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NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter for Retired SCS and NRCS Employees

Vol. 44, No. 1 Jan/Feb, 2017

The **ARCSE Newsletter** is published bi-monthly by the Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees, P.O. Box 7454, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7454

Website: www.arcse.org

NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

Editor's Note: Doug Lawrence authored these "Notes." We thank John Stierna for all of the service that he has provided in keeping our members informed of national issues of interest for the last four years.

Happy Holidays to everyone.

115th CONGRESS—The 115th Congress will be sworn in on January 3rd, 2017. Although the Republicans retained a majority in both houses, the Senate Republican majority in the 215th Congress has been reduced from 8 votes to 4 votes and the House Republican majority has been reduced from 60 votes to 47 votes. After the committee assignments are made we'll have a better idea how the election might affect the committees. That said, the Agriculture Committee and the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee have historically been less political than other committees.

Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ) will become the Chair of the House Appropriations Committee. Mr. Frelinghuysen announced his senior committee staff on December 21st, 2016, noting "With a new Congress and a new Administration, and with the continuing work on the current fiscal year Appropriations bills, the Appropriations Committee will have an extremely busy time ahead. We are ready for the job. These professional, knowledgeable, and savvy staff will help guide and navigate the process, so that these critical funding bills can be enacted into law." **Robert Aderholt** (R-AL) remains Chair of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee.

Continuing Resolution—Congress passed a Continuing Resolution (HR.2028) on December 9th, 2016 and **President Obama** signed it on December 10th, 2016. The Continuing Resolution funds the Federal Government through April 28th, 2017. The Appropriations Committee seemed poised to put forward an FY-2017 spending bill, but in deference to the incoming administration opted for another continuing resolution. House Appropriations Chairman **Hal Rogers** praised passage of the short-term funding measure, "This legislation is necessary to continue vital government programs and services, like our national defense. It keeps the lights on in our government, preventing the uncertainty and harm of a government shutdown," Chairman Rogers said. "While I firmly believe a continuing resolution is no way to run a railroad, at this point, this is our best—and only—path forward." Of special interest, the spending measure included emergency funding for the Emergency Watershed Program (\$103.14 million) to be used in Stafford Act recovery projects associated with severe weather events.

Farm Bill—Farm policy groups are gearing up for the development of the 2018 farm bill while some dairy and cotton interests would like to see a 2017 farm bill. Reports indicate that Congress will begin working on the next farm bill in late Spring of 2017.

Groups such as the conservative Heritage Foundation want to eliminate crop subsidies and revenue insurance in the name of free markets and equitable treatment of entrepreneurs. The progressive Environmental Working Group sees the next farm bill as an opportunity to create a farm safety net that encourages innovation, reduces dependency on subsidies, opens new markets, and improves food safety. However, as has been said many times, "farm bills are evolutionary, not revolutionary."

Three major issues and driving policy in the next farm bill. First, the average yields used by USDA in calculating Agriculture Risk Coverage payments can differ widely between adjacent counties. Second, milk prices are low, and the new Margin Protection Program is providing little support to dairy farmers. Third, a limited number of cotton growers have enrolled in the new cotton program built around a revenue insurance policy. In addition, prices for this year's corn, soybean, and wheat crops could be the lowest in a decade. USDA estimates net farm income this year will be 58% of its peak in 2013. "Our farm bill is like an insurance policy," says **Zippy Duvall**, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation. "In the case of the farm economy in 2016, the barn has caught on fire." He goes on to say that, crop insurance and the farm safety net "are more important than ever." Although not part of the farm bill, immigration policy will be an issue closely watched by the agricultural industry.

See Page 3 for Instructions Concerning 2017 Dues and Additional Fees for Hard Copy of the Newsletter.

The March 2017 Congressional Budget Office (CBO) budget baseline for the next farm bill could be problematic if CBO projections for commodity program payments are low. If the farm bill baseline lacks the funds to support changes to commodity programs, then some policy makers are saying that it's possible funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Program could be used to cover the short-fall in baseline funding for commodity programs.

Secretary of Agriculture—President-elect Trump's list of potential nominees for U.S. Secretary of Agriculture continues to grow. The latest name to be mentioned is **Elsa Murano**, former president of Texas A&M University. Murano also served as USDA Undersecretary for Food Safety during **President George W. Bush's** administration. Murano is expected to meet with President-elect **Donald Trump** this week.

Murano is the fourth Texan to be mentioned as a possible nominee. The others are **Susan Combs**, former ag commissioner and comptroller for the state of Texas; **Sid Miller**, current Texas ag commissioner; and farmer **Wade Cowan**, former president of the American Soybean Association. North Dakota Democratic **Senator Heidi Heitkamp's** name is still being floated, but she recently said she was "likely" to stay in the Senate. Some members of Trump's campaign agricultural advisory committee have raised objections to a Democrat being considered for the position.

Some of the other names still being mentioned include former Georgia Governor **Sonny Perdue**; Idaho governor **Butch Otter**; former deputy secretary of agriculture and National Council of Farmer Cooperatives CEO **Chuck Conner**; **Ted McKinney**, Indiana director of agriculture; **Bruce Rastetter**, an agricultural businessman in Iowa; and Nebraska businessman **Charles Herbster**, who chaired the agricultural and rural Advisory Committee for Trump's presidential campaign.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Cecil Currin

It's a winter wonderland in Hadley, Massachusetts, and we will have a white Christmas this year. I am sure that most of you in warmer climes are just as happy to wear T-shirts and play golf rather than pull on mittens and shovel snow. But it's not about weather in the Holiday Season, it's about family and friends and sharing good food and drink. Between Christmas and the end of January, we will visit family in Massachusetts, Virginia, and North Carolina. It is a good time to visit with folks from the NRCS/SCS family. **Lou** and I plan to attend a candlelight service on Christmas Eve and have Christmas dinner with **Don and Jane Buckloh** up in the snowy hill town of Ashfield. Don is a retired State Resource Conservationist and now works part time with American Farmland Trust. Wine by a warm fireplace and a wonderful dinner awaits.

December brings us to a need to recruit a new writer for the "Notes from the Potomac." ARCSE members tell me that this column in our newsletter is their best way to keep up with national conservation news and developments on Capitol Hill. **John Stierna** has done an excellent job of researching developments and putting the news in ways that we can all understand. John has really retired and moved to an address that sounds like it should be in a movie. He lives on Powderhorn Road in Hidden Valley Lake, California. This sounds like a place I would like to see! Maybe John will have a lot of ARCSE company. Thank you John for four years of reporting Notes From the Potomac. All of our members appreciate all the good work you have done for us.

Lou and I wish each of you Happy Holidays and best wishes for the New Year.

ARCSE President's Award for Outstanding Community Service

It is time once again to start thinking about potential nominees for the award. Nominations for the award and documentation (no more than two pages) of the qualifications of the nominee are to be made by the ARCSE Representative. Nominees' names and qualifications will be sent to the Regional Vice President **by May 15th**.

Purpose: To publicly recognize ARCSE Members who have distinguished themselves in sustained and outstanding contributions in local, state, and regional community service.

Qualifications:

- Nominee is an ARCSE Member.
- Nominee demonstrates strong character and high ethical and professional standards.
- Selection will not be based upon his/her achievements while employed by SCS/NRCS.

Criteria for Nomination: Nominees will be those individuals who have distinguished themselves by providing sustained high quality service, possibly using their SCS/NRCS area of expertise, to local, state, or regional entities. Recipients of their service may include volunteer work for hospitals, churches, schools, youth organizations such as Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, SWCDs, NRCS Earth Teams, environmental groups, or other units of government or service organizations.

A BIT OF HISTORY

Douglas Helms, Historian

Email: douglas_helms@verizon.net

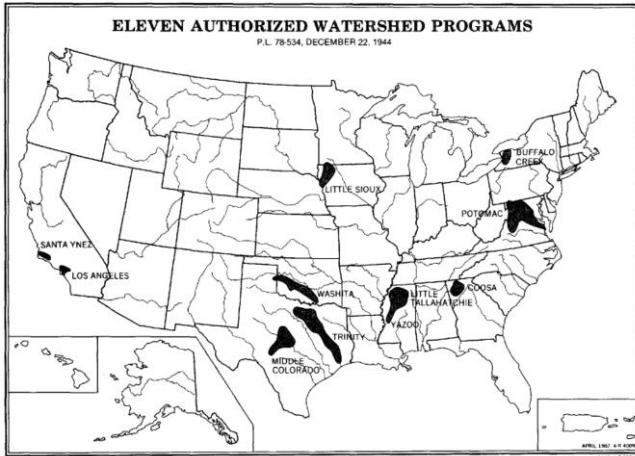
LBJ and Soil Conservation Along the Colorado River

Many of you of know that **James P. Buchanan**, a Congressman from Texas, helped **Hugh Hammond Bennett** get the soil conservation movement started by amending the appropriations bill to authorize soil erosion experiment stations. Buchanan was certainly an important backer for soil conservation, as he became chairman of the appropriations committee at the beginning of the New Deal in 1933. Buchanan died February 22nd, 1937, of a heart attack.

I was not aware until recently that a 28-year-old **Lyndon Johnson** succeeded Buchanan as Congressman from the 10th district.

A thorough-going New Dealer, Johnson had been head of the National Youth Administration in Texas. LBJ became impressed with the work of **Louis Merrill** in leading the SCS work in Texas. In 1939 Johnson lobbied Bennett with a plan. LBJ had continued Buchanan's work in bringing flood control structures to the Colorado River, and he came to appreciate the need to protect them from sedimentation. In Bennett's retelling, Johnson believed a comprehensive project could also make "the land a safer place, a more secure place, to provide homes and livelihoods to the occupants of the land. Moreover, he [believed] that there is an opportunity here to really to show how a TVA ought to be carried out."

