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Franklin Soil and Water Recognizes Local Leaders with Conservation Steward Awards

09/19/2015 FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO— Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District recognized three awardees with Conservation Steward Awards at its 70th Annual Meeting and Board of Supervisors' Election on Thursday, September 15th.

Conservation Stewardship Awards are given to individuals, businesses or organizations that have exemplified during the past year Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District's mission of promoting responsible land-use decisions for conservation, protection, and improvement of soil and water resources.



From left to right: FSWCD Watershed Specialist Kurt Keljo with awardee John Newsome, City of Columbus, FSWCD Director Jennifer Fish & awardee Commissioner Paula Brooks, FSWCD Staff Conservationist David Reutter with awardee Linda Rosine of Grove City

Support for the Annual Meeting and Supervisors' Election for 2016 was provided by American Electric Power, TruGreen, Coldwater Consulting, Scotts Miracle-Gro, Stantec, MWH Global, McMahon DeGulis, LLP and City Folk Farm Shop.

(More information on the awardees is provided on the next page.)

John Newsome, Administrator of City of Columbus's Division of Sewerage and Drainage, was recognized for his partnership in and support of a stormwater basin retrofit project that was completed in June of 2015. Funded by a grant from the Ohio EPA and implemented by Franklin Soil and Water in partnership with Columbus, the project turned an outdated, unsightly basin in Crawford Farms Park on the city's eastside into an attractive stormwater treatment wetland. John was instrumental in obtaining matching funds and, along with his staff, shepherding the project to completion. The treatment wetland is now improving the water quality of runoff entering Dysart Run, an impaired tributary of Blacklick Creek, and provides a model for other retrofits.



Stormwater basin in Crawford Farms Park



Commissioner Brooks and Franklin SWCD staff at wetlands in Gahanna

Paula Brooks, Franklin County Commissioner, was acknowledged by Franklin Soil and Water for her outstanding commitment to the environment both locally, and at the state and national levels. She is a member of President Obama's bipartisan Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience, where she joins 25 other governors, mayors, county officials, and tribal leaders from throughout the nation to seek out and provide climate change preparedness recommendations to the President. She has advocated with the County Commissioners Association of Ohio for addressing environmental and climate change issues. Paula has also supported many regional environmental organizations and endeavors such as the Central Ohio Beekeepers Association, Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District and the local food movement.



Design of blue roof and rain garden at Grove City Police Station

Linda Rosine, Grove City Environmental Coordinator, was nominated by for her great partnership in identifying and implementing conservation projects in Grove City. With Linda's leadership and help, we have been able to identify multiple conservation opportunities on public land and implement projects. These projects have included wetland improvements, rain gardens and, most recently, a blue roof and rain garden at the Grove City Police station.

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