

# Lexington Soil and Water Conservation District News and Views

March 2015

Volume 16 Issue I

## *Larry Nates, Chair*



I have had the opportunity to serve as a Commissioner of the Lexington Conservation District for a number of years and have come to appreciate the heartfelt concern, the sincere dedication, and the excellent leadership abilities that exist among our Commissioners and Associate Commissioners. As I assume the Chairmanship of the Board, I hope to continue the excellent track record that the District has established over the years.

Conservation Education has been a major objective of the District, and I would like to call your attention to the Educational Programs and Educational Outreach Projects that are highlighted in this issue of our newsletter. It is of utmost importance that we make continued efforts to reach our young people as to the importance of our Natural Resources as well as the WHAT!! HOW!! and WHY!! The conservation of these resources is so important.

The Conservation Education efforts of our District are supported entirely by contributions from our affiliate membership partners here in Lexington County. Without the support of these concerned individuals, companies, and corporations, our educational efforts could not have continued to grow and reach our youth. The winners of our various contests, recipients of our conservation scholarships as well as a number of other District recognitions are presented at our annual awards banquet held in May each year. We would appreciate your consideration in becoming an affiliate member, and we want to thank those of you who continue to lend your support to our conservation efforts here in Lexington County.

*Larry Nates*

Larry Nates, Chair

## Education Programs



This year's Poster theme is **Local Heroes/Your Hardworking Pollinators**. The Poster Contest is open to all students in grades K-12, students. Birds, bats, bees, butterflies, beetles, and other small mammals that pollinate plants sustain our ecosystems and produce our natural resources by helping plants reproduce. Without the actions of pollinator's agricultural economies, our food supply, and surrounding landscapes would collapse.



The **Youth Photography Contest** is open to youth in grades 6th-12th. There are two divisions and four categories (Landscapes, Native Wildlife, Rural Life, and Trees & Plants) to participate in.

### *"Give a Hoot and Recycle"*



Our newest category is on recycling. Create a free standing "**OWL**" out of recycled or reused materials. The contest is open to children in grades K-12<sup>th</sup> Students must go to school in Lexington County. Use your imagination, be creative!



The District offers two **Scholarships** to high school seniors who are pursuing a career in the conservation field. The scholarships are in the amounts of \$1000 and \$500.



**Teacher of the Year** is another contest the District offers. This contest is open to all teachers in grades K-12th who demonstrate conservation education inside and outside the classroom. Nominate your teacher today.

For a complete list of the contest's rules, go to **[www.lexswcd.org](http://www.lexswcd.org)** and click on Education Programs. The deadline is Thursday, **April 2, 2015**. All winner will be announced at our Annual Banquet in May.

Contact the District to give your students a hands on experience about natural resources. The teacher can set the curriculum standards they would like to meet and we will build a program for you. Activity themes include S.W.A.P.A. (**Soil, Water, Air, Plants or Animals**). Please give the District at least two weeks notice so they can prepare for your program.

All federal, state and local programs and services provided through the Lexington Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status.

# APRIL EVENTS - FESTIVALS AND WORKSHOPS

## RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP

*Newberry & Lexington Soil & Water Conservation Districts*

*are having a Rain Barrel Workshop*

**Saturday, April 4, 2015**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**USDA Building, 719 Kendall Road,  
Newberry, South Carolina 29108**



A rain barrel is an easy way for you to have a consistent supply of clean, fresh water for outdoor use. Lawn and garden watering make up nearly 40% of total household water use during the summer. A rain barrel collects water and stores it for when you need it most. It provides an ample supply of water which contains no chlorine, lime or calcium making it ideal for gardens, flower pots, washing cars, and even your pets.

**Affiliate Members: Free - Non-Affiliate Members: \$20**

*(Space is limited to the first 25 registrants)*

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, April 1, 2015

We are supplying all needed tools and supplies.

Reservations are required.