Bennett recognized it might be difficult to secure enough funds for the ambitious plan. However, he encouraged Merrill "to contact the congressman and explore all avenues with respect at least to getting something started." At the time SCS was preparing plans under the Flood Control Act of 1936, for work on several upstream watersheds. Under this program SCS wrote a plan for the Middle Colorado River, and it is not unreasonable to suppose that Johnson's legendary persuasiveness was involved in its selection for study. Congress authorized eleven of these watersheds for operations in the Flood Control Act of 1944. Among these was the Middle Colorado River.



He Gets Things Done --

Lyndon Johnson

Knows Washington

WHEN
JOHNSON RESIGNED
FROM NYA

Aubrey Williams, NYA
Administrator, said Johnson
had done a "first class
job" and termed him "one
of the ablest State Directors
we have had."

—Associated Press
from Washington.



for CONGRESSMAN

10TH DISTRICT

Support the Man Who—

Stands with the President and for the People
Stands Whole-heartedly on Democratic platform of 1936
Understands Departmental Routine of Washington
Will Carry Colorado and Brazos Projects Through
Capably Administered His Part of the Roosevelt Pro-
gram for Texas

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Ron Marlow, Secretary Treasurer

New Members

Davis, Stephen	ME
Flores, J.R.	MO
Fredericksen, Rob	ID
Meyer, Kenneth	IA

Dues and Additional Hard Copy Fees for 2017

By Ron Marlow, Secretary Treasurer

2017 Dues Notice to Members receiving the newsletter by hard copy: A dues notice was included with the hard copy Nov/Dec newsletter (**green page insert**). Please follow the instructions on the notice concerning the address label information to determine if your dues (\$18) are due and if you need to pay an additional fee (\$12) to continue receiving a hard copy of the newsletter. If you have misplaced the green page insert, mail you payment to **ARCSE, PO Box 7454, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7454** after following these instructions:

NOTE—See dues example labels at the bottom of the page. If the number above and to the far right of your name is "16," "C16," or "16S" your dues are due! Numbers like "C17," "17" or higher indicate that your dues are paid for 2017. Numbers "999" indicate life members, and your dues are paid. Please see note below concerning contributions and additional fee to receive a hard copy of the newsletter. If the number with the H to the immediate right of your name is H17 or above, additional payment is not required to continue receiving a hard copy of the newsletter.

-----Sample labels-----

ALL FOR ADC 123
0000123-11223 H17 999
JOHN Q. PUBLIC
1 GRANITE MOUNTAIN
ANYWHERE, USA 01010-1010

ALL FOR ADC 456
0000456-44556 H16 16
JAMES P. PUBLIC
11 GRANITE MOUNTAIN
ANYWHERE, USA 00101-1010

2017 Additional Fee for Hard Copy: All members (both life members and those who pay annual dues) who desire a hardcopy of the newsletter must pay an additional fee of \$12.00 per year. Please follow the instructions on the dues notice concerning the address label information to determine if you must pay the additional fee. This \$12.00 will help offset a portion of ARCSE annual costs of nearly \$20.00 per member to print and distribute the hard copy newsletter.

2017 Dues Notice to Members receiving the electronic newsletter: A dues notice is not included with the electronic newsletter. Members receiving the electronic newsletter whose dues for 2017 are due have received a separate email from ARCSE with a dues notice attached. Life Members and members who have already paid their 2017 dues were sent an email assuring you that your membership dues are paid.

ARIZONA

Ken Cookson, ARCSE Representative

Email: ckcookson@aol.com

Steve Black Report: "I spent a couple of weeks on the farm in Illinois in September helping with corn and soybean harvest. Yields were very good this year due to the adequate rainfall throughout the normally dry summer months. I also spent a couple of weeks in Indiana and Texas this December working on my part-time environmental consulting job. My wife, **Licia**, and I really like the winters in Arizona as compared to the Midwest!"

Karl Klingelhofer Report: "I went to Deer Valley, UT, Labor Day weekend to stay with son and his wife who were in their condo for the weekend. Saw a big moose on the street by their condo. Then visited same son and family in Escondido, CA for Thanksgiving and will go again for Christmas. Don't drive there anymore since it is only an hour flight to San Diego. My son from Maine came in mid-December and helped decorate my house for Christmas. I still do my usual things: tennis 2x/week, fly my little airplane once per week, and volunteer at the Veteran's Health Care Center 2x/month."

Ken Cookson Report: "My wife, **Connie**, and I went on a wonderful trip of 39 days from mid-September to mid-October. We traveled from Arizona to Maine to Nova Scotia and back. We went to our 60th high school reunion in Illinois. We had a class of 32, and 10 were at the reunion. It was good to be together and to share memories. From there we stopped for a short visit with daughter and son-in-law in Gaithersburg, MD. The next stop was in Southwest Harbor, ME for a week with long-time friends **Galen Bridge** and **Tom and Jeanne George**. Also, there was Galen's friend **Erwina Peterson**, and new friends **Bob Heck and Janice Orum**. We were in the beautiful Acadia National Park area, and we saw and enjoyed much of it. We dined on lobster and other great food. Master pastry chef's **Tom and Jeanne George** were at their best with apple pie.

The next venture was to Campobello Island in New Brunswick and FDR's Summer Cottage. We then travelled to the Bay of Fundy and the Hopewell Rocks in New Brunswick. This area has a tide elevation change of 47.5 feet, the largest in the world. The Bay is constantly muddy as the tide starts going out the minute it comes in.



Tom and Jeanne – apple pie

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Member	\$18 per year
Affiliate	\$18 per year
Life (One-time payment)	
Age 64 or younger	\$250
Age 65 thru 74	\$200
Age 75 or older	\$125

NOTE: Dues payment includes receipt of the bimonthly electronic newsletter only. All members (both life members and those who pay annual dues) who desire a hardcopy of the newsletter must pay an additional fee of \$12.00 per year

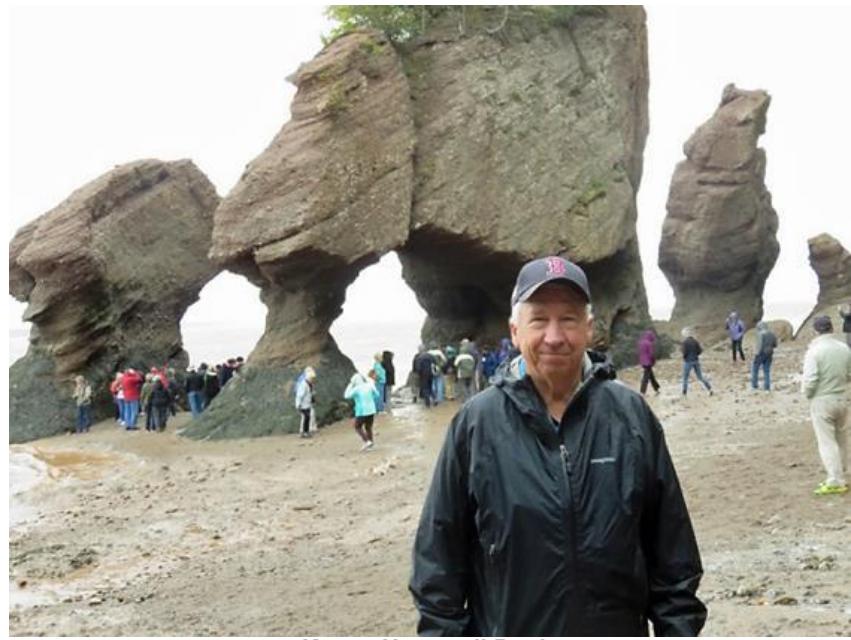


Ken, Bob, Galen, Tom, Erwina, Janice, Jeanne, Connie



FDR's Summer Cottage

I walked among the rocks and 15 minutes later the area I had walked in was partially covered by water. It was easy to see how quickly the tide changed.



Ken at Hopewell Rocks

We went on to Halifax, Nova Scotia and really enjoyed this area. One of the highlights was to learn more about the Titanic disaster that happened in 1912. Most of the victims from the sinking were brought to Halifax, and many are interned in the Fairview Cemetery. There are 121 buried there, of which 42 remain unidentified. Their markers include a number and year. Some families chose to have their loved ones buried in Halifax.



Titanic Victim



Ken helping to guard Citadel

We visited the Citadel, a fort built on the highest hill in Halifax to overlook the area and provide protection from hostile forces. It has many cannons from the era and is impressive. I was able to assist one of the guards in his duties.

From Nova Scotia we headed back to the states and drove through Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York and enjoyed the spectacular fall colors. We went to the Adirondack Museum, near Blue Mountain Lake, and learned about logging, boating, and early life in the area.

We went to the Finger Lakes area of NY and toured the Erie Canal Museum in Syracuse. The Erie Canal is a marvelous engineering feat, considering it was completed in 1825. It is 363 miles long and currently has 34 locks. When it was built, there were no topographic maps to plan the route, and we knew little about building locks, little about concrete, and there was no construction machinery. It was an economic success for the times.

We did have the opportunity to stop and visit a few wineries on Cayuga and Seneca Lakes as we headed west. We made a stop at the William McKinley National Memorial in Canton, OH. It was impressive.

There was one more stop at our hometown, Arthur, IL to visit family before heading back to Arizona. We traveled 8,570 miles through some of the prettiest country anywhere."

CALIFORNIA

Bill Ward, ARCSE Representative

Email: bluegrassbillward@gmail.com

Hello, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from California to all our fellow retirees across the Nation. It is amazing how the year has flown by and we are now ready to begin a new year again!



Fall colors at Adirondack Museum



Left to right: Walt Sykes, Helen Flach, Gin Milani, Rachael (caregiver for Carolyn Schultz), Carolyn and Ron Schultz, Jack and Janet George, Hank Wyman, Stan Moorehead, Harold Honeyfield, Shirley Leeper, Barbara Lowen, Sally Reed, Vicki Davis and Bill Ward taking the picture.

