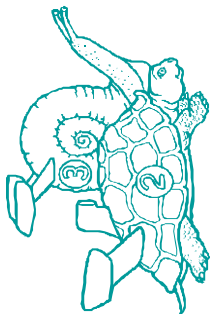




SWIFT

Soil and Water Information for Teachers



Spotlight on Resources: Your Backyard



You Can Make a Difference

The cumulative effect of Franklin County's growing population has been a decline in the quality of our rivers and streams. Fortunately, efforts by individuals have been shown to make a difference. One way to join the effort is Backyard Conservation.



A rain garden planted with native flowers on the Tremante property in Franklin County.



Goals

The primary goal of backyard conservation is to reduce **the quantity** of rain water leaving your property and increase **the quality** of water that does run off. Other goals are water conservation and improving wildlife habitat. Among the ways to achieve these goals are:

- 🌱 Plant flowers, shrubs and trees native to Ohio
- 🌱 Install a rain garden
- 🌱 Disconnect downspouts from the sanitary sewer system (more common in older neighborhoods)
- 🌱 Use a rain barrel
- 🌱 Replace hard surfaces with ones that let water through (pervious)
- 🌱 Install a dry streambed
- 🌱 Compost grass and yard waste

How Does It Work?

Hard surfaces including your house roof and driveway don't allow water to soak into the ground where it can recharge the groundwater. Even turf grass allows accelerated runoff that often carries lawn chemicals with it. By directing this water to a rain barrel or to a rain garden, we allow greater infiltration of precipitation into the soil. A rain barrel at the end of a downspout saves water that can be used for watering. A rain garden is a landscaped area that catches runoff from a downspout or driveway and is planted with deeply rooted native plants.

Native plants are more able to cope with both the periodic inundations and extended dry periods we commonly experience in Ohio, so watering and applications of fertilizers and pesticides are lessened.

For more information, visit our web site at www.franklinswcd.org.

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Presentations on Backyard Conservation and Rain Gardens are available for neighborhood, school, civic or religious groups. Please call or visit our office for more information. (614) 486-9613
1328 Dublin Road, Suite 101
Columbus, OH 43215



Fun Stuff to Do



Teachers Needed to Share Nature with Children this Summer

Stratford Ecological Center would like to invite you to spend some of your summertime on the farm and in the forest as an Educational Guide. Summer volunteer education guiding requires people who love nature, children and adventures. Education Guides share their love of the land and nature with the next generation. Guides lead small groups of children on adventures around the farm and nature preserve in June, July and August. Summer Education Guide Training will be on June 14th, 1-4 pm. Please contact Jane at (740) 363-2548 or SECVolunteer@aol.com. For more information about Stratford Ecological Center please visit www.StratfordEcologicalCenter.org.

Congratulations Envirothon Teams

Seventy-one teams from central and southern Ohio competed at the Area 5 Envirothon Competition on Tuesday, May 1st. This competition, sponsored by the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, challenges students in the areas of aquatic ecology, current environmental issues, forestry, soils and wildlife. Two teams from Dublin Coffman High School competed for the first time this year, placing 6th and 19th of the 71 teams. Congratulations to them on a great showing their first year!! If you are interested in learning more about this high school competition, visit www.envirothon.org or contact Linda Pettit at Franklin Soil and Water, (614) 486-9613.

Listening to the Land

Central Ohio environmental educators and enthusiasts are presenting seasonal readings of Aldo Leopold's classic book: *A Sand County Almanac* throughout 2007. For a complete listing of upcoming events check out: www.epa.state.oh.us/oeef/leopold2007.



Annual Rose Festival



Each year the Rose Festival is sponsored by Columbus Recreation and Parks. It is held in the Park of Roses at Whetstone Park (3923 N High St.) on June 9th and 10th from 10 am to 8 pm. There will be numerous displays, vendors, workshops, educational activities, rose and plant sales, good food, and of course, a chance to view the roses!

Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District will hold an awards ceremony for its **Conservation Poster Contest** winners on Saturday afternoon. Come celebrate beauty, nature and our environment.

Congratulations Conservation Poster Contest Winners



Each spring Franklin Soil and Water teams up with Kroger to sponsor a Conservation Poster Contest. The theme of the contest this year was "Community Waters", focusing on ways we can work together to keep our local rivers clean and healthy. Twenty-eight Franklin County Schools participated, involving approximately 3,500 students in grades K-12. The students created their posters on Kroger paper grocery bags which were then returned to the local grocery stores to give out to customers on Earth Day, so the local community could share the artwork done by its youth. Great job to all those who participated and thank you to Kroger and the teachers who made this year's contest a success.

Free Teacher Resource Fair!

