2016 Conservation Poster Contest

Franklin Soil and Water is proud to once again sponsor the Conservation Poster Contest. This year’s theme is - “We All Need Trees” Did you know that one hundred mature trees can catch about 139,000 gallons of rainwater per year? Today many tree species face threats from diseases, pests, invasive species or poor city or town development planning.

Here’s an opportunity for young people to try their hand at expressing care for the environment with artwork. The focus of the posters should be the importance of trees and their environmental benefits. Entries should be submitted on 8 1/2” x 11” paper, preferably pre-used on one side. The Conservation Poster Contest runs from February 22nd to March 18th. The winners for Franklin County will be announced in April. Any interested Franklin County school class, homeschooler, youth/scout group in grades K-12 may participate in the Poster Contest. 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 lpettit@franklinswcd.org, or visit www.franklinswcd.org.

Purchase a Tree

To help you participate in the effort to plant trees, Franklin Soil and Water is having their Annual Tree and Plant Sale again. Ordering online begins on January 27th and ends on April 8th. Pick-up your plant orders on April 29th & 30th (see page 6 for more information). Our sale will offer a variety of conservation-grade seedlings, spring wildflowers, perennials, fruit 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 plant a tree, we are not only providing more oxygen and shade to our communities, but we are helping to protect our soil from erosion and our streams from pollution!

Plant a Tree

We are also collaborating with Branch Out Columbus in promoting the planting of trees. Participate in the GreenSpot Backyards Rebate Program and earn up to a $50 rebate on the purchase of a tree(s) for your yard while supplies last. Redeeming your rebate is a two-step process. First you'll need to join the city's free GreenSpot program, pledging to do your part to protect the environment. Next you'll need to take and pass an online quiz. The rebate program is administered by Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District on behalf of the City of Columbus. When planting your tree, be sure to:

1. Select the right tree
2. Properly plant a tree or seedling to ensure it will survive and grow. Don't forget - always call OUPS before you dig to protect yourself from underground utilities.
3. Submit the location of the tree you planted to help keep track of progress towards our goal.
The McKnight Outdoor Education Center
Columbus Recreation and Parks Outdoor Education

Located on Griggs Reservoir, The McKnight Outdoor Education Center (formerly Indian Village) offers quality outdoor education 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. Contact us for listing of our winter and spring programs including, fossils, animal tracks, archery, and winter survival. Unable to take a field trip this year? Don’t worry, we can also come to you! Visit our website www.columbusrecparks.com, email outdooreducation@columbus.gov, or call 614-645-3380. We look forward to seeing you soon!

World of 7 Billion Video Contest

Back by popular demand, the World of 7 Billion student video contest can help you bring technology and creativity into your middle and high school classes. The contest challenges your students to create a short (60 seconds or less) video illustrating the connection between world population growth and one of three global challenges dealing with either Deforestation, Public Health, or Water Scarcity. Students can win up to $1,000 and their teachers will receive free curriculum resources. The contest deadline is February 25, 2016. Full contest guidelines, resources for research, past winners, and more can be found at www.worldof7billion.org/student-video-contest.

Fun Projects and Places to Visit

Bring the Farm to You this Spring!

Reward your students with a fun farm program this school year! These impressive programs travel right to you, saving you the time and expense of a field trip while addressing science and social studies standards in a novel and engaging way.

Engage students in fascinating topics that directly relate to their lives!

- **Maple Sugaring** demonstrates with antiques and modern equipment how maple syrup was historically made and how it’s made today.

- **Wool Spinning** shares the process of making clothes, transforming sheep wool into yarn through the steps of shearing, washing, combing and spinning yarn.

- **Live Farm Animal Events** bring chickens, ducks, rabbits, turkeys, sheep and goats right to your school, teaching students about farms, animals and where our food and fiber come from.

- **Child’s Homestead** recreates the experience of children from long ago, allowing your students to comb wool, grind grain, use washboards, and participate in over 20 different activities. This beautiful program will bring history to life!

- **Beekeeping** demonstrates how a beekeeper cares for a hive, what equipment they use, and how the bees work together to make honey.

- **Chick Hatching** brings the miracle of birth right into your classroom, immersing your whole school community in the cycle of life (this program sells out quickly – register soon!)

Other school programs include **Worm Composting**, **Planting Day**, **Felting**, and **Dairy Delicacies**.

Visit www.bringthefarmtoyou.com to be inspired by the possibilities for your classroom. Or contact christa@bringthefarmtoyou.com for details.