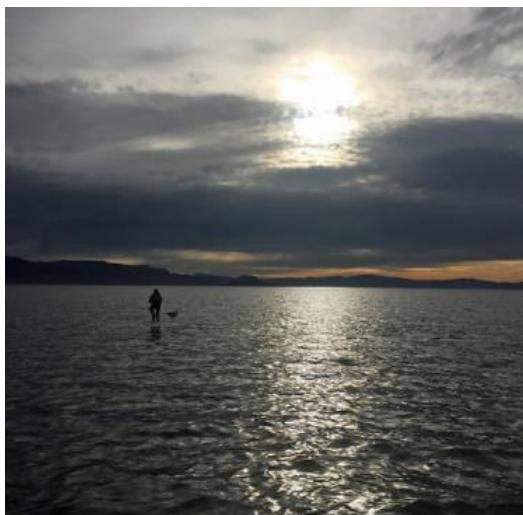
We have some new retirees joining our California ranks at the end of this year, and we wish both **Rich Casale** and **Bob Snieckus** the best in their retirements to begin in the New Year.

Rich Casale, District Conservationist in Santa Cruz County, is retiring after a distinguished career of 42+ years. Among his many accomplishments, Rich cofounded the International Certified Professional Erosion and Sediment Control Program in 1982. To date, more than 5,000 professionals have been certified in 13 countries around the globe. Rich was instrumental in helping start the Earth Team Volunteer program in California in 1981 and has worked with over 100 different team volunteers to accomplish important conservation work. Rich now plans to continue to support conservation work as an Earth Team Volunteer himself.

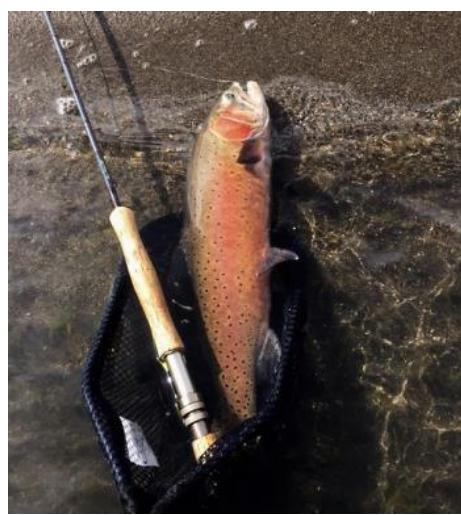
Bob Snieckus, the agency's National Landscape Architect, is also retiring at the end of this year. While Bob has worked in the National Office for a number of years now, California does claim Bob as one of our own retirees for the many years he worked in California on our numerous watershed and EWP projects. In addition to his stamp of "environmental excellence" he always left on all the California work he was involved in, he also established many lifelong friendships in California as well. Bob even came back to California to attend the celebration of life events for **Charles Davis** back in September.

We continue to have a monthly breakfast and luncheon gathering for all retirees who can make it. We had an especially nice lunch gathering in December with a good number of folks who had not been able to attend for some time. See the group picture from our lunch.

Darwyn Briggs shared with me that he was very successful and fortunate on his first fishing trip to Pyramid Lake in Nevada, part of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribes Indian reservation. Pyramid Lake is a very large lake, world famous for its unique species of Lahontan Cutthroat trout. He said he was successful in catching a good number of these fish, and he also learned what "windy" really was! I can vouch for him on the world class fishing as well as the "Windy" statement too, having fished it myself a number of times!



Early morning on Pyramid Lake



Pyramid Lakes Lahontan Cutthroat Trout

Helen Flach celebrated her birthday (one of those round numbers) on a friend's watermelon farm in Moldova. Actually, it was in Transnistria, the part of Moldova that is disputed with Ukraine. The State Department doesn't like Americans to go there, but Helen is not easily discouraged in her travels.



Helen Flach with friends on watermelon farm in Moldova.

Jim Snyder from Michigan. We have a number of former California staff scattered across the country having transferred to other jobs and retiring there or moving out of California after their retirement. We stay connected and I received a recent message from **Jim Snyder** who worked on the California design staff as an engineering technician a number of years ago.



Jim Snyder



Grass Fed Beef raised on Jim's Farm in Michigan!

Jim did real well in a move to Michigan and ultimately retired there as a DC. Jim told me the weather back there right now is "Blizzard-like conditions" and he was "dreaming about some sweet California Sunshine!" We in California really do appreciate our weather out here! I asked Jim for an update on what he is up to these days to include in this report, and he shared with me the following update.

"I retired in May 2014 to spend more time with my family and to farm full time in central Lower Michigan. Our farm has 124 lakes nearby and some of the best bass, pike and river fishing in the country. We raise Heritage breed livestock and sell breeding stock and grass-fed beef. Belted Galloway cattle and Tamworth hogs are raised on healthy pastures. I spend my free time restoring our three Jeeps and an old '84 Corvette when I am not farming. School activities take priority, with both kids active in sports and music. My son is a Junior in HS this year in pre-engineering prep as a STEM class, to go on to be a mechanical engineer after graduation in another year. My Daughter **Helena** is first chair in trumpet and now learning flute and clarinet. This time of year I really do miss California's weather!"

Bill Ward: I continue to have lots of fun with my music! I had the pleasure--with the help of two talented ladies singing with me--of sharing a dozen Christmas Songs at our Church recently as part of a Special Christmas Program. Unfortunately, the program was not recorded, but I do have this little recording of two of our songs from a practice session we had: **Some Christmas Music** <https://youtu.be/xVGtA1vaAc>

Another special "music project" I enjoyed was recording a song for my good friend **Harold Honeyfield**, born and raised in New Mexico, about a church he attended there as a boy. "The Rock Church," also known as the "Johnson Mesa Church," is Located 20 miles east of Raton, NM on a high mesa, at an elevation of about 8,000 feet. A song had been written about this church, set to the

music of "the Church in the Wildwood." Harold shared the lyrics of this song written for his childhood Church, and I recorded this version of the song set to the melody of "the Church in the Wildwood:" **The Little Rock Church on the Mesa**
<https://youtu.be/evU262E8Qpg>

Addendum to California's last report to ARCSE regarding **Charles Davis** Celebration of life Event.

In the last issue of the bimonthly ARCSE newsletter California's report intended to provide a link to a summary of testimony's shared at the Celebration of life event for Charles Davis. However, the link failed to work so we are trying again. The many wonderful testimonies provided by his two sons, current and retired SCS/NRCS staff, are summarized in a PDF document which can be opened via the link provided here:

<http://www.arcse.org/Final%20PDF%20Charles%20Davis%20Celebration%20of%20Life%20event%20Summary.pdf>

So that is it from California as we close out 2016. We hope everybody enjoyed their Christmas and wish all our fellow retirees across the Nation a Happy New Year!

IDAHO

Jim Cornwell, ARCSE Representative

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Idaho NRCS retirees began their 2016-17 monthly luncheons following our summer hiatus. All luncheons are held at the Golden Corral Buffet on Emerald Street in Boise. Meetings are on the fourth Thursday of each month, September to May, except November and December are on the third Thursday. Any retirees that happen to be in the area on those days are more than welcome to join us.

Over the summer months three retirees passed away. They were **Howard Smith, Evan Merril and Don Stewart**. All were World War II veterans, and we are forever grateful for their service.

The first meeting in September was attended by 13 retirees: **Gene and Bev Crisman, Paul Malone, Amos and Ruth Garrison, Mitch Flanagan, Rob Fredrickson, Dan Ogle, Frank Fink, Dennis Froeming, Darrell Gallup and his son Darrell, and Jim Cornwell**. Quickly catching up since we last met: **Gene and Bev** are giving up being "snow birds" and will be spending the winter in Mt. Home so will be available to attend luncheons through the winter. **Paul and Kip Malone** made a trip to Ireland and Scotland this summer, **Ruth and Amos** attended the Oshkosh Air Show, and **Frank and Kathy Fink** are grandparents to twins. **Dennis** and his wife did a cruise and land trip to Alaska, and **Jim and Linda** made a trip to Alaska and Scotland. Among these activities there seems to have been a lot of golf and fishing.

In late September a group of retirees made a trip to Big Jacks Creek Wilderness, one of the five recently designated wilderness areas in Southwestern Idaho's Owyhee Desert. The objective of the trip was to reach Zeno Falls, a rare 30-foot perennial waterfall in the Owyhee Canyonlands.



Zeno Falls Trailhead Camp, "Looking for Shade." Left to Right, **Mitch Flanagan, Rob Fredrickson, Ken Beckman, and Frank Fink**.



Zeno Falls Canyon, Big Jacks Creek Wilderness Area.
Mitch Flanagan at the falls.

The waterfall is located in Zeno Canyon, which is a side canyon to Duncan Creek, which in turn is the largest tributary to Big Jacks Creek. The expedition camped at Hicks Spring for two nights and reached the falls on a long day-hike in the Canyonlands. Upon return to camp, three members of the group spotted one huge California Bighorn ram, while the other two expedition members remained lost in the canyon after trying to find an alternate route out to the trailhead. They returned after several hours, just in time for happy hour and Dutch oven chicken enchiladas. Minor injuries were sustained by all party members and later treated with bottles of medicinal tequila.



Big and Little Jacks Creek Wilderness Kiosk, "You are Here." Left to Right: Mitch Flanagan, Mark Weatherstone, Frank Fink, and Rob Fredrickson.

In October we had had 13 attendees at the luncheon. They included **Gene and Bev Crismann, Jerry and Carol Larson, Shelby Brownfield, Sue Darbin, Sue Ellis, Paul Malone, Rob Fredrickson, Dan Ogle, Amos Garrison, Floyd Bailey, and Jim Cornwell.**

The November luncheon was attended by **Shelby Brownfield, Gene and Bev Crisman, Dennis Feichtinger, Rob and Kate Fredrickson, Darrell Gallup and his son Darrell, Amos Garrison, Joe and Laurie Icenhower, John Kendrick, Jerry and Carol Larson, Paul Malone, Mark Weatherstone, Gene and Kathy Schock and Jim Cornwell.**

The December 15th lunch meeting was attended by **Stan and Kathy Hobson, Gene and Bev Crisman, Paul and Harriet Calverly, Paul Malone, Rob Fredrickson, Ken Beckman, Dan Ogle, Mark Weatherstone, Sharon Norris, and Jim Cornwell.** We were pleased to welcome **Ken Beckman** who retired this year from St. Anthony and recently moved to the Boise area. We are also pleased to find that **Sharon Norris** is doing well after having hip surgery. She is now waiting to have knee surgery. Thank goodness for modern technology and spare parts that keep us all going. Everyone is busy getting ready for Christmas and looking forward to time with family. Our next get-together is January 26th.

