

Backyard Conservation Update: *March 2016*

- 🌿 **Annual Tree and Plant Sale** runs through April 8th! Growing deep, fibrous root systems, native plants can soak up more stormwater during a rain event, efficiently utilizing nature's water source and keeping rain water from carrying pollutants found on streets and sidewalks to our waterways—making them low maintenance and perfect for any home!



Do you want to know more about what we have available? Visit our [online shopping cart](#) today! You can also [download a PDF version](#) of the order form and mail it in.

Pick-up for orders will take place at ODNR Division of Wildlife (1500 Dublin Rd.) from 7AM-6PM April 29th and from 8AM-12PM April 30th this year.

- 🌿 **Earth Day Columbus** is looking for volunteers to help plant 20,000 trees across central Ohio this Earth Day! This effort coincides with the City of Columbus' goal to plant 300,000 trees by 2020. Earth Day Columbus will be celebrating at multiple sites over multiple days in April—volunteers have an opportunity to plant trees, participate in litter and river clean-ups, garden, and remove invasive species under the direction of site leaders. Come on out and join many central Ohio organizations, including Franklin Soil and Water this Earth Day!

Interested in learning more? Visit [Earth Day Columbus](#) today and sign up!

- 🌿 **Time to Start Thinking Spring!** Start prepping for spring with these helpful lawn tips:



Prepare your lawn mower

- ✓ Make sure blades are sharp! Sharp blades will use less fuel and keep your lawn looking cleaner.
- ✓ Check any filters and spark plugs
- ✓ Set your blades to the highest setting. Grass may grow fast in the rainy season, but once summer comes around, the slightly taller grass will have deeper roots and be able to hold more water—keeping your lawn nice and green during an Ohio drought ☺

Our Environmental Education Staff is staying busy!

The deadline to register for the **2016 Conservation Poster Contest** has passed, but if you registered your class, youth group, or homeschooler(s) you have until March 18th to submit your posters! Have you registered and are wondering how you can perfect your posters? Check out our [Poster Contest Power Point](#) for tips and ideas. For additional information, please visit our poster [contest web page](#).

The **2016 Area V Envirothon Competition** will take place Tuesday, April 26, 2016 at Boy Scout Camp Oyo in Scioto County. Teams of 5 (along with an adult Advisor) have until Friday, April 8th to register for the competition. The Envirothon is designed to stimulate, reinforce and enhance interest in the environment and natural resources among high school students. The Envirothon tests students' knowledge of soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatic ecology and current environmental issues. In addition, the Envirothon encourages cooperative decision-making and team building. While each student on an Envirothon team is challenged to contribute his or her personal best, the score that counts at the end of an Envirothon is the team score. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

Water Quality in the News:

- ✓ [Ohio EPA to Have a Public Hearing April 5](#)

The Community Backyards Program will Re-Launch April 1st!

Workshops are quickly being scheduled and the website has undergone an exciting transformation for the 2016 re-launch! Be sure to check out www.greenspotbackyards.org for all of the latest details. Workshops will be underway within the next couple of weeks, but the online quiz will not be up until April 1st. For participating municipalities, residents are able to receive rebates for rain barrels, compost bins, and native plants. New this year, to help with the City of Columbus' Branch Out campaign, eligible residents in participating municipalities can also choose to receive their rebate toward a tree!



We understand that the rebate process can be time-consuming, so we have also partnered with Rain Brothers LLC, Scioto Gardens, and City Folk Farm Shop to offer immediate rebates! You can find program-approved native plants at Scioto Gardens, rain barrels at Rain Brothers, and compost bins and native plants at City Folk!

FSWCD UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	TIME	NOTES
3/4/2016	Final Day to Submit Mini-Grant Applications	By Midnight online	
3/10/2016	Updating Your Stormwater Management Plan Workshop	10:00AM-2:00PM	Franklin SWCD Office
3/11/2016	Mini-Grant Awardees Announced		
3/17/2016	Board of Supervisor's Meeting	6:30PM-8:30PM	Franklin SWCD Office
3/18/2016	Conservation Poster Contest Ends	By 4:30PM	Turn into Linda Pettit
3/19/2016	Westerville Community Backyards Workshop	10:00AM-12:00PM	Westerville Community Center
3/20/2016	Oakland Nursery Community Backyards Workshop	2:00PM-4:00PM	Oakland Nursery on Oakland Ave.
4/1/2016	Community Backyards Online Quiz Re-Launch		
4/2/2016	Community Backyards Workshop	10:00AM-12:00PM	Franklin SWCD Office
4/8/2016	Envirothon Team Registration Due	By 4:30PM	Email Linda at lpettit@franklinswcd.org
4/8/2016	Last Day for Tree and Plant Sale Orders	By Midnight if online	
4/16/2016	Canal Winchester Community Backyards Workshop	10:00AM-12:00PM	Francis Steube Community Center
4/21/2016	Board of Supervisor's Meeting	6:30PM-8:30PM	Franklin SWCD Office
4/26/2016	Envirothon Competition	9:30AM-12:30PM	Boy Scout Camp Oyo in Scioto County
4/29/2016	Tree and Plant Sale Pick-Up	7:00AM-6:00PM	ODNR at 1500 Dublin Rd.
4/30/2016	Tree and Plant Sale Pick-Up	8:00am-12:00PM	ODNR at 1500 Dublin Rd.