

Winter

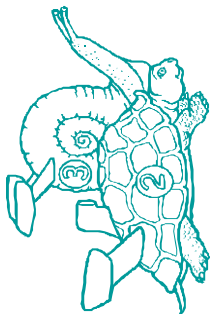
2010



FRANKLIN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

SWIFT

Soil and Water Information for Teachers



Spotlight on Resources:



Backyard Conservation

Conservation of our natural resources is important in every community, and can bring together people looking to participate and lead others.

Conservation habits can help conserve water, increase food supply and provide shelter for animals, birds and insects. By working to improve our environment, everyone can develop good habits that will last a lifetime and also inspire others around them.



Each of us can be good stewards of our natural resources at our home and in our communities. When we think about protecting and managing our natural resources we can provide **healthy habitats** for the ecosystems on our planet. Each of us can make a difference by starting in our own backyard, our school or in our community.

Conservation: the careful management of the environment and of our natural resources.

Habit: something we do frequently or automatically, and can be difficult to stop.

Healthy: a flourishing condition, a sense of well being.

Habitat: the place where something - plant, animal or other small organism - lives because it is adapted to find food, water ,shelter, air and space there.

“When the land does well for its owner, and the owner does well by his land—when both end up better by reason of their partnership—then we have conservation”. - *Aldo Leopold*



Conservation Poster Contest



Franklin Soil and Water and co-sponsor Oakland Nurseries are proud to once again bring you the conservation poster contest. This year’s theme is “Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats”. Entries will be submitted on an 8 1/2” x 11” sheet of used paper. The contest is open to all Franklin County students in grades K-12. The poster contest provides kindergarten through twelfth grade students an opportunity to convey their thoughts about soil, water and related natural resource issues through art. The contest runs from late February to mid April. An awards ceremony will be held at Oakland Nurseries in early June. Contact: Linda at (614) 486-9613 or Linda-pettit@franklinswcd.org for more information or to register your class or youth group.



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Check out Franklin Soil and Water’s Annual Spring Tree and Wildflower Sale. A variety of items including bare root tree and shrub seedlings, native grass seeds, wildflower seeds “ Rain Garden Kits” and Rain Barrels are available. The deadline for tree sale orders is Friday, March 26th. Orders will be picked up at the District Office April 16th and 17th. Find more information in the newsletter, “Frankly Speaking” or www.franklinswcd.org.





Fun Stuff to Do



Plan a trip to the Zoo !!

It's fun and easy to do. Online registration makes reserving group rates for your school, camp, or parks and recreation group even easier. Just submit the form online and once it is received, our staff will prepare and mail to you a packet of information regarding your visit. To learn more log onto www.columbuszoo.org/education

"It All Makes Sense"

2010 Wildlife Diversity Conference

The conference, "It All Makes Sense" is sponsored by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife. It is open to the public. It will be held Wednesday, March 10th at the Aladdin Shrine Center in Columbus. To register for the conference online, go to wildohio.com or call 1-800-WILDLIFE. The registration fee prior to February 25 is \$25. After that date, the fee is \$35.

Singing Insects : How to make **SENSE** of it all Will Hershberger, author, The Songs of Insects

Kids and Conservation: Why exploring near by nature may be the magic **TOUCH** to saving the world. Matt Sorrick, Director of The Center for Science and Education ,Hiram College

The Paddlefish Caviar Market : **TASTE** vs. Resource Management Richard Zweifel, PhD, Fisheries Biologist, Ohio Division of Wildlife

Did you **HEAR** about this? The roar about the Wild Boar. Craig Hicks, APHS

Northern saw-whet Owls: **SEEing** is believing Kelly Williams-Sieg, PhD student, Ohio University

Some **SENSE** you never forget: Tracking the smell of Eau de' Skunk Stan Gehrt, PhD, The Ohio State University

Making **SENSE** of a State-wide survey of small mammal diversity. John D. Harder, PhD, The Ohio State University.

Saving **CENTS** with Wind Power Keith Lott, Wind Biologist, Ohio Division of Wildlife

Door open at 8am, Welcome at 9am, Wrap-Up at 3:30



Stewardship Week 2010 April 25th to May 2nd

The theme for the National Association of Conservation District's Stewardship Week is "Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats." Educating youth ensures that the next generation will be wise stewards of America's natural resources. Helping today's adults understand the need for effective conservation practices builds on the conservation legacy. For more than 50 years, NACD has sponsored a national program to encourage Americans to focus on stewardship. The program relies on locally-led conservation districts sharing and promoting stewardship and conservation activities. While the program encourages good stewardship year round, Stewardship Week is officially celebrated from the last Sunday in April to the first Sunday in May. If you have any questions regarding Stewardship Week or education materials available, please contact Linda at Linda-pettit@franklinswcd.org



Envirothon Competition

Sponsored by the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Envirothon competition is a perfect way to increase your high school students' awareness of environmental topics and issues. Teams of five students answer questions about forestry, wildlife, soils, aquatic ecology, and current environmental issues in an outdoor setting. The national environmental theme for 2010 is "Protection of Ground Water through Urban, Agricultural and Environmental Planning." Our Area competition (17 counties in central and southern Ohio) will be held on Tuesday, April 27th, 2010 at Paint Creek Lake. For more information (power point presentation, brochure, background information, past tests, etc.) or to register a team contact Linda Pettit at 486-4613 or Linda-pettit@franklinswcd.org.