From all of us in Idaho have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

IOWA

Mark Jensen, ARCSE Representative

Email: amjens1@gmail.com

Iowa's retirees enjoyed our annual Holiday party on November 17th at the Machine Shed Restaurant in Urbandale. The Machine Shed served up a delicious meal of stuffed pork chops, pot roast, and all the fixin's. Everyone had a good time swapping stories, reminiscing, and "catching up". Throw in a few door prizes and it was an event to remember! **Volney Smith** reported that he had a pacemaker installed on December 9th. He says that it has already had a positive effect on his health, and he's able to breathe a lot easier. He is hoping to be cleared to drive his car again soon. Until then, he is depending on his daughter, **Kathy**, to drive him everywhere he needs to go.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Senior Conservationist **Dewey T. Bondurant**. Dewey was born on November 7th, 1921, and passed away on December 17th, 2016. Dewey was the State Conservation Engineer for many years in Des Moines. See the In Memoriam section for more details.



Enjoying Lunch at the Christmas Party



Christmas Party attendees: Roger Link, Jo Elyn Hersom, and Ronald Hersom



IA Christmas Party attendees: Standing: Bill Breitbach, Lew Brent, Jack Sarasio, Kay Breitbach, Gerald Stevens, Marion Stevens, Maralee Sarasio, Connie Brent, Jan Schmidt, Betty Reel, Keith Hunt, Margaret Dysart, Dennis Peterson, and Herman Kopitzke. Sitting: Ann Jensen, Kathy Smith, Alice White, Lee White, Jim Reel, and Volney Smith.



IA Christmas Party attendees: Standing: Lyle Asell, Don Redmon, Joe Ausan, David Redman, Roger Link, Brian Peterson, Kay Peterson, Don Peterson, Duane Miller, Mark Jensen, Jim Ayen, and Rod Martin. Sitting: Charlotte Asell, Donita Link, Helen Kopitzke, Donna Knutson, Russ Knutson, Marge Meyer, and Ken Meyer.

KANSAS

Deanne Lull, ARCSE Representative

Email: rull2@cox.net

Christmas is here and I am scratching my head where the year has gone. Salina received its first measurable snow this week; however, with warmer weather forecast, I think we will only be dreaming of a white Christmas.

Several of our retirees will be serving as officers of the Salina NARFE chapter. **John Ourada** will be serving as president, **Larry Kuder** as vice-president, and **Harold Blume** as treasurer. Quite a number of our chapter members are SCS/NRCS retirees.

Besides being very active in NARFE, **John Ourada** does a lot of volunteer work, the most notable being radon testing in Salina homes and driving veterans to VA medical centers in Wichita, Topeka, and further east. He and **Linda** also volunteered for their 8th year at the Snow Mountain Ranch, YMCA of the Rockies in Colorado.

I have heard of several upcoming retirements, one of which has been my contact in the Kansas State Office. Until her replacement is in place, I will not be able to report any future retirements.

There were two recent retiree's deaths. **Richard C. Counce** passed away on October 28th, 2016. His spouse, Phyllis, survives. **Richard** retired as a Soil Conservation Technician in the Dodge City Field Office in the early 2000s. **Neal A. Petrie** passed away on November 24th, 2016. Surviving is his spouse, **Retha**. **Neal** retired as a Soil Conservation Technician in the Oakley Field Office in the mid-1980s. See the In Memoriam section for more details.

Two spouses have also passed away. **Doris Wells** passed away October 24th, 2016. **Doris** was the spouse of **Chester Wells** who preceded her in death on January 22nd, 2009. He served as the District Conservationist in the Burlington Field Office. **Sharon Schuetz** passed away November 4th, 2016. **Jerry**, her spouse, survives. **Jerry** served as the District Conservationist in the Oberlin Field Office. See the In Memoriam section for more details.

KENTUCKY

Vacant, ARCSE Representative

*Note: **Billye Haslett** is no longer the Representative for Kentucky, and a replacement is needed. But she has graciously submitted the following:*

Retiree Updates: Thanks to **Deena Wheby**, ASTC for Programs at the State Office for providing this information.

Tom Marcum, retired State Resource Conservationist, reported that he dumped Windstream, so has a new email address tcmarcum1@gmail.com. So please update Tom's email.

Mike Andrews, Supervisory Natural Resources Manager (SNRM), was the Lead District Conservationist for Webster, Hopkins, Union and Henderson Counties and is a Todd County, KY native. Mike will be retiring January 2nd, 2017. You may reach Mike at: Mike Andrews, PO Box 182, Dixon, KY 42409 270-635-0754, mikemonicaandrews@hotmail.com.

Mike reports, "I started my career as a student trainee, under a While Actually Employed (WAE) appointment in the Todd County (Elkton, KY) Field Office (F.O.) under Mr. **Fred Alcott** SR, who supervised me for four summers while I attended Murray State University (MSU). After graduating from MSU in 1979, I started work full time in May 1979 after being hired as a Soil Conservationist (SC) in the Morganfield, KY F.O., under **Ray Johnson**. In the spring of 1980 I was transferred to the Ballard-Carlisle County F.O. under **Jerry Joiner**. I became a District Conservationist (DC) in the Webster County F.O. in 1983. In 2012 I became a subunit DC covering Henderson and McLean Counties. In 2014 I returned to Webster County as the SNRM over the Dixon, KY work unit (Webster, Union, Hopkins, and Henderson Counties), until my retirement. After a long break, I'm considering working for the Webster County Conservation District, post retirement. I'll probably be moving in the future, but the PO Box above will be active until I get a new address."

Rodney Bozarth, Area Resource Conservationist is retiring December 31st, 2016. You may reach Rodney at: Rodney Bozarth, 3473 Smith Staples RD, Henderson, KY 42420 270-724-2321 (Cell), rbozarth@bellsouth.net.

Rodney reports, "I started on November 7th, 1983 as a temporary full time employee. I was a GS-4 Soil Conservation Technician in Madisonville, KY. I transferred to a Soil Conservationist in 1985 still stationed in Madisonville. I became a District Conservationist (DC) in May 1988 and moved to Marshall County, Benton, KY. In February 1992 I transferred to McCracken County, Paducah, KY as a DC. In April 1994, I became the DC in Henderson County, Henderson, KY. Finally I transferred to the Area 1 Area Office in Madisonville as the Area Resource Conservationist for Technology in June 2004. Some of my collateral duties included serving as an alternative inspector for FRS#1 Earlington, KY in 1984, and then the primary inspector for FRS#2 in 1985 after the untimely death of **Richard Matlock**, CET from Hopkinsville on April 14th, 1985. I also taught a USDA course across western KY on customer service and change in 1996. I was also an instructor for Conservation Boot Camp in 2008, 2009 and again in 2016."

Don Canary, Engineer in Bowling Green, KY, will be retiring January 3rd, 2017. Don may be reached at: Don Canary, 3719 Boyce Fairview Rd., Alvaton, KY 42122, canarywtalons@msn.com.

Don reports: "I started out in the summer of 1979 in the Bowling Green Field Office, Bowling Green, KY. Then worked the summer of 1980 in the Owensboro Area Office (AO) in Owensboro, KY and returned to the Owensboro AO upon graduation in 1981. I worked there until they closed the AO and transferred me to the Bowling Green AO in 1986. Been there ever since. As an engineer we get to work on the most complicated and difficult problems out there. But we also get to work with a wide variety of people and see some amazing things. This career has matched my lifestyle perfectly, and I couldn't have chosen a better way to make a living. I've been truly blessed. My thanks to all of the retirees out there that have mentored, assisted, and guided me through this wonderful voyage we call 'Conservation.'"

Dave Edwards, Easement Team Leader and Natural Resources Planner (Area 3), retired December 3rd, 2016. You may reach Dave at: Dave Edwards, 880 Pine Grove School Rd., Beattyville, KY 41311, Southfork36@yahoo.com.

"I started working with SCS and retired District Conservationist (DC) **E.T. Kash** through the Lee and Owsley County Conservation Districts in 1980. In 1983 I was hired by SCS as a student trainee while attending Morehead State University (MSU). My first duty

with SCS was in Cynthiana, KY under DC **Eudis Singleton**. After graduating from MSU in May 1984, I moved to Campbellsville, KY to work with then DC, **Tom Marcum**. In December 1988 I accepted the Soil Conservationist (SC) position in Mt. Vernon, KY (Rockcastle County) Field Office. In March 1991 I went home to Owsley County following E.T. Kash's retirement. There I worked Lee, Owsley and Breathitt Counties as a DC until December 2012, when I accepted the Supervisory Natural Resource Manager position in Jackson, KY. I remained in the SNRM role until August 2014, when I accepted a position of Easement Team Leader and Natural Resource planner on the Area 3 staff. I worked in that role until my retirement in December 2016.

The highlight of my career came at the very end when I accepted a detail to work on the state office easement team under **Reed Cripps**.

I worked alongside **Doug Hines**, who is very knowledgeable in the easement services field and just a fine gentleman to work with. I had an awesome career with SCS/NRCS. I have a lot of people to thank for their help along the way in addition to the folks named above: **Tony Nott, Ray Johnson, Gerald Hart, Jack Kuhn, Karen Woodrich, Tom Perrin, Don Crabtree and Brian Jones** to name a few, plus many more. It was a great ride and now on to the next phase of which I am really looking forward!"

Paul Howell: On September of 2016 Paul Howell celebrated 52 years of federal service. He spent three years in the military and 49 years with SCS/NRCS. Paul is retiring (January 3rd, 2017) as a Geologist in the State Office, Lexington, KY. You may reach Paul at: Paul Howell, 295 John Jones Rd., Salvisa, KY 40372, leemo.howell@gmail.com.