World of 7 Billion Video Contest

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**Upcoming Events for Educators**

**EECO Winter Conference - Winter Snow – Creative Ways to Teach STEM**
February 5 - 6, 2016 (Friday through Saturday) at Camp Nuhop
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). Keynote speakers include a 2015 Grosvenor Teacher Fellow of National Geographic and Lindblad Expeditions to tell us about her Arctic journey, a Naturalist for Crawford Park District, and an instructor for the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Youngstown State University to give us an introduction to winter stars. The conference concludes with a viewing of the “Years of Living Dangerously” series on climate change. Concurrent sessions will include recycling wine bottles, composting with tilapia, teaching Ohio’s wildlife history, using citizen science for field surveys and winter mammal tracking, education through outdoor recreation, bungee jumping for kids, and inspiring the next generation in environmental careers. This conference is sponsored by the Environmental Education Council of Ohio. For more details and online registration, go to [https://eeco.wildapricot.org/event-2124508](https://eeco.wildapricot.org/event-2124508).

**EECO ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2016 - “Exploring the World with Environmental Education”**
April 1-3, 2016 (Friday through Sunday) at Mohican Lodge & Conference Center
Attendees have the opportunity to renew and reconnect with fellow educators of all kinds. Whether formal or informal, volunteer or paid staff, new or experienced, we offer you an opportunity to learn new techniques, ideas and share experiences. Conference strands include: Using the Out-of-doors as a Teaching Tool; Environmental Education, STEM and Careers; Natural History; and Finding Funding. To make a reservation, please call 1-800-282-7275 and ask for the $109 EECO Conference room rate. **Rooms will be held for EECO at this rate until January 30, 2016.** For more information, go to [https://eeco.wildapricot.org/event-2129485](https://eeco.wildapricot.org/event-2129485).

**Education for Students and Teachers at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium**

**Teacher Workshops**
Teacher Workshops at the Columbus Zoo pair in-depth content knowledge with engaging hands-on activities by utilizing private tours, guest speakers and interdisciplinary lesson plans. Graduate level credit is available through Ashland University for an additional fee. Registration will be available soon at [www.columbuszoo.org](http://www.columbuszoo.org). Save the dates now!

*Endangered Species and Conservation*
June 21& 22, 2016 (Tuesday & Wednesday), 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

*Animal Observation Inquiry*
July 6 & 7, 2016 (Wednesday & Thursday), 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

*Literacy Connections for Elementary Science*
August 3 & 4, 2016 (Wednesday & Thursday), 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**Career Workshops**
Know a teen who needs a shadowing experience? Want to learn more about zoo careers? Try our Career Workshops! Earn 3 hours of hands-on zoo career experience per program. Led by our education staff, these workshops will give students in Grades 6-12 an in-depth view into zoo careers with on-grounds tours, behind-the-scenes experiences, hands-on activities and vital information about what it takes to work with wild animals. For more information on dates, topics, and pricing, visit [www.columbuszoo.org](http://www.columbuszoo.org).

Questions about school programs or field trips at the Columbus Zoo?
Email [schoolprograms@columbuszoo.org](mailto:schoolprograms@columbuszoo.org) for more information.
Upcoming Events for Educators

Integrated Environmental Lessons!
Workshops for Formal and Non-formal Educators
Highbanks Metro Park

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

Using Maps, Apps, and More to Teach Environmental Education
January 23, 2016 (Saturday) 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Bring an electronic device that has internet access. We are going to pick environmental topics and give you an app to make the lesson a superior learning experience for students. From tracing water pollution back to its source to learning the technology of polymers – you will go home with an app for it. Geared for grades K-8. Workshop fee $5.

Hands-on Environmental Education Through Upcycling
February 20, 2016 (Saturday) 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM
This hands-on, make-it take-it session will ‘upcycle’ common classroom materials and teach you how to make erosion, pollution, and water cycle models to use in a classroom. Workshop fee $10.

For more information contact:
Dona Rhea at Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District
(740) 368-1921 or dona-rhea@delawareswcd.org

Linda Pettit at Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District
(614) 486-9613, ext. 115 or linda-pettit@franklinswcd.org

Jill Snyder at Highbanks Metro Park
(614) 846-9962 or snyder@metroparks.net

Register at: http://franklinswcdworkshops.eventbrite.com

Sponsored by: Additional presenters include:

37th Annual OEFFA Conference - “Growing Right by Nature”
February 13 & 14, 2015 (Saturday & Sunday)
It’s Ohio’s largest sustainable food and farm conference happening in Granville, OH with approximately 100 workshops on sustainable farming, gardening, homesteading, cooking, business, and livestock. Come enjoy made-from-scratch local and organic meals, a large trade show, a kids conference, teen conference, and childcare, plus Saturday night entertainment, and more! Keynote speakers will be John Ikerd, sustainable agriculture expert, and Lindsey Lusher Shute with National Young Farmers Coalition and owner of a 100-acre CSA farm in NY. For more information, go to www.oeffa.org/conference2016.
2016 SECO Annual Conference  
January 25 & 26, 2016 (Monday and Tuesday) at the Columbus Hilton Easton  

This year the SECO (Science Education Council of Ohio) Annual Conference sessions will focus on Ohio’s Learning Standards for science and how to successfully implement and assess them. The goal of the Ohio Science Institute is for participants to learn specific information about science education that pertains to their grade level and content area.

