



Lexington Soil & Water Conservation District News & Views

DATE: September 2023

New District Manager



A message from our new District Manager, who started on June 12th.

Hey y'all! I'm the new District Manager here at Lexington Soil and Water Conservation District. I was previously a high school agriculture teacher at Batesburg-Leesville High School, and I am extremely excited to still be able to teach even if it is in a different capacity. I have a 2-year-old son and a mini-farm including pigs, chickens, goats, and cows. I am excited to be here and can't wait to spread the word about the importance of items relating to agriculture. I look forward to meeting new people and am always open to new ideas!

-Cassidy Roof

Affiliate Membership Drive

Last year we added a new member to our staff in the position of part-time Education Program Assistant. With their help, we hope to implement new classroom and community programs, future summer activities and workshops. We are also working towards partnering with Stormwater Management, Clemson Extension and local businesses to host programs and events to will provide Lexington County residents with opportunities to learn more about conservation in a fun and welcoming environment. These programs will also us help educate and encourage Lexington County youth to be more mindful of their impact on the environment.

Support from our Affiliate members provides funding for our variety of programs such as:

- Helping county students attend conservation workshops
- Providing college scholarships related to environmental and conservation majors
- Celebrating Arbor Day in elementary schools
- Student photography and poster contests that highlight agriculture, recycling, water quality, and an appreciation for our natural resources
- Providing Mini grants to support conservation projects and youth environmental education initiatives



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Icehouse Market

We had our second table at the Icehouse Market in July. It was hot, that is all.



Optimists learn about SC Envirothon

Commissioners Padgett and Caldwell spoke to the Optimists Club of St. Andrews-Irmo about the SC Envirothon and were featured in *The Irmo News*.

Local Work Group Meeting

At the end of June, we held our annual LWG meeting to give producers, landowners and stakeholders an opportunity to discuss their concerns.



Blowfish Luncheon & All-Star Fan Fest

We set up a table at the Blowfish All-Star Fan Fest, and we were tucked safely away in the shade as we passed out flyers and manned our joint table with Stormwater.



Rain Barrel Workshop

With summer well and truly underway, and many backyard activities on the horizon we kicked off the season with a Rain Barrel Workshop. Rain barrels collect rainwater off your roof and can be used for many outdoor activities like watering your garden or washing your car and outdoor furniture. With the temperature nearing the 80s by 9am we were fortunate that the Public Works grounds had plenty of trees.

EDUCATION CORNER

Ag in the Classroom

In August our District Manager, Kassidy Roof, and Commissioner Padget attended the Volunteer Training offered by AitC. It was a day filled with learning about their mobile learning lab and new interactive agricultural activities that could be held classrooms. We're hoping to take what they've learned and develop new programs that we can offer to teachers.



Pollinator Workshop



In July our District Manager attended the Pollinator Workshop held at the SC Botanical Garden in Clemson, SC. She learned a variety of topics including how to incorporate native plants in the landscape and about various pollinators in our area.

EEASC Conference

Commissioners Padget and Sease, along with our Administrative Assistant traveled to St Helena Island, SC for the annual Environmental Education Conference. This year's conference focused on Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

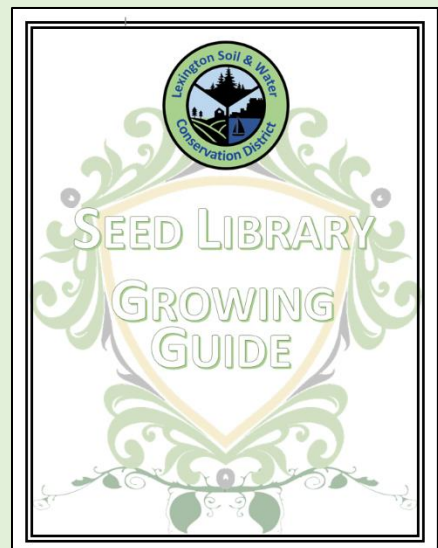


Coming Soon to a Library Near You LSWCD Pop-up Seed Library

Good news everyone, LSWCD will join the ranks of conservation districts that have a seed library. Our Administrative Assistant has spearheaded our efforts to set up a small Pop-up Seed Library that will rotate through the 10 library branches within Lexington County. The PSL will stay at each library for one week (we're still testing it out so this could change) and we'll host at least 1 program while it's there.

The seed library will debut on March 14, 2024 at the Swansea branch library, along with our **Small Farmers & Beginning Gardeners 101: Basic Management** program.

-Nick Walker



Upcoming Events

Sept 23

Icehouse Market Table

Come check us out at the Market at Icehouse Amphitheater.

Oct 21

Rain Barrel Workshop

9:00 am - 12:30 pm @ Lexington County Public Works on 440 Ball Park Rd, Lexington, SC 29072

TBA

Food Waste/Food Drive

NO EXPIRED FOOD



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



The LSWCD Board meets at 4:30pm on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at the Lexington County Auxiliary Administration Building.

The public is cordially invited to attend.

Please call (803) 358-8679

Commissioners

Jamie Gunter, Chair
Larry Nates, Vice-Chair
Barbara Padget, Treasurer
Kathy Hensley
Brad Sease

Associate Commissioners

Hugh Caldwell
Valerie Jackson
Peter Lauzon
Lanneau Siegling
Fred Taylor

District Staff

Kassidy Roof, *District Manager*
Nick Walker,
Administrative Assistant
Matthew Quattlebaum,
Education Program Assistant

USDA-NRCS

TBA, *District Conservationist*
Taylon Holmes, *Soil Technician*

SCDNR

Tyler Brown, *Program Manager*

Chaplain

Pastor Mike Watson