Paul grew up in LaRue County, KY and received a geology degree from Berea College, located in Berea, KY (Madison County). After college, Paul went on to graduate school at the University of Kentucky. Paul has been an "Honorary" retiree of the SCS/NRCS KY retiree association for a long time. He's a great story teller and a very respected professional by both land users and NRCS staff alike. Looking back over the years, Paul said, "I've been changed and blessed by this long career experience and I have no complaints." We wish Paul all the happiness as he enters retirement.

In Memory: **Helen R. Barnett**, October 2nd, 2016. **Beecher Hines**, November 14th, 2016.

The 12 Days of Christmas--The Rest of the Story

When most people hear of "The 12 Days of Christmas," they think of the song. This song had its origins as a teaching tool to instruct young people in the meaning and content of the Christian faith.

Each of the items in the song represents something of religious significance. The hidden meaning of each gift was designed to help young Christians learn their faith. The song goes,

"On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me..."

The "true love" represents God and the "me" who receives these presents is the Christian. Here you go:

The "partridge in a pear tree" was Jesus Christ who died on a tree as a gift from God.

The "two turtle doves" were the Old and New Testaments--another gift from God.

The "three French hens" were faith, hope and love--the three gifts of the Spirit that abide (I Corinthians 13).

The "four calling birds" were the four Gospels which sing the song of salvation through Jesus Christ.

The "five golden rings" were the first five books of the Bible, also called the "Books of Moses." (Editor's note: the first 5 books of the Old Testament also comprise the Torah or the Jewish Bible, also known as the Pentateuch.)

The "six geese a-laying" were the six days of creation.

The "seven swans a swimming" were the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. (I Corinthians 12:8-11; Romans 12, Ephesians 4; I Peter 4:10-11).

The "eight maids a-milking" were the eight beatitudes.

The "nine ladies dancing" were nine fruits of the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:22 & 23)

The "ten lords a-leaping" were the Ten Commandments.

The "eleven pipers piping" were the eleven faithful disciples.

The "twelve drummers drumming" were the twelve points of the Apostles' Creed.

So, the next time you hear "The 12 Days of Christmas," consider how this otherwise non-religious sounding song had its origins in the Christian faith.

LOUISIANA

Joe Branco, ARCSE Representative

Email: jandmbranc@aol.com

The 22nd Louisiana SCS-NRCS retirees' luncheon was held at the Piccadilly Cafeteria in Alexandria on Nov. 10th. The gathering started at 10am. Everyone enjoyed drinking coffee and visiting with former work friends.

There were 33 retirees and guests in attendance: **Joe and Marge Branco, Thomas Campbell, Valine Collard, Don Gohmert, Charles and Ruby Guillory, Geogre Guillory, Dozier and Winnie Harrell, Juanita Hoffpauir, Harry and Dee Hawthorne, Max Johnston and Sybil Ray, Marlin and Patricia Jordan, Benny and Dolores Landreneau, Donald Menard, Wayne Melancon, Paul and Sandra Miletello, Kent and Sonie Milton, Billy Moore, Marilyn Rabalais, Dale and Sylvia Rockett, Phala Simmons, Ronnie Venson, Jimmy Winston, and Kevin Norton, STC.**

Joe Branco welcomed the retirees and guests and asked **Dale Rockett** to give the invocation. The group then recited the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

After the group enjoyed a cafeteria lunch, Joe welcomed them all again. There were letters and notes read from retirees who could not attend. They were **Robbie Loe, Charles Phillips, Carl Thompson, Pat Cecil and Gene Simmons**.

Max Johnston gave a very positive report that there were no retiree deaths during the past year.

Kevin Norton, STC, provided the group a brief review of NRCS program activities in the state. He reported that the staffing remains level, and they are busy carrying out program responsibilities.

Again this year, there was discussion on the health insurance open season, Nov. 14th to Dec. 12th. It was noted that most fee-for-service plans will have a monthly fee increase. Also, the Medicare part D fee increase was discussed. Most agreed that their coverage has been good but are concerned about premium increases.

The group thanked the planning committee for arranging the meeting. The committee consists of **Dale Rockett, Paul Miletello, Marilyn Rabalaist, Max Johnston, and Joe Branco**.



www.arcse.org

MAINE

John J. Simon, ARCSE Representative

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Well hello to all in the great US of A. As of the 18th of December we in Maine (Bangor) had only 32.49 inches of rain. The normal rain at this time is 40.76 inches so we are still 8.27 inches shy of the 30-year normal.

As of Dec 12th we were 10.7% warmer than the 30-yr average, but by Sunday the 18th we were only 6.5% warmer. So this last week was a cold one indeed. Friday's low of minus 9 degrees was a reminder of things to come!

The rivers and lakes are starting to freeze up, but the ice is still thin. A few more weeks like last week and ice fishing will be in full swing.

November Breakfast: Tuesday, November 8th was a beautiful morning and we had six attending our breakfast: **Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon, Bob Lagassey, Charlie and Judy Boothby, and myself**. We all went off to vote after breakfast.

Bruce indicated that the final total that he raised by himself for the Alzheimers walk was over \$2,600. Congratulations Bruce!

Art indicated that he is working on the inside trim for his windows and doors. With Art's approval, I have included a photo of his home and a picture of a sample cross section of his wall. Look at the lower part of the picture next to Art's knee. His primary heat will be two mini-splits, which may not run much on this super insulated home. Art has separate watt-hour meters on each house mini-split unit, so he will know quite accurately how much is used. Art also put in an air to air heat exchanger to keep the inside air fresh.



Art Taylor's energy-efficient home.



A sample cross-section of exterior wall of Art Taylor's house. The 8 inches of styrofoam sandwiched between two layers of 2x4s and the inside sheetrock and outside siding bring the R value of the walls to well over 50.

Noreen and John recently returned from a Thanksgiving vacation in NJ with **Peter** and his family. The grandkids were great fun. We watched several Star Wars movies at home and took them to see "Trolls" at the cinema. If you have young grandkids, I recommend you take them to this movie. Both my grandkids just loved this movie.

We travelled to NJ for the Thanksgiving week to be with our son's family in Montclair. We travelled by bus from Bangor to South Station in Boston and then by Amtrak from south station to Newark NJ (Penn Station). Very enjoyable trip, but tiring, but a

pleasure to see how the grandkids are growing since we saw them this summer. Montclair is a beautiful town. Reminds me of Bar Harbor. We have done this bus/train trip three times now, so the mystery of it all is gone.

December Breakfast: Attending our second Tuesday breakfast on December 13th at Dysarts were **Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon, Judy and Charlie Boothby, and John Simon**. Art is continuing work on his interior woodwork now and talks like a spring move-in is planned. Charlie is still digging our vegetables from his garden from under the snow! If the snow doesn't melt and we get some more snow, Charlie may be able to dig for vegetables most of the winter!

The SCS/NRCS Maine family is remembering the life and service of **Paul Hughes Jr.**, who passed away Saturday, November 12th at the age of 69 after a long battle with lymphoma. See the In Memoriam section for more details.

Wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas and happy holidays from Maine.



In this undated photo, Paul Hughes (left) accepts a certificate of merit from State Conservationist Charles Whitmore. NRCS-Maine archives.

MASSACHUSETTS

Jim Wesoloski, ARCSE Representative
Email: Jim.wesoloski@gmail.com

Well, it's been a quiet few months for the Massachusetts retirees. We made it through the shortest day of the year which occurred with the Winter Solstice so we're on our way to more hours of daylight and an early Spring.

Lou and Cecil Currin, Betty, and I attended the memorial service for **Don Stockwell** who passed away on November 4th, 2016 at the age of 98 after a rich and full life. See the In Memoriam section for more details. Don was head of the design section in Amherst, MA for many years and his name appears in the "Designed By" section for many of the early P.L. 566 dams in the state. Don designed his own farm pond in Leverett, MA and was especially proud of designing a pond on the farm of **Dwight Eisenhower** in Gettysburg, PA.

I came across an email from a co-worker concerning Don: "Don Stockwell was a brilliant man a very good co-worker and an excellent supervisor. Can only remember good things about him." How could one ask for a better unsolicited eulogy?

At Don's memorial service I ran into **Chris Annabel**, daughter of retired assistant state engineer **Bill Annabel**. Chris reported that Bill is doing well in Spofford Lake, NH and that he got a Segway motorized skateboard that he uses to get to the mailbox down his gravel driveway. Chris dug out an old football helmet for Bill to wear in case the stabilizer system on the Segway board malfunctions.

So, that's all my news. Daffodils should be up soon.

MINNESOTA

Marlene Mechelke, ARCSE Representative
Email: mechgram@aol.com

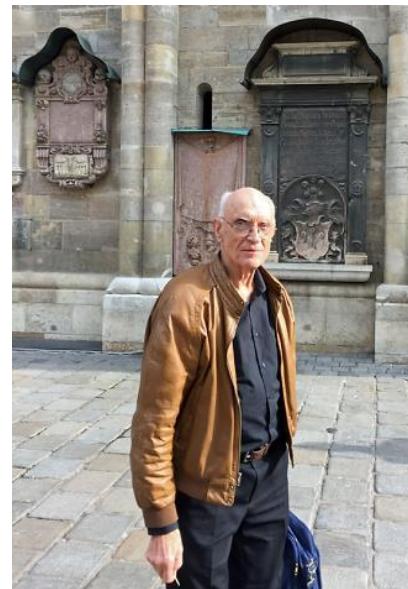
Not much to report from Minnesota. We have all we can do to keep warm in our freezing weather. **Vic Ruhland** did take a "singing" tour in October and reports as follows:

My son, **Kenneth**, and I spent 18 days on a singing tour in Germany and Austria last October. The Choir that I sing with, the Assumption Parish in downtown St. Paul, sang at Mass in St. Ludwig's Church in Munich, Germany, at a concert in St. Peter's Cathedral in Salzburg, and at a Mass and concert in St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna, Austria. Certainly a most special spiritual time for our group. In addition to the three cities, we also toured Oberndorf where "Silent Night" was composed, the "Sound of Music" sights in the Salzburg area, and the Benedictine Abbey at Melk, Austria.

