

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, Lexington. The public is cordially invited to attend. Please Call.

Phone: (803) 359-3165 ext 3
Website: www.lexswcd.org



Mission Statement

To promote the wise use and care of natural resources for the benefit of the citizens of Lexington County.

Lexington SWCD takes available technical, financial, and educational resources, whatever the source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land users for conservation of soil, water and related resources.

Commissioners

Kathy Hensley, Chair
Dwight Davis, Vice-Chair
Brent Weaver, Treasurer
Larry Nates
Fred Taylor

Commissioners Emeritus

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Associate Commissioners

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Wayne Grooms

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Reverend Jerald Sanders

District Staff

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Tina Blum,
Administrative Assistant

USDA - NRCS Staff

Rafael Mendez, District Conservationist
Tommy Stone, Conservation Technician

USDA-OCIC-ITS Staff

Randy Taylor, IT Specialist

SC DNR Conservation Districts

Marc Cribb, Program Manager

Lexington Soil and Water Conservation District News and Views

April 2011

Volume 14 Issue II

Kathy Hensley, Chair "A WORD"



The Lexington Conservation District has been busy since April with our Annual banquet where we recognize county citizens, organizations, educators, and students for their accomplishments and assistance on issues related to soil and water in the county. In our Annual Report included in this newsletter, you will read about the awards we made. Congratulations again to all those who were recognized! We were especially pleased with the response to our student photography contest. These young students are developing an interest in nature at an early age in a way that bodes well for their future. In this newsletter, you will read about the calendars we are producing each year with some of the excellent photographs by these students.

Congratulations to Commissioner Larry Nates who has been selected by the South Carolina Association of Conservation Districts as the state's 2011 inductee into the Southeastern Association of Conservation Districts' Hall of Fame. Commissioner Nates has served as a Lexington District Commissioner since 1984 and has distinguished himself and our board through service in a number of local, state, and national positions in conservation and resource management. He is currently a Director of the National Association of Conservation Districts. He will be inducted at the regional meeting on August 1, 2011.

We are making plans now for our annual Affiliate Membership drive. This is an important part of our ability to provide education programs in the county on how to protect and enhance our county's natural resources. We also have volunteer opportunities available and invite you to join us at our monthly meetings at 4:30 pm on the third Tuesday of each month. Call our office at 803-359-3165 for details on attendance. These meetings are open to the public.

In partnership with the US Department of Agriculture, the SC Department of Natural Resources, and the Lexington County Council, we make available to farmers, homeowners, businesses, and schools in Lexington County some of the best expertise to be found in the state on issues related to soil and water. Our commissioners and staff welcome your calls for assistance.

Kathy Hensley
Chair

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.

Lexington Soil and Water Conservation District
News and Views



123 Park Road
Lexington, SC 29072

Lexington Soil & Water Conservation District

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Biologically Speaking

by Bill Melven

Wild Hog Workshop

Earlier this year we held a Workshop, for the public, to learn more about managing beavers and wild hogs. We had some expert speakers come to discuss facts about these animals.

We learned that wild hogs are becoming a very serious problem statewide. The Conservation District issued a News Paper Release survey asking for Lexington County property owners to respond with any information they had regarding wild hogs. We did not receive one response.



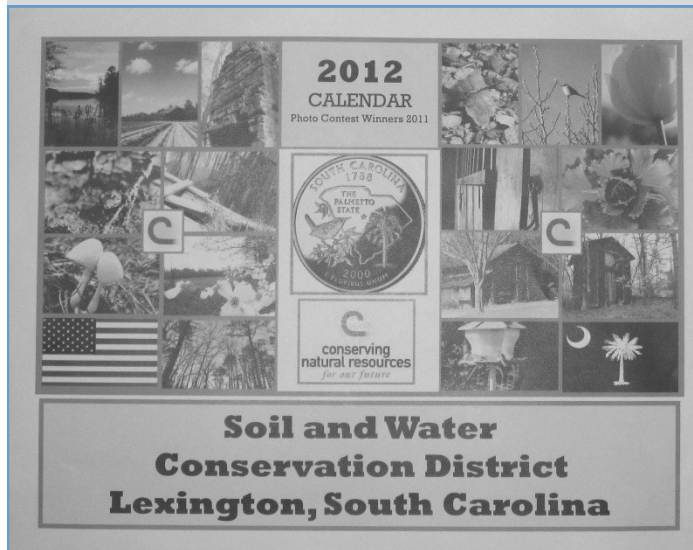
We also learned that there is a statewide work group called the "SC Wild Hog Task Force" that is working on this very serious problem. Many state residents do not even know that South Carolina has wild hogs, much less that these animals are a growing problem.

There are several parts to this problem. One is that these animals have a high reproductive potential, e.g., young age at sexual maturity, large litter sizes, and multiple litters produced annually. Another one of the problems is actually "manmade". By this I am relating to the illegal transportation of wild hogs by individuals, from one location to another, just for sport hunting purposes.

The Wild Hog Task Force is presently gathering research information and putting together a statewide plan to reduce and control the wild hog population. Some early conclusions the group has reached include 1) Sport hunting simply does not remove enough animals from the population to serve as an effective control technique. 2) Other forms of lethal removal e.g., trapping and the use of trained hunting dogs are also unsuccessful in removing enough animals from the population to control numbers. 3). Exclusion in the form of hog-proof fencing is very expensive. 4). Hog-specific oral contraceptive and toxins/poisons are the subjects of research around the country. To date there are no results for viable options.

If you have any information about wild hogs in Lexington County, please share it with us.

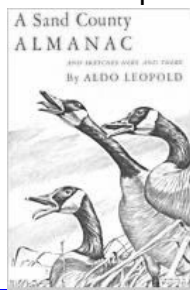
2012 SWCD CALENDAR



Our NEW 2012 SWCD Calendar is almost ready. This is a project we started last year. This year we plan to make them in-house. We have purchased a wire binding machine. Each month features some of our winning "2011 Youth Photograph's" (they are amazing), has helpful reminders for gardening, dates for special events, when our office is closed for holidays and date and times for Board meetings. This year Associate Commissioner Wayne Grooms has given us names of native plants to watch out for between March and September. The cost of the SWCD Calendar is \$10 and the proceeds go to Lexington SWCD for conservation and educational activities.

LEOPOLD WORKSHOP

Two workshops on the teachings of Aldo Leopold were offered earlier this year. Tina Blum attended both. The first an introduction to Leopold and a critical thinking, conservation and environmental education curriculum based on his writings. The second was to become an LEP Facilitator (Leopold Education Project, an experience based workshop for educators and conservationists), to teach others about his love for the land and how it is so important still today.

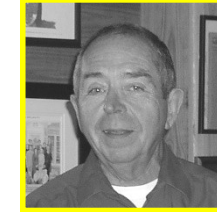


The classic work by Aldo Leopold, originally published in 1949. The Almanac continues to be one of the most respected conservation books of all time.

Meet our Lexington Soil & Water Conservation District Board Members



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Chair



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