The strands will include: Hybrid Learning - Technology Infused, Literacy Across the Curriculum, and Engineering and Design Integration. Instructional and assessment practices reflecting Ohio’s Cognitive Demands for Science will be highlighted in all strands. The Institute will be held at the Columbus Hilton Easton. One-hour of graduate credit will be available for conference attendees through Ashland University for $175. For more information, visit https://scienceeducationofohio1.wildapricot.org/Conferences.

NAI Region 4 Annual Workshop  
March 21 - 24, 2016 (Monday - Thursday) at Cherry Valley Lodge, Newark, OH

Registration is now open for the National Association for Interpretation’s (NAI) Regional Interpretive Workshop to be held here in Ohio at Cherry Valley Lodge (2299 Cherry Valley Road) in Newark, Ohio. The workshop includes keynote speakers, concurrent sessions, and evening entertainment. Also available are mobile workshops including tours of some of Columbus’ well-known sites. To register online, go to http://nairegion4.weebly.com/.

Wexner Center Programs for Teachers  
The Wexner Center offers workshops and resource materials for teachers to introduce issues in contemporary art and culture and to help you prepare your students for visits to the center.

Teacher Tour Night: Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 4:00pm  

Educators and administrators, this evening is just for you. Join us to explore our galleries and discover ways of connecting the works of Noah Purifoy: Junk Dada to your students and curricula. RSVPs are requested through: http://www.wexarts.org/forms/teacher-tour-night.

Art & Environment for Art Teachers  
Art & Environment will be available as an online-only teacher professional development course during the summer of 2016. Designed primarily for K–12 art teachers, this course will provide educators with an in-depth introduction to the field of Eco Art, as well as a basic introduction to environmentalism. Along with K-12 art teachers, K-5 general classroom teachers, 6-12 humanities and 6-12 science teachers will also find the course of interest if they would like to explore interdisciplinary connections. With 12 years of experience teaching Eco Art directly to high school students, the Wexner Center’s Director of Education, Shelly Casto, has wide-ranging materials and resources to share with teachers around the world. Teachers will leave the course with an extensive online curriculum packet and an array of ideas from fellow participants. Teachers may schedule their time flexibly from June—August 2016, while content is available. The course fee is $75 and graduate credit is available through OSU for an additional fee. Sign up is available now through June 1st. For more information, visit the Art & Environment blog at https://wexartenvironment.wordpress.com/teacher-course/.
Franklin Soil and Water Happenings

2016 Envirothon Competition - April 26, 2016 at Camp Oyo, Scioto County
It is time to register teams for the Envirothon! This year we head south to Camp Oyo within the Shawnee State Forest Area in Scioto County. Throughout the year, each team studies and learns in four environmental areas—forestry, soils, wildlife, aquatic ecology—plus a current environmental issue which for 2016 is: *Invasive Species: A Challenge to the Environment, Economy and Society*. Teams from 17 counties in Central and Southern Ohio compete at the area contest. Any high school team of five students with an adult sponsor can compete. All teams compete in this hands-on outdoor contest by answering questions developed by real Ohio scientists. The Envirothon has a long history of effectively reaching young eager learners of the natural world. Let’s continue this tradition!

To register a team or find out more details, please contact Linda at linda-pettit@franklinswcd.org.

Annual Tree and Plant Sale - *Pre-order online January 27 - April 8, 2016*
Franklin Soil and Water is offering native tree and shrub seedlings (bare root and container-grown) as well as the following packets of seedlings: Ash Replacement, Fast Growing, Honeysuckle Replacement, and Shrub. In addition there will be a variety of perennial flowers and seed pack mixes of native Ohio prairie wildflowers and pollinator wildflowers. 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 Friday, April 8th. Orders will be available for pick-up on Friday, April 29th (7 a.m.- 6 p.m.) and Saturday, April 30th (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—*moved to Fall 2016*
The best time to stock your pond is when the water is cool in spring or fall, around 65°F or lower. Historically, we’ve sold our fish in the spring, but we’ve decided to move the sale to a fall date for additional reasons backed by research. Spring weather means cooler water, but also rising temperatures that correspond with bacteria, viruses, and microorganisms. In autumn, these same harmful pathogens and parasites are declining—meaning that fish generally survive the stress of moving to their new home.

*Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service are equal opportunity providers and employers.*