

Fall

2007



## Spotlight on Resources:

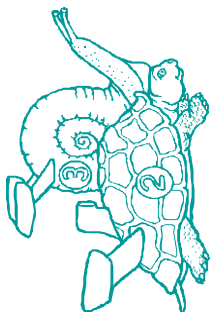
# Linking Science and Literature



FRANKLIN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# SWIFT

## Soil and Water Information for Teachers



The partnership between literature and science is very strong. Teachers have long known this, however with the increased focus on preparing students for state tests, such as reading and math, it became harder to justify cross-curricular activities within their lesson plans. Recent studies are showing that reading scores improve when science benchmarks are taught using integrated curricula incorporating trade books (storybooks or more broadly, non-text or reference books).

Over the past year, I have spent countless hours sitting on the floor of the library in the picture book section and have been amazed at the variety of stories and the beautiful artwork. I am truly encouraged as I continue to discover more and more children’s stories with strong science connections. Nothing happens in a vacuum: Life is a series of interconnected events, and children construct knowledge from what they have experienced. Storybooks help students make those connections between what they already know and the science concepts that may otherwise seem disconnected from their reality. In that same vein, education needs to be a series of interconnected events – stories, related activities, journaling about the experiences, etc. It is important to use the book not just as another reading exercise, but as a teaching tool to reinforce the topic and bring it to life through discussion, experiments or activities.

All of Franklin Soil and Water’s programs now include a bibliography of related trade books. Included are fiction, poetry, and nonfiction (though we have yet to find a good storybook using erosion as a plot element!) A favorite of mine, is *Dirt*, by Steve “the Dirtmeister” Tomecek (ISBN No. 0-7922-8204-3). It covers the Earth and Space Sciences Grade Level Indicators for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through the eyes of a star nosed mole. How soil is made and what it is made from as well as colors, textures and layers of soil are described and illustrated in this colorful book. Following the reading of this book with activities such as grating rocks to create soil, feeling the textures of sand, silt and clay, and drawing a profile of the soil layers helps to bring this text to life and make it real.

Some organizations have paved the way in linking children’s books and environmental education. For example Jefferson County Public Schools in Kentucky has developed a great list of environmental books linked with different curriculum areas that they call “Wild About Reading” ([www.jcpsky.net/ee](http://www.jcpsky.net/ee)). The Ohio Resource Center has recently unveiled its Science Bookshelf, correlating children’s literature with the Ohio Science Standards and related activities on its website ([www.ohiorc.org](http://www.ohiorc.org)). Most of the books listed on the ORC website were discovered through the National Science Teacher’s Association ([www.nsta.org/publications/](http://www.nsta.org/publications/)) or Science Books and Films Online ([www.sbsonline.com/](http://www.sbsonline.com/)). There are plenty of fantastic books available, we just have to use them!

### Inside this issue:

Fun Stuff to Do	2
Upcoming Events for Educators	3
Calendar of Events	4

Franklin Soil and Water offers 2 literature based programs, *The Lorax* and *The Murky Water Caper*. Students sit in the backdrop of *The Lorax* and experience the changes of the setting through the story. *The Murky Water Caper* is a Reader’s Theater play. To schedule a program call Linda Pettit at 614-486-9613.



# Fun Stuff to Do

## Darby Creek Day

Sunday, October 7th, 1-4 p.m.

Metro Parks and the Darby Creek Association present this fun educational event at the Indian Ridge picnic area (1 mile south of the main entrance) of Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park. Enjoy noodling for mussels, seining, fly fishing, observing live animals and more!



## Earth Science Day

Sunday, October 7th, 1-4 p.m.

Students, scouts, teachers and geology buffs of all ages will enjoy an afternoon of fun and learning in celebration of Earth Science Week. Ongoing activities include hikes, displays and demonstrations at Highbanks Metro Park.

## Columbus Zoo Events



### Insect Fair

October 14th, 12 p.m.- 5 p.m.

October 15th, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Exhibits, close-up bug displays and hands-on lessons will provide guests with an insight into the world of bugs, the benefits they provide and the people who care for and study them.



### Boo at the Zoo

October 19-21, 26-28, 2007

This delightfully haunting Halloween celebration offers candy stations, storytellers, magicians, a haunted train ride and other thrilling activities. Saturdays of Boo at the Zoo between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. different zoo animals will be given pumpkins and treats of their own to eat, play with or smash.



The **Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission** will be holding a first-of-its kind event in central Ohio to engage attendees in forward-thinking discussions, while experts provide leadership and guidance as we work towards a sustainable future. This two-day, zero-waste event will focus on the areas of land, water, air and energy, while outlining achievable implementation plans. Registration is available at [www.greenregion.org](http://www.greenregion.org).



## Hazardous Waste Education Program for Kids

To help school children better understand hazardous waste sources and management, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) has designed a free education program. Using an EnviroScape hazardous materials model, specialists define and demonstrate pollution sources, waste generation, waste management and pollution prevention concepts through a hands-on approach that captivates students and encourages information retention.

