

Outdoor Truths

By Gary Miller

For those of us who spend time outdoors, we get to see a lot of creatures, and many of them would not exactly make it in a Field and Stream's most beautiful animals list. I can remember the first time I shot a turkey and ran up to it. I was shocked by how ugly it really was. It had a mug that only a momma could love. In my part of the country it's not unusual to run into a possum scurrying about. They look like an over-grown rat that is slowly balding. The deeper south has their version of the possum that is covered with scales, called an armadillo. And in the fishing world, the gar is perhaps the strangest looking critter in the water (except for that time I caught

what I thought was a fish and instead it was a waterdog (mudpuppy) that came walking toward me as soon as I got it to the bank. That one nearly scared the holy water out of me!) But all of this to say, that nature has some strange, different, and ugly critters running about. And every part of the world has their own entry into this list of nature's ugliest animals.

As Charles Darwin studied different species, he concluded that macro evolution must have taken place because (for one reason) many species were just so poorly designed. He concluded that if God would have made these certain species, He would have made them more efficient and thus since they

were not made with this efficiency, life must have evolved. If we think about this conclusion we should immediately ask; "Mr. Darwin, how do you know what God's purpose was when He made each creature? Was God's goal in making each species only efficiency? Could He not have made a certain critter just for its own beauty? Even if that beauty was only appreciated by its own mother - and God?" It is not really science when one's philosophy determines the outcome. And much of Darwin's conclusions came as a result of his assuming he knew what God would do. Why am I telling you this?

God has made each one of us unique. In some things we seem to use our design to it most effectiveness. In other areas we are constantly striving to reach potential. But it seems logical to think if God had only wanted efficiency, He could have made robots. Instead, He made us for His pleasure, and designed us as the beautiful person He envisioned. So, whether you or others think you are a possum, God thinks you are special. And while circumstances may have diminished your efficiency, God may have just made you with a little more splendor in mind. Either way, you were wonderfully created by a loving God who sees the beautiful you.

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Lexington water system featured in "the faucet" publication

member focus



Lexington Water System Relies on Dedicated Staff

By: Donnie Garris, FSA Source Water Technician, MsRWA

Considered a rural system, Lexington has a base of 827 customers for water and 820 customers for sewer. The Lexington Water System covers the Town of Lexington, Holmes Humphreys Correctional Facility, Lexington Homes, Lexington Manor Nursing Home, Holmes County Hospital, Emerald Transformer, and Lexington Apartment Complex. With 827 customers, the system serves a population of 1,573, including the approximately 800 students at William Dean Jr. Elementary School and 265 students at Central Holmes Christian School.

Two wells provide water to the Town of Lexington customers. There is one 200,000 gallon ground tank and one 250,000 gallon elevated tank. Numerous projects to improve the system have been made throughout the years; including adding a new well, rehabbing and painting of storage tanks, rehabbing and replacing lines, improvements at the wastewater plant, and the rehabbing of lift stations.

Danny Johnson has been the Public Works Director for the Town of Lexington for 21 years. He started working for Lexington at the age of 20 in 1977 under the supervision of Leslie Farmer, then James Keith in 1986. In 1996, Mr. Johnson became the Water/Wastewater Operator in Lexington. Mr. Johnson is a certified Class III Wastewater Operator and has a Class D Potable Water License. Johnson is a member of the Mississippi Rural Water Association. He is also the Water/Wastewater Operator for the Town of Pickens. In total, Mr. Johnson has worked for the Town of Lexington for 41 years. Johnson stated, "I thank God for allowing me to serve the

people, and I thank the people for allowing me to serve them. I would like to thank the Town of Lexington for allowing me to serve for 41 years under 6 different Mayors."

Mr. Johnson is more than an employee of the Town of Lexington. Mr. Johnson has been married to his wife, Doris, for 40 years. They have 3 children. Johnson is a member of the Holmes County Cattleman's Association and runs his family cattle farm, Five D Farm. Johnson is also a volunteer fireman for the Town of Lexington Fire Department. In 2010, Johnson received his Divinity Calling and has been Pastor of Newport Missionary Baptist Church since 2012. Johnson said one of his greatest memo-



Danny Johnson the Public Works Director for the Town of Lexington



Back Row, left to right, Willie Mae Forrest, City Clerk, Timothy Brown, Assistant Public Works Director, Mrs. Robin McCrory, Mayor. Front Row, left to right, Mr. Danny Johnson, Brenda Powell, Water Clerk

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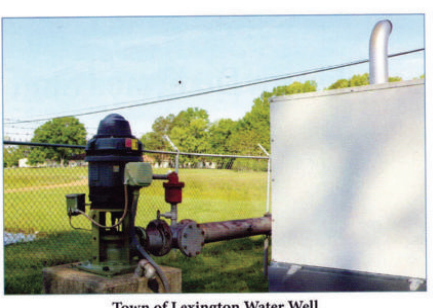
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DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ALL CONTENT FOR ADS IS FRIDAY BY 5 P.M. FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEK'S PAPER.



Lexington Water System (continued from page 13)



Town of Lexington Water Well

ries working with the Town of Lexington was being able to go with Mayor McCrory to meet with the Governor's Staff to discuss infrastructure needs and funding sources for the town.



Left to right, Mr. Timothy Brown, and Mr. Danny Johnson

Mr. Johnson says the system hasn't really seen much growth due to being surrounded by so many other water



Left to right, Mr. Danny Johnson, Mrs. Robin McCrory, Mayor



200,000 Gallon Ground Tank

systems in the area. As with many water systems, the biggest challenge for Lexington is funding. Johnson said, "I appreciate the job the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen do to ensure the system has the adequate funds to operate day to day." The water rates were increased in the 2017-2018 budget year by increasing the base rate by \$2.00 for the first 3,000 gallons. Currently, water rates begin with a base water bill of \$20.75 for the first 3,000 gallons and \$1.50 per thousand gallons above the base rate. The average water bill is approximately \$23.75 per household.

Running a system like Lexington's requires a dedicated staff. The town's dedicated employees like City Clerk-Willie Mae Forrest, Brenda Powell-Water Clerk and Timothy



Left to right, Mr. Danny Johnson, Mr. Timothy Brown

Brown -Assistant Public Works Director, with over 20 years of service to the Town of Lexington.

Mayor Robin McCrory summed it up best, "Danny is a servant of the Lord, not only to the City of Lexington but to his Congregation. He is reliable, honest, and a hard worker who can adapt to changing leadership. He is able to accept change which is commendable and is open to doing what's right for the Citizens of Lexington."

The city of Lexington' water system and its overseers were featured in the fall 2018 edition of *the faucet*, a publication of the Mississippi Rural Water Association. Lexington Mayor Robin McCrory shared the feature with the *Holmes County Herald*, highlighting the water system infrastructure and operators.

(Courtesy photos)