Looking back, looking forward...

Planning for the future... building on the past

The Environmental Education Council of Ohio will host their 43rd Annual Conference April 15 – 18, 2010 at Salt Fork Resort and Conference Center in Cambridge, Ohio. This year's theme, in recognition of the major accomplishments that have been made in environmental education, builds on past strides while working to advance the cause of environmental literacy for all people in Ohio. Registration information is available at: www.eeco-online.org.



Upcoming Events for Educators



Winter/Spring 2010

Environmental Educator Workshops

A series of science based workshops are scheduled for educators of all types. Participants will experience activities appropriate for various age levels that can be used to help meet current science curriculum standards. Additional background information will be provided, as well as sharing resources available to teachers. Formal classroom teachers, non-formal educators, homeschooling parents and scout leaders are welcome to attend. These workshops will be held at Highbanks Metro Park, 3 miles north of I-270 on Route 23 and just below Powell Road. **NOTE:** These dates are different than previously published!!

WILD SCHOOLSITES: Saturday March 6, 2010 8:30 am– 4:00 pm

An extension of Project WILD, this is an interdisciplinary approach for grades K-12 students to explore habitats and ways to improve their school grounds for wildlife. This workshop will provide the participants with ideas of easy ways to enhance their school yard as well as activity ideas to do in their current space. \$5 workshop fee. Materials provided free from the ODNR: Division of Wildlife.



WONDERS of WETLANDS: Saturday, May 15, 2010 8:30 am – 4:00 pm



Developed for educators of K-12 students, activities are organized into five sections covering wetlands definitions, wetlands plants and animals, water quality and supply issues, soils, and wetlands and people. This comprehensive guide also features 70 pages of background material on wetlands. The workshop will start at Highbanks and continue at Glacier Ridge Metro Park for wetland exploration. \$25 workshop fee.

These workshops are coordinated by the Delaware, Franklin and Union Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Delaware General Health District, Preservation Parks and Highbanks Metro Park. The workshops are co-sponsored by the Environmental Education Council of Ohio and made possible in part by a generous grant from the Ohio Environmental Education Fund.



Improve your understanding of life science concepts by participating in a three-session inquiry-based workshop that explores two COSI exhibitions, *GROSSOLOGY: The (Impolite) Science of the Human Body and Labs in Life*. Read more: <http://www.cosi.org/educators/professional-development/workshops-k-12/#ixzz0dpgFvxZn>

Inquiry into GROSS Science Teacher Workshops

- Session 1: The Human Body | February 25, 2010 (4:30pm-9:00pm)
- Session 2: Exercise Physiology | March 11, 2010 (4:30pm-9:00pm)
- Session 3: Nutrition | March 25, 2010 (4:30pm-9:00pm)

Teacher Professional Development @ 614-228-2674

Your classroom can be a GreenSpot !



Is your classroom giving time and talent to make Columbus a greener city? You can receive recognition for your efforts through the City of Columbus GreenSpot program. It's quick and easy. Go www.ColumbusGreenSpot.org to learn the simple steps you can take to get recognition for your work. When you are ready to commit, just hit the Join button and sign up under Community Groups. Complete the online form by listing three things you will do within the next year to protect our air, soil or water. Once your application is approved, you will receive a decal and your classroom will add another GreenSpot to the map.

SWIFT

**February: National Bird Feeding Month
Library Lovers' Month**



February 28: National Science Day

March: Youth Art Month

March 9: Check Your Batteries Day

March 14: Albert Einstein's Birthday (1879)

March 16-22: Brain Awareness Week

March 22: World Day for Water

April: Humor Month / Lawn and Garden Month

April 12: National Drop Everything and Read Day

April 16-22: National Environmental Education Week
celebration ideas: www.eeweek.org/index.html

April 20-26: International TV Turn Off Week

2010 Spring Fish Sale

Looking to stock your pond this spring? Check out Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District's Annual Spring Fish Sale. Choose from minnows, bluegill, yellow perch, channel catfish, largemouth bass and white amurs. The deadline to order fish is March 26th. Pick up your fish at the Franklin Soil and Water office from Noon-1 pm on Thursday, April 1st. Find out more information in the Franklin Soil and Water newsletter, "Frankly Speaking" or the website: www.franklinswcd.org.



If you would like to see the SWIFT newsletter in color you can receive it via e mail as a PDF file or view it on our website listed above. To start receiving SWIFT via e mail. contact Linda Pettit at Linda-pettit@franklinswcd.org.

District programs and services are offered on a non-discriminatory basis.

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.



**FRANKLIN SOIL AND WATER
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