This free program may be presented at schools multiple times in one hour slots throughout the day between the hours of 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. for grades K-5. This presentation meets state curriculum standards for science, technology, and social studies. To learn more, visit our Website: <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dhwm/hazardouswaste4kids.htm> or contact Rose McLean at 614-644-2667.

## Wild about Wetlands

### Franklin SWCD 2007 Annual Banquet

Wetlands and vernal pools will be the focus of the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District's 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Banquet held on Thursday, October 18, 2007 from 6:00 to 8:30 pm. David Celebrezze, the guest speaker from the Ohio Environmental Council, will provide an entertaining and educational presentation on this topic. Each person attending the banquet will receive a frog call CD and copies of wetland materials.



This exciting event will include an election for Board of Supervisors, buffet dinner, conservation and teacher awards and a silent auction.

The Banquet will be held at the Confluence Park Restaurant in downtown Columbus. Cost for a prepaid registration is \$28.00 for adults and \$15.00 for children 12 and under. Call Melissa Little for tickets at 614-486-9613.

# Upcoming Events for Educators



## Environmental Educator Workshops

*This fall Franklin and Delaware Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Highbanks Metro Park are offering conservation workshops for educators. Participants will experience activities appropriate for various age levels that can be used in the classroom to help meet current science standards. Additional background information will be provided as well as sharing resources available to teachers. Formal classroom teachers and non-formal educators are welcome. College credit is available for an additional fee, after completing any two workshops and related coursework. These workshops will be held at Highbanks Metro Park. To make a reservation or obtain additional information contact Linda Pettit at linda-pettit@franklinswcd.org or 614-486-9613 ext. 115.*

### **Water, Water Everywhere!: Saturday, September 29, 2007. 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**

Discover what lives in our streams. Learn how sediment is carried and how pollution moves into our groundwater supply. Participants will receive a classroom LaMotte Water Test Kit. All activities meet the Academic Content Standards for science for grades 4-8. The workshop is underwritten by a grant from the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation.



### **Ohio Animals & Adaptation: Friday, October 19, 2007. 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**

Explore Ohio's native animals and compare their many adaptations. Correlations will be made to the Life Science concept standards for grade K-5. This workshop complements the Project WILD workshop on October 20. \$10

### **Project Wild: Friday, October 20, 2007. 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**

Animals are the theme for this hands-on workshop using nationally recognized Project WILD curriculum guide geared toward grades pre-K through 8. This workshop complements the Ohio Animals and Adaptation workshop on October 19. \$5



### **Science Through Stories: Saturday, December 1, 2007, 8:30 a.m.- 4p.m.**

Many children's stories have a good environmental message. Learn how to use literature as a basis for exploring and explaining different environmental topics. Participants will receive a bibliography of environmental-related stories. Correlated to Science and Language Arts Standards for grades K-5. \$15



## Teacher Professional Development at COSI



For more information check out [www.cosi.org](http://www.cosi.org) click on educators, then professional development.

<p><b>Bob the Builder Preschool Teacher Workshops</b> Explore COSI's special exhibition, Bob the Builder, and learn ways to engage young children in hands-on science learning. Cost for this 3 hour Teacher Workshop is \$30. <b>October 17th</b>, 9:00 am -12 pm <b>October 24</b>, 1:00-4:00 pm <b>November 8</b> 9:00 am-12:00 pm OR 1:00-4:00 pm</p>	<p><b>FREE Teacher Professional Development / Field Trip Combo (Grades 6-12)</b> Learn side-by-side with your students by combining a COSI field trip, student workshop, and inquiry-based professional development. Students and teachers will have the opportunity to interact with an Ohio State University astronomer in this exciting half-day experience exploring Our Solar System, Gravity, Force &amp; Motion, and more! 8:45 am to 1:30 pm.</p>	<p><b>Explore COSI at a FREE Teacher Open House</b> Drop by COSI Columbus for exciting lessons to use with your students! While you're here, explore COSI and meet members of the COSI Team. Free for teachers with school ID. No reservations needed <b>October 17th</b>, 3:00-5:00 pm Genetics &amp; biodiversity: Gr. 6-12 <b>December 15th</b> 10:00am-1:00pm Science of the Season Grades Pre-K-5</p>
---	---	--

NOVEMBER OF 2020

**October: National Popcorn Poppin' Month**

October 1: World Habitat Day

October 21-27: Teen Read Week

October 27: Make a Difference Day



**November: Peanut Butter Lover's Month**

November 3: Sandwich Day

November 12-17: Children's Book Week

November 15: America Recycles & Use Less Stuff Day

November 18-24: National Family Week



**December: Universal Human Rights Month**

December 17: Wright Brothers Day

December 21: National Flashlight Day



Franklin Soil and Water partners with many local municipalities to increase awareness of storm water runoff and water quality. These municipalities help to fund our educational programs in their local schools. Because of the increasing numbers of requests, the District will have to charge for school programs outside these locations during the current school year. Loan of materials and assistance with information is still available to all free of charge. Call Linda Pettit for more details at 614-486-9613.

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, 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 RD., STE. 101**  
**COLUMBUS, OH 43215**

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
COLUMBUS, OH  
PERMIT NO.1568

Address Service Requested