



Lexington Soil & Water Conservation District News & Views

DATE: March 2023

John Oxner, Signing Off



John has moved the District forward in many ways. He has promoted our programs and policies to County Administration and community leaders, which has greatly increase public awareness of out conservation outreach, mission, and accomplishments. Thank you, John, for putting the District in the forefront here in Lexington County.

-Larry Nates, Vice-Chair

John has worked with schools planting raised garden beds; with Storm Water to build rain barrels for the public, and with Hollow Creek Watershed to keep the dam in good condition. He has spent countless hours representing the District in events and festivals. We will miss his tireless dedication, but we wish him all the best in this new chapter of his life.

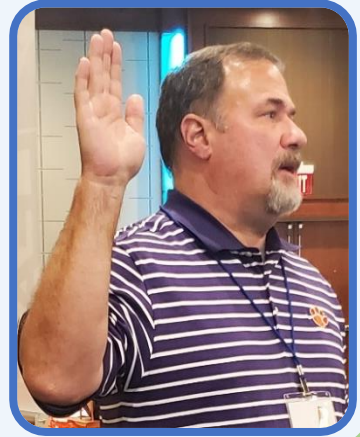
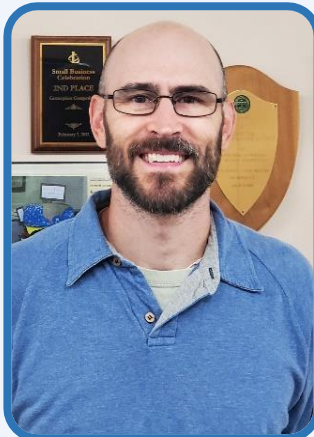
-Barbara Padget, Treasurer

After almost 7 years as our District Manager, John Oxner has decided to retire. We wish him nothing but the best, and we truly appreciate the years of dedication and leadership that he has given our District.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The past twelve months have been full of new faces for our District. In April of 2022 our new Administrative Assistant joined us, in September we gained an Education Program Assistant and a new Associate Commissioner, and in January 2023 Brad Sease was sworn in as our newest Commissioner. We are so grateful these individuals have chosen to join us, and with their help we can continue to preserve, conserve, and enhance the natural resources of Lexington County.



And Now a Word from Our Partners

USDA/FSA Update

- Agricultural producers can now change election and enroll in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage programs for the 2023 crop year. Signup began Monday, and producers have until March 15, 2023, to enroll in these two programs.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) launched a new online tool to help farmers and ranchers better navigate the farm loan application process. This uniform application process will help to ensure all farm loan applicants receive equal support and have a consistent customer experience with USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) regardless of their individual circumstances.
- FSA makes loans to youth to establish and operate agricultural income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.



EDUCATION CORNER

Matthew's meet with Eric Eliasson (4H Lexington) about a potential collaboration for summer programs and outreach. Plus, a new Memorandum of Agreement with Forts Pond Elementary was signed for September 2023-May 2024 afterschool programs.

He's met with teachers to conduct Enviroscape programs, pollinator presentations, rainfall simulators and to coordinate seed donations. Forts Pond Elementary got to see the rainfall simulator and learned why living roots are so important in keeping soil in place and limiting water/pollutant runoff.

March looks to be even busier with several more garden beds getting started and lots of seedlings almost ready to go in the ground. Spring is right around the corner!



Red Bank Elementary Garden Beds



Upcoming Events

Mar 25 11th Annual “It’s all About Herbs” Festival

9 am - 3 pm @ the Lexington County Museum. Free Admission. Activities: plant sale, herb and plant related vendors, food vendors, and free herb mini demonstrations. For more information call 803-359-8369.

Apr 15 Midlands Spring Native Plant Sale

10:00 am - 5:00 pm @ the Canoeing for Kids Headquarters on the Saluda River in Lexington. For details, visit <https://scnps.org/midlands>.

May 4 Annual Recognition Banquet

6:00pm @ T&S Farms. The banquet honors affiliates, students and individuals who participate in conservation efforts to preserve and enhance Lexington County’s natural resources.



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

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

Associate Commissioners

Hugh Caldwell
Valerie Jackson
Peter Lauzon
Lanneau Siegling
Fred Taylor

Chaplain

Pastor Mike Watson

District Staff

John Oxner, *District Manager*
Nick Walker,
Administrative Assistant
Matthew Quattlebaum,
Education Program Assistant

USDA-NRCS

Robin Amie,
District Conservationist
Taylon Holmes,
Soil Conservationist

SCDNR

Tyler Brown,
Program Manager