

# Lexington Soil & Water Conservation District

## News & Views

DATE: JUNE 2022

### Our Mission

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



Students from Lexington High School, River Bluff High School, White Knoll High School and Pleasant Hill Middle School were in attendance to receive their certificates and cash prizes as winners of the 2022 Photography Contest. This year had 7 winners for Division 1, 9th - 12th grade; 1 winner in Division 2, 6th - 8th grade; and 1 winner for the Poster Contest. This year we were also fortunate enough to be able to provide 4 scholarships to deserving high school seniors.



Banquet photos by Charlotte Jennings

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, this year's banquet came back with a bang. Shealy's set out an amazing spread of green beans, corn, fried chicken, country fried steak, rice and gravy, pecan pie and banana pudding. With over 100 guests in attendance Shealy's made sure everyone had a full plate with a little left for some guests to take home.



Other awards given were: Teacher of the year, Angela Kruger; Friend of Conservation, Bill Scott; and Conservation & Public Service, Sheri Armstrong. Robert Broyles gave a moving speech as he presented Dwight Davis with his Emeritus Award. Many special guests were in attendance such as Toya Rodgers of Twin City news, the Honorable Cal Forrest, Reginald Hall and Robyn Amie of NCRS, Tyler Brown of SCDNR and many more. With such lovely turn out we can't wait for next year's banquet.

# Snapshots

January 2022 - May 2022



A chilly day at this year's 10th Annual Herb Festival sponsored by Lexington Herb Bunch. Commissioners Caldwell, Gunter and Padgett helped children make seed necklace to take home and start their own gardens. Got to get those green thumbs started early.



## It's Not Easy Bee-ing Bee-usy

It's not easy keeping bees in an observation hive so District Manager John Oxner went out to Heathwood Hall to install a new hive. These observation hives help budding apiologists (people who study honey bees) learn about the importance of pollination and how bees reproduce.



Blue skies, and a cool breeze kicked off this year's Envirothon, an annual environmental competition for high schoolers hosted by SCDNR. Such an event wouldn't be possible without the many SC Envirothon sponsors, volunteers, and coaches who contribute their time and energy!



## Blaze That Trail

Do you know where all the outdoor recreational areas are in Lexington County? Scott Lynch of Blaze That Trail sure seems to. He presented a program that could hopefully put outdoor opportunities in the hands of South Carolina residents, visitors and tourists.

## Ag in the Classroom

*"Take a look, it's in a book"*



The children of Gilbert Elementary were given a small end of the year treat as Commissioner Padgett read to a few classes from grades K-5. Students were given a brief look at Lincoln's time as a farmer and learned how the food to make a taco is grown.

We would also like to introduce our new Administrative Assistant Nick Walker, who has declined to have her picture taken at this time. Nick is a graduate of Francis Marion University who spent some time at USC before deciding that her student loans were getting ridiculously high. She has had a few jobs before landing at our doorstep and we can't wait to see what new and innovative ideas she plans to bring to the table.

# Education Programs



**Teacher of the Year** is open to all teachers in grades K – 12 who demonstrate conservation education inside & outside of the classroom. Nominate your teacher today.

**Scholarships** are offered to two high school seniors who are pursuing a career in the conservation/agricultural field. The scholarships are presented to Lexington County high school seniors who will be attending a South Carolina college, university or technical college.

**The Poster Contest** is open to all students K – 12. Good posters tell important stories. Posters capture people’s attention with a powerful graphic and inspire them with a meaningful message. Posters are judged on originality, Visual Effectiveness, Conservation Message, and Universal Appeal. There are 2 categories: Digital and Hand Drawn.



**The Youth Photography Contest** is open to all students grades 6 – 12. There are 4 categories: Landscapes, Native Wildlife, Rural Life, and Trees & Plants. The photographer must reside in Lexington County, and the photo must be taken by the individual entering the contest.

**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. It’s a hands-on, visual aid of what happens in our county.



Contact the District to give your students/groups a hands-on experience about natural resources. Teachers/instructors can set the curriculum standards they would like to meet and the District will build a program for you. Activity themes include: soil, water, air, plants or animals (S.W.A.P.A.).

**Please give the District at least 2 weeks notice so they can prepare your program.**

For more information or contest rules

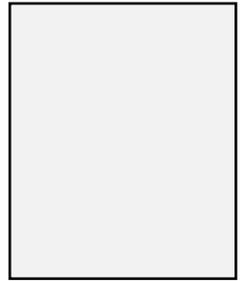
Call: 803-358-8679

Email: [nwalkerlswcd@gmail.com](mailto:nwalkerlswcd@gmail.com) or [www.lexswcd.org](http://www.lexswcd.org)



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123 Park Rd, Lexington, SC 29072 803-358-8682



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## Save The Date

### **July 15 – Petition Deadline**

This year LSWCD will have 2 District Commissioner positions on the November 8, 2022 General Election Ballot.

### **September 1 – Affiliate Drive Begins**

Once again, we ask the residents of Lexington County to join us in our mission to promote wise use and care of our county’s natural resources.

### **December 10 – Bradford Pear Bounty Tree Exchange**

They may be pretty but they sure don’t smell it and they are highly invasive. LSWCD is cooperating with Clemson Extension Service & Dominion Energy to replace these trees with native plants that will be more beneficial to our area.

## District Board Meetings

The LSWCD Board meets at 4:30pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month at the USDA Service Center conference room, 123 Park Rd Lexington.  
The public is cordially invited to attend.  
Please call (803) 358-8679

### **Commissioners**

Larry Nates, Chair  
Jamie Gunter, Vice-Chair  
Barbara Padgett, Treasurer  
Kathy Hensley  
Hugh Caldwell

### **Associate Commissioners**

Bill Melvin  
Peter Lauzon  
Lanneau Siegling  
Fred Taylor

### **Chaplain**

Pastor Mike Watson

### **District Staff**

John Oxner  
*District Manger*  
Nick Walker  
*Administrative Assistant*

### **USDA-NRCS**

Robin Amie  
*District Conservationist*  
Taylon Holmes  
*Soil Conservationist*

### **SCDNR**

Tyler Brown  
*Program Manager*