Afterwards, we spent another six days touring the Ruhland Heritage communities of eastern Bavaria and in Die Eifel area located between Trier and Cologne, Germany. In one of the communities in Die Eifel, an afternoon was spent with a local historian. Thank goodness our discussion in German went well! What an amazing 18 days.



Vic Ruhland conversing in German with a band member in Munich's Hofbrauhaus.



Vic Ruhland on the side of St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna, Austria



The choir in front of St. Ludwig's Church in Munich, Germany

DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH/APRIL 2017 NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS IS FEBRUARY 25, 2017

MISSOURI

Dave Rastorfer, ARCSE Representative
Email: daverastorfer@aol.com

The Columbia area quarterly breakfast was held at the Country Kitchen in Columbia on November 9th. Those in attendance were: **Maurice and Gloria Davis, Neil and Louise Randal, John and Carol McCarthy, Frank and Kay Miller, Jerry Edwards, Hugh Curry, Jean Herman, Odie Swanegan, Robert Hummel, Steve Baima and Dave Rastorfer**. The next quarterly breakfast will be on February 8th 2017.

Dennis Shirk: Good Morning folks and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Dennis and Lois. We are very blessed! See ya down the trail!

Ed Smith: Not too much to report from the Smiths. We're getting ready for Christmas, which gets harder every year with married grandchildren and their new babies. We have two new great-grandsons, one a couple of months old and one a couple of weeks. That makes four Greats and all boys. The others are one year and five years. I've been going through a series of tests since the middle of August, and they finally decided I needed a pace maker, which I've had now for two weeks. Got the heart beat up from 21 bpm to above 60 with the implant and have been released to make our trek to FL in January. I wish for each of you a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy new year.

Alton Taylor: We are ready for winter, fireplace full of logs and gas bill paid so we are ready. **Gail** flies in Christmas day for a couple weeks and **David's** bunch will be in between Missouri snow storms, including a son in from the Navy before being deployed.

Stuart Lawson: Our copy of the Nodaway News Leader came today, and one of our local residents was named state beekeeper of the year. He was presented the award by **Clayton Lee**, president of the Missouri State Beekeepers Association. I had no idea that **Clayton** was involved with bees. His retirement does not sound like retirement to me. I've worked with bees, and bee keeping is a whole other level of labor skills!

Lane Thurman: "Nothing to report from our house in Springfield, just getting ready for Christmas and the New Year as it approaches. I did get a couple of deer this year, one over in Houston, MO and the other down around Calhoun, LA. I got to hunt with three of my sons down there and really enjoyed it very much. **Nancy** is improving quite a bit from the cancer she had for the second time. She is getting stronger every day, and I have got her back in the kitchen cooking again. She has improved quite a lot since June. As far as I know, my problems are gone. Mine was a "mini-stroke" and did not leave any lasting effects on me. So I think I am good to go (probably for another 10 to 15 years, maybe)."

Bill Pauls: "Really 'no news' is good news here at the lake. The pelicans just left after their annual stopover here on their way down to the "Big Easy." The boats are all covered and winterized, and it is a peaceful and beautiful scene here most every day.

Slid around getting home yesterday after a trip to see a grandkid Christmas program in Illinois. Very slick on I-70/Kingdom City area and into Columbia we heard. We got home safely as the roads improved heading south through Jeff City and on home here in Camdenton. Our family is all healthy, growing, and happy.



Bill Pauls along the Oregon coast



Bill Pauls in his boat

We're looking forward to a great Christmas get-together in Wildwood, MO at our son **Jeff's** house. Amy's parents, **Doug and Nancy Peterson**, will be there too. Doug you probably remember is another ol' USDA employee formerly of the RD state office in Columbia. Above is a picture is of me 'doin' what I do' on one of this past years' marathon adventures. That one was along the Oregon Coast. The other picture is one Kris came up with from her phone. Gotta love a new boat seat for my birthday from the kids. We wish all of the SCS/NRCS family a Very Happy Holiday Season and of course a Merry Christmas!"

Jim Sturm: The **Jim Sturm** residence had new windows installed in 2012 and the inside trim finally completed this last fall. And then a decision on some window shades followed. Without much delay, the window shades were completed with some Cellular-lobed ones. **Jimbo** had some company from Chicago visit the 2nd weekend of October. We had fun running around the metropolis of Princeton in the Polaris Ranger. The evening was spent playing bingo at the Princeton VFW. Hopefully, they will come back 2017 for a country buggy ride. Jimbo has been busy doing volunteer work for the Wright Memorial Hospital Foundation. He also attends quarterly meetings with the CEO's Wright Memorial Hospital Community Advisory Committee.

John Rice: "We have had a good year. I am at that age (84) where as I read the obituaries it seems like most always the folks who are passing away are younger than I am. I consider myself blessed to have reasonably good health and still able to do most of what I want to do. We still do a garden, mostly limited now to tomatoes, green beans, green peas, and sweet corn.

Late June and early July was a trip out west and North--followed parts of the Oregon Trail through Nebraska and Wyoming, saw the wagon ruts worn into the limestone bluffs at the crossing of the Platte River, witnessed the 140th anniversary of the Battle of the Little Big Horn in Montana, then on up to Glacier National Park and Lake Louise in Canada, and spent a night at a bed and breakfast working ranch in Montana. The next morning we were invited to watch their spring cattle roping and branding operation. We came back through some of the oil shale extracting areas in North Dakota--very interesting. During the summer and fall John helped with construction on a 40'x44' two-story addition to our church building. Margaret continues to volunteer at the local Women's Shelter and Thrift Shop.

October brought our annual family gathering at the farm for an apple cider-making project. Family and extended family were here from Missouri, Kansas, and North Carolina. Due to a late freeze last spring our apple production was not quite adequate, so a local produce auction came to the rescue.

We are looking forward to a quiet Christmas at home this year. With a wood burning insert in the fireplace and a good supply of cut, split, and stacked wood in the back yard, we should be able to stay nice and cozy through the winter. If any of you are in the Trenton area, stop by and sit by the fire for a spell with us."

MONTANA

Dick Gooby, ARCSE Representative

Email: inca@3rivers.net

Montana big sky report

Scott Hoag Report: "Winter arrived. Just a month ago it was warm and balmy and gophers were out and about. This fall we made apple sauce with **Bob and Jan Remer** from apples from their trees--good eating. A sad note, **Jan McAndrew**, wife of **Don McAndrew**, passed away in November. The Kansas Watershed Rehab project is winding down and should be finished in January or early February. Nancy adds that while we're blessed with a warm home, a reliable renter, and good neighbors, we're still looking forward again to green grass and Spring. We are grateful to celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus."

Phyllis Philipps Report: "Wishing you happy holidays! I will try to be better in sending information for the newsletter. It is just that I never dreamed retirement was going to be SO busy. I've had an amazing year and am still doing well. Started another round of chemo recently but am feeling good in spite of it all. I've been traveling and involved in many activities including theatre and several foundations. I have a new grandbaby boy who was born this summer. He will be the fifth generation on the farm. My two granddaughters are coming home for Christmas, along with my daughter and her husband, so it will be a hectic and fun time."



The start of the annual Thanksgiving Huffing for Stuffing race, right under Big Mike (a replica of a Tyrannosaurus Rex dinosaur. The original fossil is in the Smithsonian in Washington, DC).

Joyce Swartzendruber report: "I completed docent training at the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman this fall and will be giving tours to the public and school groups in 2017. I now know more about T. rex than I thought possible, especially since my prior frame of reference was brontosaurus burgers on the Flintstones."

"Merry Christmas from the Gooby Ranch: We thought last year was tough, but this year was way tougher. Due to all the climate change taking place, we were really tight on irrigation water again this year. In order to reduce the evaporation and get better use of our irrigation water, **Mary Ann** irrigates at night. She has to move the water every four hours. The only bad things are that she doesn't get much sleep, and sometimes she accidentally wakes me up when she heads out to move water. The good thing is that Mary Ann has more free time during the day to do other work items on her to-do list.

When Mary Ann goes to town to get groceries, she takes her sign and sits on the corner by the store door to get enough donations to buy the groceries. A lot of people stop by because they are curious why Mary Ann has her horse with her. Some people give her groceries when they go by. Consequently, we eat some foods that we have never eaten before. It's amazing how many really good foods there are that we haven't ever before eaten.

This past year in Twin Bridges the community non-profit group built a Senior Center where they provide lunches three days a week. We are so far from town we can't afford to participate in the lunches since it takes away a lot of Mary Ann's working time. Whenever we have company and we need to provide them lunch, we take them to the Senior Center to eat. Not only is the food good, but the price is right. We normally take a cooler and have them put some of the food in the cooler so we have supper covered. That was Mary Ann's idea. Mary Ann is one sharp kid."

Gary and Jeannie retired this summer and decided to move up to the Gooby Ranch and help Mary Ann with keeping the place in working condition. "We have a barn that we use partly for storing hay and partly for calving pens. In order to get Gary and Jeannie a place to live, we built the hay part of the barn into their house, and they will be close to their work when calving season starts. We built the kitchen and living room windows so they look out at the calving pens. That way they don't have to walk out to the calving pens to see what's going on. We got the idea when we made a trip to Maine years ago. There are lots of houses hooked on to the barn in that state. One day during hunting season **Mary Ann, Jeannie, Gary** and I decided to head to the hills and go fishing while everyone else is busy hunting. We decided to take the gun along just in case we saw something that would be good to eat. While we were driving down the rough road, Gary saw two moose only about 50 yards away in the willows. We decided to harvest only one since we have our freezer full of ground squirrels and sand hill cranes. Further down the road on our way home there were six mountain sheep standing right by the road. There were two big rams in the group. Now there is only one ram in the group, and we have the other ram and the moose hanging in a tree. We use the fence stretchers to hang up the moose and mountain sheep. When we want some moose or mountain sheep, Mary Ann lowers it down and cuts whatever meat cut she wants to cook, then pulls it back up out of bears' reach. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a fantastic New Year in 2017--Dick and Mary Ann Gooby."