## BACKYARD WORKSHOP

Terra Kotta Farms & the Lexington Soil & Water Conservation District are hosting a

**“Sustainability in your Backyard”** workshop

**Saturday, April 18, 2015**

**1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

at

**Terra Kotta Farms, 2412 Lewie Road in Leesville**

- ⇒ Backyard Chickens
- ⇒ Beginning Gardening (raised beds, planters, and ground plantings)
- ⇒ Alternate water source for irrigation and animal supply via rainwater harvesting
- ⇒ Dairy goats and milk/cheese production

Register at Lexington SWCD, 123 Park Road, Lexington SC 29072. The cost is \$5.00 per person



## 4th Annual “It’s All About Herbs” Festival

**Saturday, April 11, 2015**

**9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**Lexington County Museum**

Hope to see you at the 4th Annual “It’s All About Herb” Festival. Join the Lexington County Herb Bunch the Admission is free.



Activities include a plant sale with many varieties of herbs and other plants, herb and plant related vendors, three \$5.00 ticketed educational seminars. A special event will be the “Tea Time”, a \$15.00 ticketed, limited event featuring teas and delicacies presented by the Herb Bunch. Donna Bundrick Griffin, the marketing and public relations coordinator for Rawl Farms will present a cooking demonstration; Rudy Mancke, a well known SC Naturalist will be speaking on growing herbs; and Barbara Whittaker will provide a grilling pizza with herbs demonstration. A silent auction and variety of foods for the whole family will be available.



**SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2015**

**10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**VIRGINIA HYLTON PARK**

Join the District (and thousands more) for **Kid's Day**. There will be lots of laughing, learning experiences, entertaining, eating, and a whole bunch of FUN!!!

The District staff is participating again with great excitement for **Kid's Day**. This is the “Year of the Pollinators”. The District will be making Butterflies out of coffee filters and clothes pins with the children.

The best thing about **Kid's Day** is that you will leave full of knowledge that will help you and your family make healthier decisions.

**Kid's Day** of Lexington is solely intended for the education of families on issues of health, safety and environmental awareness. The benefactors of this event are the **Nancy K. Perry Children's Shelter and the Dickerson Center for Children**. The mission of **Kid's Day** of Lexington is to “create a better community by educating and caring for the people of the midlands with love, honesty and laughter”.



# Environmentally Speaking

by Gary Price, District Manager

## Fourteen Mile Creek Trail Report:

On Wednesday, March 11, 2015 Tina and I took a short lunch walk down at the new Fourteen Mile Creek Trail in Lexington. The trail is two-thirds-mile loop along the north edge of Lexington. The path stretches along and across the creek near North Lake Drive (S.C. 6) and Old Cherokee Road. Parking is available at the Exxon gas station on the corner. After being cold and shut in all winter it was nice to be out in the spring air. The trail is very nice, it is meshed to help grass grow and reduce muddy areas. Along the way you will find informational signage, bridges, benches, picnic tables, and an outdoor classroom. It's a great place to walk your dog, there are several dog waste stations along the way. Over all a nice place to have a picnic or walk/jog alone or with the family.



## Frances Mack Intermediate School After School Program "Communities and Schools for Success"



The Lexington SWCD District is sponsoring their raised garden beds. District Manager Price helped facilitate the garden. Swansea High School FFA helped build the frames for the garden beds. This is the foundation for integrated learning, engaging in real-world experiences. The garden will be used to teach academic skills, social and moral development, and life skills.

A year ago Frances Mack Intermediate School in Gaston, South Carolina received a grant for "Communities and Schools for Success" program or as they called it "CS<sup>2</sup>". This two hour garden project after school program on Tuesdays and Thursdays has encourage students to come to school and decrease the dropout rates.



The goal for the "CS<sup>2</sup>" after school program is to give participants a garden area to learn, practice, and experiment with gardening. It will give local organizations, like us, the opportunity to get involved with students helping them become productive members of their community.

## USDA Service Center - NRCS Programs - EQIP & CStP



**Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, or improved wildlife habitat. Those eligible for this cost-share program will receive financial and technical assistance to implement conservation practices, or activities like conservation planning, that address natural resource concerns on their land. Payments are made to participants after conservation practices and activities identified in an EQIP plan of operations are

implemented. EQIP is open to all eligible agricultural producers and submitted applications will be considered and evaluated in multiple funding pool opportunities.

**Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP)** provides financial and technical assistance to eligible producers to conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. Eligible lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pastureland, rangeland, nonindustrial private forest lands, agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe, and other private agricultural land on which resource concerns related to agricultural production could be addressed. CSP encourages land stewards to improve their conservation performance by installing and adopting additional activities, and improving, maintaining, and managing existing activities on agricultural land and nonindustrial private forest land.

For any question related to any of these programs you can contact Rafael Mendez, USDA at 803-359-3165 ext. 106 or visit the office at 123 Park Road in Lexington.



## Lexington Soil & Water Conservation District

123 Park Road  
Lexington, SC 29072

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Lexington, SC  
Permit No. 108

### Volunteer Spotlight



Have you visited “Peachtree Rock Heritage Preserve” in Lexington County? If so, you’ve likely run into our newly elected Commissioner Wayne Grooms, who has loved, nurtured and shared this preserve for over 30 years. He has led countless field trips for schools, garden clubs, church groups and more. He monitors the preserve to ensure it is a safe and beautiful environment for all to enjoy! Wayne is a master naturalist with vast knowledge of the plants and wildlife throughout the preserve and has a deep appreciation of the history of the area. The Lexington District is privileged to have a commissioner of Wayne’s caliber committed to preserving South Carolina’s natural resources.

[www.facebook.com/lexingtonswcd](http://www.facebook.com/lexingtonswcd)



Like  
US  
on  
FACEBOOK



### District Board Meetings

The Lexington Soil and Water Conservation District Board meets at 4:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month (except December) at the USDA Service Center conference room, 123 Park Road in Lexington.

The public is cordially invited to attend.

Please call (803) 359-3165 ext. 3

or visit our website: [www.lexswcd.org](http://www.lexswcd.org).

#### Commissioners

Larry Nates, Chair  
Wayne Grooms, Vice-Chair  
Brent Weaver, Treasurer  
Dwight Davis  
Kathy Hensley

#### Associate Commissioners

Hugh Caldwell  
Barbara Padgett  
Matt Schnabel  
Fred Taylor

#### Commissioners Emeritus

Rhett Bickley  
Raymond Caughman  
Venning Morrison

#### Chaplain

Reverend Jerald Sanders

#### District Staff

Gary Price, District Manager  
Tina Blum,  
Administrative Assistant

#### USDA - NRCS

Rafael Mendez,  
District Conservationist

#### SC DNR

#### Conservation Districts

Marc Cribb, Program Manager

# Affiliate Membership Application



Yes, I want to become a sponsor of the  
**Lexington Soil and Water Conservation District**

Please Check One

- ☐ **Conservator Golden Eagle Membership** - - - - - **\$1,000 and above**  
☐ **Sustaining Osprey Membership** - - - - - **\$250 to \$999**  
☐ **Supporting Silver Fox Membership** - - - - - **\$50 to \$249**  
☐ **Friends of Conservation Membership** - - - - - **\$49 or less**

♥Memberships of \$50 will receive the Districts' Conservation Calendar.

♥Memberships of \$100 or more will receive the Districts' Conservation Calendar  
and two admissions to the Annual Recognition Banquet.

**How do you want this membership listed? Individual or the company name.**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Company Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, and Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number (best # to contact you)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_

*(All email addresses will be kept confidential. Emails will only be used to send district correspondences, such as the newsletter, annual report, etc.)*

**Donation Amount Enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail form & check to: Lexington Soil & Water Conservation District**  
**123 Park Road, Lexington, South Carolina 29072**

You can be influential in helping to conserve Lexington County's natural resources. You can help a student attend a conservation workshop or receive a scholarship in a natural resource field. You can make a difference in educating the public about conserving the abundance of natural resources in Lexington County-soil, water, plants, animals, and air, and help to keep Lexington County a wonderful place to live.

By becoming an affiliate member of the Lexington Soil and Water Conservation District, you are joining with others in our county to carry out the important task of preserving the natural environment for future generations. Our conservation friends are important to us, and your financial support will help continue the work that we do. For more information on conservation issues and our programs, visit our website at <http://lexswcd.org> or call 359-3165 ext. 3. We thank those of you who have generously donated in the past and encourage others to become involved.

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