Come to COSI on Wednesday, August 1st, 2007 from 10 am - 3 pm to meet representatives from many of central Ohio's organizations that support teachers. Discover what resources are available to local K-12 teachers. Visit COSI online at www.cosi.org for an updated list of exhibitors.

All teachers are admitted free to this event and all of COSI's general exhibits on August 1st!

Upcoming Events for Educators



Teachers Sign Up for COSI's Summer Professional Development Programs Today!



Explore science through inquiry this summer at COSI! These inquiry- and standards-based experiences are ideal for teachers at all levels of science knowledge.

June 20-21, 8 am - 4 pm: Inquiring into Chemical & Physical Change

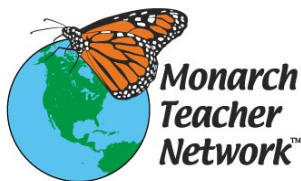
July 17-18, 8 am - 4 pm: Inquiring into Weather (in partnership with Franklin County Metro Parks)

July 19-20, 8 am - 4pm: Inquiring into Force & Motion

August 2-3, 8 am - 4 pm: All things are connected: Inquiring into Relationships within Ohio's Prairies

Workshop space is limited. Visit www.cosi.org for more information or call Corey at 614.228.COSI (2674) to register!

Join Us for an Incredible Journey



Teaching and Learning With Monarch Butterflies is a three-day teacher workshop that enables pre-K to grade 8 teachers to teach essential skills in language arts, math, science, Spanish, social studies, technology and the arts... through the captivating story of monarchs.

Participants are provided with the knowledge, skills, materials and confidence to create an outstanding learning experience for their students. Graduates become part of a growing network of U.S. and Canadian teachers, the *Monarch Teacher Network*.

This workshop will be held on August 15, 16, 17, 2007 at Brookside Elementary School in Columbus, OH from 9 am - 3 pm each day. The cost is \$99. A limited number of scholarships are available for this workshop.

For more information contact: Sarah Dalton, Senior Naturalist at Blendon Woods Metro Park, (614) 895-6221.

Metro Parks Summer Courses for Educators



In partnership with a number of school districts and state and local agencies, Metro Parks will offer five 2-day educator workshops in June, July and August. Participate in hands-on activities and discover field trip locations and agencies that can enhance integrated curricula.

Workshops target elementary through high school Academic Content Standards and process skills, and are offered through Ashland University for one semester hour of graduate credit per course. A no-credit option is also available.

* **Ohio Farming: The Land, Work and Culture**
June 19-20, 2007. Designed for intermediate and middle school teachers to correlate with *Culture and Time* and *Continuity and Change* Social Studies Standards. Visit both historical and working farms.

* **Ohio Agriculture: Correcting Misconceptions**
June 21 & August 10, 2007. Designed for elementary through middle school teachers to support Science and Social Studies Standards. Tour facilities at The OSU, College of Food, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences.

* **Physical Education in an Outdoor Setting**
July 24-25, 2007. Designed for elementary through middle school teachers to correlate with the National Standards of Physical Education. Participate in archery, fishing, hiking and team building exercises.

* **Analyzing Human Impact on Water**
July 31 & August 2, 2007. Designed for middle and high school teachers to correlate with *Life Science* and *Scientific Inquiry* Science Standards. Tour a landfill and wastewater treatment plant.

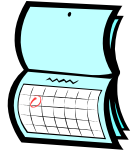
* **Diversity and Interdependence of Life**
August 8-9, 2007. Designed for intermediate and middle school teachers to support interdependence and diversity concepts. Tour a restored prairie habitat while learning about deer, salamander, coyote and badger populations.

For fliers, information or to register for any of the workshops, contact Susan Boggs at (614) 895-6211 or sboggs@metroparks.net

FRANKLIN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

May: National Clean Air Month, National Bicycle Month

- May 16: National Bike to Work Day
- May 22: National Biological Diversity Day
- May 27: Rachel Carson's Birthday (1907)



June: American Rivers Month, National Rose Month

- June 2: National Trails Day
- June 3-9: Clean Rivers Week
- June 8: Best Friends Day
- June 13: National Juggling Day

July: National Picnic Month, National Ice Cream Month

- July 11: Cheer Up the Lonely Day
- July 23: Perseid Meteor Showers begin



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; Gahanna; Hilliard; Reynoldsburg; Upper Arlington; Westerville; Worthington; Villages of Canal Winchester, New Albany and Obetz; Blendon, Brown, Franklin, Hamilton, Jackson, Jefferson, Madison, Norwich, Plain, Pleasant and Prairie Townships; The Nature Conservancy; Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks; Darby Creek Association; Franklin County Board of Health, 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
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COLUMBUS, OH 43215**

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