NEBRASKA

Norman Kempf, ARCSE Representative

Email: nkempf@neb.rr.com

The fall breakfast was held at the Egg & I. Husbands and wives attended, with about 20 people attending. The December breakfast was called to order by Chairman **Steve Stove** with 18 people attending.

It seems like the poor health reports are the norm these days. **Jim Carr** will be undergoing surgery in January for spinal problems resulting from his recent chemotherapy. **Cam Loerch** has finished his chemo and radiation and has had an MRI to determine the results, but we have not heard from him to know the outcome. **Roger Hammer** had surgery for a detached retina. **Gus Dornbusch** has been diagnosed with mantle cell lymphoma and will start treatment on December 27th.

Norm and Linda Helzer traveled to Columbus, OH for the National Volleyball Champion playoffs, with stops in Illinois and Indiana to visit friends. Unfortunately for all of us Huskers, we were eliminated in the semi-finals. Still, it's been a great season and we are all proud of our team.

Norm Kempf was in the Black Hills for a deer hunt with 17 hunters. Norm didn't have a permit, but he says they gave him a big stick! The hunt was successful with 12 deer taken, and the other five hunters did want to score as they wanted to return for a Thanksgiving hunt. Ice fishing is great. Norm reported a fishing trip with grandsons to a local lake where they caught 21 10 to 11-inch bluegills and Crappie in about two hours. **Norm and Sylvia** went to Norm's brother's family in Ohio for the Thanksgiving holiday.

NEW YORK

Nancy Lee, ARCSE Representative

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Maria Maniscalco, NY State Budget Officer, will join the ranks of the retired on January 3rd, 2017, after 33 years with NRCS in NY and over 40 years of government service. Maria was recognized for her dedication to budget management at the recent Christmas "Cookie Day" on December 16th.

Kevin Reynolds, formerly a NRCS economist and IT Specialist in the Syracuse SO, will also retire at the end of 2016.

Brian E. Timothy, age 67, of Wyoming, NY, died December 11th, 2016 at the Wyoming County Community Hospital in Warsaw. **Kenneth W. Van Doren**, 84, of Chaumont, NY died on November 22nd at the Samaritan Summit Village in Watertown NY. See the In Memoriam section for more details.

OKLAHOMA

Randy Freeland, ARCSE Representative

Email: randy.freeland@suddenlink.net

The Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees met at the Golden Corral Buffet Restaurant in Oklahoma City, OK on October 28th, 2016. Forty nine people were in attendance: **Ed Abernathy, David Ankle, Mary and Mike Barrick and guest Don Vannoy, Don Bartolina, Lester Brockmann, Larry Caldwell, Steve Chessmore, Helen and Everett Cole, Debbie and Mark Conkling, Duane Crider, Wayne Fjeseth, Fred Fortney, Randy Freeland, Roberta and Jim Frie, Harry Fritzler, Chuck Grimes, Sandy Hafner, Dianne and Odos Henson, Sandra and Terry Hough, Bill Johnson, Virginia and Ott Johnson, Otho Lamar, Jim McCampbell, Minnie Carol and Gordon Moebius, Eunice and Glen Mullen and daughter Marilyn Shipman, Joy and John Pewthers, Gayland Sandy, Rod Shaw, Chris Shepherd, Terry and Jim Smith, Jane and Norm Smola, Gene Spurlock, Carolyn and Bob Webb, and Jamey Wood.**

President **Gordon Moebius** called the meeting to order. **Rebecca Blan** continues to need prayers and is recovering from a stroke. **Bettie Todd** recently underwent knee replacement surgery. She is doing well but is not yet cleared to travel. **Fred Fortney** provided the blessing for the meal and everyone enjoyed the buffet meal.

Following the meal, **President Gordon Moebius** again called the meeting to order. First-time attendees introduced themselves. **Mark Conkling** retired as Resource Specialist from the Clinton Technical Office approximately a year ago. His wife **Debbie** accompanied him to the meeting. He purchased his family farm (Hill Top Farm) at Thomas and is currently growing sesame. He is putting the conservation practices on the land and focusing on soil health improvement which he worked with during his tenure with the NRCS. He and Debbie reside in Clinton. **Ott and Virginia Johnson** currently reside in Stillwater. He started his career in Hughes and Pittsburg counties but worked in various states during his career as a geologist. He was in the first class to graduate from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater (formerly Oklahoma A&M). He still writes a weekly Opinion Column for the Stillwater NewsPress. He has been doing that for nearly six years. Others in attendance introduced themselves and their spouse or guest if in attendance.

The retirees' website has been helpful in our effort to keep retirees informed. **Randy** announced that our group now has a new website www.joepad.com His brother, **Joe Freeland**, has graciously agreed to keep it updated for us. It will continue to have pictures, minutes, and attendees from each of our meetings.



Mark and Debbie Conkling



Everett and Helen Cole

Brent Reavis is the only retiree since our last meeting. He was the Resource Specialist at the McAlester Technical Service Office. He previously was the DC at Holdenville. **Brent** is currently teaching AG and science in Holdenville.

Fred Fortney read a list of retiree deaths since April 2016: former Chief **Pearlie S. Reed**, 4/12/16, Arkansas; **Fred A. Perryman**, 89, DC Clinton FO, retired in 1991, 7/10/16; **Ruel Bain**, 85, DC and Soil Scientist, Antlers, retired in 1994 as Area Soil Scientist at McAlester, 8/10/16; **Stacy Henslee Mathis**, 54, DC, Atoka, 10/10/16; **Jackie Henslee**, Konawa 3/2014 (just learned of this death, father of **Stacy**); **Jerry Walker**, 68, retired DC, Miami, 26 yrs. service, 10/16/16; and **Nelson Mueller**, 70, retired DC, Sulphur, 10/22/16, received notice of his death during the meeting. A moment of silence was observed, and **Fred Fortney** offered a prayer.

Jim Frie and **Roberta** have been volunteering at the Stillwater Medical Center for the past eight years. They also stay busy with six great-grandchildren. They have a fifth-wheel travel trailer that they keep at Lake Carl Blackwell and have belonged to a recreational club for the past 25 years. They attend most Oklahoma State University athletic events.

Bill Johnson is very active with a children's home called Hope Harbor. He serves as president of the foundation board and also works in the home's thrift store as a volunteer.



Roberta and Jim Frie



Norm Smola and Odos Henson

Gene Spurlock is the Chairman of the Deacons at his church in Chelsea, OK. He manages 200 acres with a cow herd of about 40 head. He also does land surveying.



Bill Johnson and Gene Spurlock



Lester Brockman

Carolyn Webb and her husband **Bob** run 5k races in Bristow and Phoenix. They volunteer with the American Red Cross and Bristow Hospital. **Carolyn** also is a tutor for three 2nd grade students, and **Bob** is on the local Conservation District Board.

Duane Crider said he and **Jan** have become "Cruisers." Over the past two years they have been to Alaska, the Northeast out of New York to Maine and Canada. This year they went to the Caribbean and loved them all. **Larry and Carolyn Caldwell** enjoyed a three-week trip to Ireland and England. They traced their genealogy, did sightseeing, and ate a lot of good food! They survived driving on the left side of the road and going the wrong way on the goofy roundabouts. **Larry** still works part time for the Oklahoma Conservation Commission on watershed issues including implementation of Dam Watch, a web based application to monitor 12,000 watershed dams in 47 states.

Chuck Grimes only worked for SCS for a few years but has maintained a relationship with county office staffs for years. He builds Grasslander Seeders and harvests several varieties of seed. He cross-breeds Longhorn cows to Red Angus Composite bulls. He has traveled with family to Cozumel and to Colorado fly fishing with son and four grandsons. Attending OSU sporting events and volunteering for the Payne County Flood Plain Management Board keep **Norm Smola** busy.



Chuck Grimes and David Ankle



Jamey Wood and Chris Shepherd

Don Bartolina retired from NRCS in 2001, served as Executive Director for OACD for three years, and works part time for the Oklahoma County Conservation District since 2004. He still coordinates the National Land & Range Judging Contest. He and **Darlene** enjoy traveling, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. **Lester Brockmann** says "every day is Saturday" for him. But "sometimes he works, and sometimes he travels."

Mike Barrick has worked as a volunteer with the Red Cross for 20 years and as a volunteer with the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Team for 23 years. (OK Editor's Note: *The man knows how to run a chain saw!*) **Jim Smith** volunteers with Sportsmans Hunt Club as the Hunt Club Chairman and Board Member. He and his wife attend OSU football and basketball games. They travel some, but mostly he stays around the house to do honey-do's. For our program, **Gordon Moebius** presented a slide program on his activities since his retirement. He has established a company, GEM Services LLC. His company does soil sampling and investigations for landowners interested in soil farming. He outlined the various steps which must be taken before any material can be put on land which is then incorporated into the land.

The Oklahoma Conservation Museum group held an organizational meeting on October 6th, 2016, in Oklahoma City. No officers were elected. In addition to **Tom Lucas**, there were eight individuals in attendance. Another meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 5th, 2016, at the Oklahoma Conservation Commission Board Room at the State Department of Agriculture in Oklahoma City. Everyone is asked to talk to others about artifacts that might be available for loan or donation once the museum is established. If anyone is interested in serving on the board of directors for this effort, please contact **Tom Lucas**, 580-727-4397 or tom.lucas717@gmail.com.

The next retirees' meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 28th, 2017, at the Golden Corral on MacArthur Boulevard in Oklahoma City. The group was reminded that Golden Corral now opens at 10am, so there is extra time for visiting before the meeting starts at 11:30am. Put it on your calendar now! Everyone is welcome and no reservations are required.

OREGON

Don Stettler, ARCSE Representative

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The annual staff meeting of retired, current staff, and associates of the National Water and Climate Center was held at the Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery in downtown Portland. Attending were **Gary Formanek, Leland Saele, Pat Willey, Harbans Lal, Dan Moore**, and yours truly (**Don Stettler**).



