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Franklin Soil and Water Recognizes Local Groups
For the 2015 Conservation Steward Award

09/22/2015 FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO— The Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District recognized FLOW (Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed), Laura Fay, and James Cola with the Conservation Steward Award at their 69th Annual Meeting and Board of Supervisors' Election on Thursday, September 17th.



[James Cole of Worthington Hills Golf Course (center with award) with FSWCD Director Jennifer Fish and Urban Conservationist David Reutter]

The Conservation Stewardship Award is awarded to landowners, businesses, or organizations that have exemplified the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District's mission of promoting responsible land-use decisions for conservation, protection, and improvement of soil and water resources over the past year.

As the Superintendent of Worthington Hills Golf Course, James Cola worked with Laura Fay, FLOW, and Franklin Soil and Water to install floating island wetlands in one of the golf course's ponds. The floating island wetlands improve water quality by removing excess nutrients in the water that can increase algal growth—leading to poor water quality that can affect aquatic life in and around the pond. "This project is an example of how private landowners, community non-profits, and local governments can work together to make a difference for our rivers and streams," said Jennifer Fish, Director of Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District.



[The Floating Island Wetlands that reside at Worthington Hills Golf Course]

Conservation implementation projects such as the floating island wetlands are made possible through strong partnerships throughout the county. Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed is a local watershed group that has been working to connect the community with the watershed and identify opportunities to improve water quality with conservation projects. FLOW hosts organized educational meetings, tree plantings, invasive plant removals, stream clean-ups, water quality monitoring programs, and stormwater demonstration projects. As the Secretary of FLOW and a retired employee of the Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water, Laura Fay continuously works to increase water quality throughout Franklin County by establishing relationships between local organizations, such as with Worthington Hills Golf Course, FLOW, and Franklin Soil and Water. Laura's continued support of FLOW and Franklin Soil and Water goes above and beyond the expectations of any volunteer and so her work was also recognized.

The Annual Meeting and Supervisors' Election for 2015 was made possible thanks to funding support from American Electric Power, Scotts Miracle-Gro, McMahan DeGulis, LLP., Burgess & Niple, Stantec, and 3C Technology Solutions, LLC.

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The mission of Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District is to promote land-use decisions for the conservation, protection and improvement of soil and water resources by providing information assistance through effective partnering, technical guidance and education.