



Lexington Soil & Water Conservation District

Education Special Edition

With spring right around the corner, our Education Program Assistant Matthew Quattlebaum has been working tirelessly to bring more attention to pollinators and school gardens. He's been a busy bee and already has two pollinator programs lined up for the 2nd week in January. To prep for this, he has reached out to procure seeds for teachers, and they'll be available to teachers just starting their gardens and to those who already have them in place. He also gives a friendly reminder that "Now is the time to prep those beds - i.e. cover the ground to kill off the grass, add mulch, compost, etc." If any teachers are interested, don't hesitate to send him an email at mqlswcd@gmail.com.

Teachers who want bees as a presentation will need to wait until April or May and speak to David MacFawn or Susan Crook with SCBA Master Beekeepers.



Help with pollinator and school gardens aren't the only services we offer; we also try to provide students/groups a hands-on experience about natural resources. Teachers can set the curriculum standards they would like to meet and the District will tailor a program to fit their needs. Activity themes include: soil, water, air, plants, or animals (S.W.A.P.A.). Just make sure to give LSWCD at least 2 weeks' notice so they can prepare your program.

Here's a short list of the basic programs we offer:

- **The Difference of Soils** students get to touch different soils and determine their make-up of sand, silt and clay. Discussion about the different particles and conducting a jar test to look at the amount of each particle size in different soils.
3rd – 12th GRADE (in-school program), Adults
- **The Rainfall Simulator** is an excellent way to show how water from rainfall interacts with our environment. Different types of areas are depicted to show runoff, infiltration, and other aspects of rainwater effects on our environment.
Grades 3-12 (in-school programs), Adults
- **EnviroScape Presentation** is a 3D tabletop landscape that illustrates how residential, agricultural, industrial and transportation areas cause water pollution and what we can do to prevent it.
Grade 5-12 (in-school program), Adults
- **Gifts of the Forest** is an educational program about forest and the highlights the importance of conservation and management. Students take part in the educational experience and look at the benefits forests provide.
ALL AGES (in-school program)

FOR OUR TEACHERS

Teacher of the Year

Teachers work hard inside and outside the classroom and their efforts deserve to be recognized. So, every year we seek to honor two local teachers, one from grades K-6 and one from grades 7-12, for their accomplishments in conservation education. Those selected will be awarded \$250 and entered into the statewide SCACD (South Carolina Association of Conservation Districts) competition.

The deadline for applications is April 7, 2023



Mini Grant

Our mini grants are available to Lexington County public, private, home school associations and alternative schools. We are still accepting applications, but the deadline is **January 31, 2023**. This is a great opportunity to start some beds for any teachers wishing to get involved, if they have the time, of course!

Digital Poster Contest & Hand Drawn Poster Contest

In cooperation with the NACD's (National Association of Conservation Districts) stewardship week our poster contests allow students to explore their creativity while promoting resource conservation. Every year the NACD chooses a different theme, this year it's "One Water".

Deadline April 7, 2023



Youth Conservation Photography Contest

We strive to encourage positive interaction with our environment, what better way to do this than exploring its beauty through pictures. This contest gets students from grades 6 – 12 outside and exploring their communities, public trails, and waterways for the best shots.

Deadline April 7, 2023



Scholarships

We award scholarships to high school seniors planning to major in an agricultural or environmental related field. Selected students can receive up to \$1,500 for their first year and up to \$200 a year through their senior year as long as the requirements are met.



Deadline April 7, 2023

**For more information
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or
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