property within the District.

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(Signature)

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(Spouse Signature)

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Please add me to the District Mailing List so that I can be updated on current District programs and activities.

**\*\*\*\*\*ATTENTION\*\*\*\*\***

Spouses can use one ballot request for two absentee ballots; hence, there are two signature lines.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District at (614) 486-9613.

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and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts. These resources are valuable tools for determining the potential for wetlands and historic conditions.

Those who intend to develop their land, purchase another property to build on, or conduct an activity that prevents use of the land for continued agricultural production, should contact the US Army Corps of Engineers District office and their local government office to determine if the land meets the legal criteria for jurisdictional wetlands. If property does meet wetland criteria, conducting a full property investigation before investing money into the property and development design allows for proper consideration of drainage and development planning challenges and ensures compliance with Federal and local laws.

If you want to ensure that wetlands are identified and protected, call our office and ask about opportunities with local governments and/or watershed groups on wetlands protection.



Crawfish burrow in a soybean field  
An agricultural wetland indicator

## Natural Jewel in Franklin County Saved

The Columbus City Council approved a zoning change and cleared the way for the title transfer of 71 acres of forested wetlands from the New Albany Company to Columbus Recreation and Parks Department on July 23, 2007. This natural jewel within the city-owned parks includes a heron rookery of over 50 nests and is like nothing else in the municipal system.

The Forested Wetland - Great Blue Heron Rookery is in the northwest quadrant of the Hamilton – State Route 161 Interchange and is tributary to the Big Walnut Creek Watershed. The wetland serves as

flood control and acts as a water cleansing “Kidney” of Nature contributing to the protection of the raw water and the source for the City’s largest municipal drinking water plant. The water intake for the Hap Cremean Water Treatment Plant is located just two miles downstream on Big Walnut Creek.

There are 57 acres of high quality vernal pool dominated wetlands surrounded by a buffer zone to complete the 71 acres acquired. Future plans include designation as a City Nature Preserve and will include a nature path with interpretive signage.



Bill Resch

## Limited Cost Share Dollars are Available for Conservation Improvements on Your Land

If you've wanted to turn your gully into a grassed waterway, earn Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) dollars for a wet area in the field, manage grazing for improved livestock and plant health, restore a wetland, eliminate compaction problems or address other resource concerns, call your District Conservationist Mary Ann Core at 614-486-9613.



grassed waterway  
in cropland



horses, fence and stream buffer

FRANKLIN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT --- A Federal/State/Local partnership funded by: Franklin County Commissioners; State of Ohio; Columbus; 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 and Franklin County Metro Parks; Darby Creek Association; Franklin County Board of Health, County Engineer, Sanitary Engineer and Development Dept.; Ohio Environmental Education Fund; Clean Ohio Fund; Nature Work and resource assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.



**Franklin Soil and Water  
Conservation District**  
1328 Dublin Road, Suite 101  
Columbus, OH 43215

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