Pat Willey and Gary Formanek



Lee Saele, Dan Moore, and Harbans Lal.

The winter quarter Oregon retiree lunch will be held on January 25th at the Peppermill Restaurant in Aloha. Watch your email for details.

PENNSYLVANIA

Bill Bowers, Tim Murphy (PA Bugle Editor)

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SEPA Retirees Meet for Lunch--from Frank Resides

Only a dozen of our dwindling group met for lunch at Roger's in West Chester on November 19th. There were nine women and three men. Reminds me of the question: Why do so many older men die before their wives? The joke answer of course is: "Because they want to." There may be more truth to that than we would like to admit.

Those present: **Len and Mary Beck, Helen Brossman, Jean Francis, Carolyn Gehlen, Tom and Joyce Iivari, Jean Kirkaldie, Ann Magee, and Frank and Jane Resides**. As usual, we had a good time eating, drinking and reminiscing about days gone by. It was especially nice that Ann, Helen, Pat and Jean Francis could attend, since they had missed the last few meetings. Although Roger has opened another restaurant in Frazer, he said he has no plans to close the one in West Chester at this time. So, the Lord willing, we hope to meet again in June or July of next year.

TEXAS NORTH

Arnold King, ARCSE Representative

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Fifteen members attended the November 18th meeting. Those attending were **Earl Blakley, Dennis Gaster, Bernie Owen, Joyce Petty, Anita Plummer, Dennis Erinakes, Don Newman, Clyde Goodman, Barb and Dave Stockbridge, Morris Lobrecht, Bernelle Baxley, Tom Hodges, Marie Garsjo**, and new member **Dave Buland**.



Great snacks are always a part of every meeting. At the November 18th meeting, these were provided by Bernie and Maxine Owen along with homemade cinnamon rolls by Clyde Goodman.

Federal Employee Health Benefits was the topic of the November 18th meeting with presentations by **Bruce Harrison** of Blue Cross Blue Shield and **Christine Scott** of Government Employees Health Association (GEHA).

Westal Wayne Fuchs, 89, died peacefully at home on Tuesday, Nov. 29th, 2016. See the In Memoriam section for more details.



Bruce Harrison, BCBS



Christine Scott, GEHA



Liberty Claire Gaster was welcomed to the world on December 3rd, 2016, by proud parents Don and Kellie Gaster and equally proud Grandparents Dennis and Kathy Gaster.

TENNESSEE

Allen T. Crowe, Darwin Newton, ARCSE Reps.

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The following was sent in by James Simms and forwarded by Dana York.



Left to right: Larry Blick, James Sims, Chester Bush, Janet Bush, Charles Roberts, Carol Chandler, Tom Poynter, Carolyn Dillard, Ardelle Langdon, Jeanne Eastham, Frank Scudder, Mary Nell Scudder, Debbie Brasfield, Brenda Moore, Bobby More, Allen Crowe, Ray Sims, Donald Dotson, Patty Lane, Gary Handley, Ray Curl, Carol Handley, Jim Lansford, and Vic Simpson.

The SCS/NRCS retirees met at the Hermitage House Smorgasbord on December 8th with the following members present: **Larry Blick, Debbie Brasfield, Chester and Janet Bush, Carol Chandler, Allen Crowe, Ray Curl, Carolyn Dillard, Donald Dotson, Jeanne Eastham, Carol and Gary Handley, Patty Lane, Ardelle Langdon, Jim Lansford, Bobby and Brenda Moore, Tom Poynter, Charles Roberts, Frank and Mary Nell Scudder, Vic Simpson, Ray Sims and James Sims.**

A short business meeting followed lunch with discussions of meeting dates and possible meeting places for 2017. Some alternate meeting places were discussed due the state parks wanting to charge for the meeting room. Anyone with suggestions for meeting

places may contact **Debbie Brasfield or Vic Simpson**. Members of NARFE urged everyone to be on alert for changes to our retirement benefits due possible changes in the upcoming sessions of Congress.

Another discussion was concerning the Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees. About five or six of those attending the meeting were already members. We also agreed to renew efforts to send items of interest concerning Tennessee retirees to be included in the National Newsletter.

Debbie asked each person present to relate a special Christmas memory. Several of the group told how they learned about who "Santa" really was. Others told about their children being born during the Christmas season. One told about returning from Vietnam about Christmas time. Another talked about the joys and complications of Christmas in blended families. A native of Nashville remembered getting in the car with the whole family and driving to Centennial Park to see the large white Nativity that was displayed near the Parthenon. Most of the group mentioned that they went to one of the grandparents on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. About everyone remembered getting fruit and nuts in their stockings or by some other method. Currently planned meetings for 2017 are as follow: March 16th, 2017 (Lebanon or Nashville); June 15th, 2017 (Undetermined); October 19th, 2017 (Possible Cookeville); December 14th, 2017 (Lebanon or Nashville)

UTAH

Skip Nelson, ARCSE Representative

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The following was contributed by Michael Nethery.

Mike and Nadine Nethery reported that, overall, they had seen improvement in their health and have enjoyed time with family at various times. This year their family increased in size by the birth of their sixth great grandchild last May. To celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary, a major bucket list item was checked off. They went on a 19-day cruise-tour to Australia and New Zealand.



Mike and Nadine Nethery with the Sydney Opera House and Harbor Bridge in the background

They thoroughly enjoyed themselves and saw an area of the world they had not previously visited. They engaged in activities like normal tourists: feeding kangaroos, observing penguins, the Tasmanian Devil, koalas, wallabies, and many other unique wildlife in captivity and in the wild. A total of ten different port calls in Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand were made, with excursions into the countryside around each stop. The visits included a variety of locations, such as botanical gardens, a sheep ranch, an abandoned penitentiary at Port Arthur, Tasmania, an aboriginal performance, and a Maori village. Also, the cruise included sailing in the fjords of Fjordsland National Park in New Zealand. The weather was good for all but one day's shore excursion.



1870's penitentiary at Port Arthur, Tasmania



Kangaroos being fed



King penguins



Black penguin on her egg



Maori Totems



The Living Maori Village, Rotorua, New Zealand

VIRGINIA

Kenneth Carter, ARCSE Representative

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After several decades of accelerated conservation work, many questions remain about the overall health of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Well the best way to access the success is not through modeling, sampling, or statistical formulas, but good old fashion hands-on biological monitoring with a rod and reel.

In early November, a group of conservationist ventured out on the waters of the Chesapeake to do just this type of monitoring. On the boat were: **Derwin Booker**, Chair of the Northern Neck SWCD; **John Peterson**, former NHQ and current Chair of the Northern Virginia SCD; **Don Wells**, former Asst. Director of the VA DCR and NACD staff; **Jack Frye**, Former Director of the Soil and Water Division of VA DCR, **Lee Hill**, VA DCR; **Mike Van Landingham**, VA DCR, and **Ken Carter**, retired Asst. State Conservationist, VA NRCS.



The ultimate biological sampling came later, with a garnish of sliced lemon, lemon pepper and butter baked at 350 degrees.

WASHINGTON, DC, NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

John Peterson, ARCSE Representative

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Joan Albertella sends, "Had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family, especially my older grandchildren. You learn so much from them. My granddaughter, **Captain Erin Griffen**, drove up from Fort Bragg. She could only be so many hours from Bragg, so I made the time limit. We drove into Arlington Cemetery to visit the Women's Military Museum and to register her there, along with the other wonderful women who served our country throughout the years. (Her mother, **Robin Griffen**, also is registered there.) I learned a lot about these women and their contributions as we viewed the various exhibits. Quite impressive and a worthwhile visit. Merry Christmas to you and Blanche."

John and Blanche Peterson went to the Fiesta Bowl football playoff game between Ohio State and Clemson on Dec. 31st. They were joined by daughter **Erin** from Longmont, CO. They then spent two weeks in Sedona, AZ. The Red Rock Country is a favorite of theirs since they lived in AZ from 1974-78. They also visited **John's** sister-in-law, **April Peterson**, who lives in Lake.

Hi, the **Byron Thompson's** have been traveling over the past few months. We went with a group to the northeast, visiting eleven states. In Oct. we were in the Tennessee mountains for a week, and now we are in Florida with family members. A total of 15 states visited. Also I will have four more years on the McCormick County Council. We ran onto Santa in the South resting for the big trip.

Carl Bouchard sent the following: "I posted the attached dialog on my Facebook page yesterday, but I think the story needs to go further than that. I have already heard back from recently diagnosed patients who were leaning toward 'Wait and See.' Hope I can help them make a decision. It's the third biggest killer after breast cancer and heart disease I believe."

Watchful Waiting, active surveillance, or more commonly known as "watch and see" in the treatment of Prostate cancer.

"Some of you may know that I was diagnosed with early prostate cancer about six years ago. In the meantime I have had three biopsies and a PSA that has been progressively increasing, even though I had a Gleason score of 6 at last biopsy. Now I had three choices when diagnosed: (1) Radical surgical removal of the Prostate, (2) Radiation either through selective seeding or overall radiation or (3) 'Watch and see' since it was still in an early stage. I always wondered what 'watch and see' was--see what? Well, over the past few years I have found out what 'watch and see' means. I chose 'watch and see' because I was told I could do the radiation seeding, but my prostate was larger than the machine could effectively cover. I was told I would probably die of something else, but my statistical survival was at least 10 years. So we proceeded under that premise. In the meantime I found out my Uncle Leon had been under 'watch and see.' One day his back pain and legs gave out and he went into the hospital. Diagnosis was that the prostate cancer had spread to his bones and hips. He was taken from us within two months of diagnosis. At the same time a younger cousin David was also diagnosed with prostate cancer. He decided to go with selective radiation seeding. His prostate was also larger than normal (guess it's in the genes). About five years later, his PSA started reappearing and increasing. He was also diagnosed with bone cancer spreading to his hips, and within 8 months he was also recently taken away from us. He tried several protocols from Hopkins, but he essentially went from fully active to being confined. At that point I determined that the 'see' was bone cancer. I worked with my GP **Dr. Hammer** and Urologist **Dr. Spana**, and I decided against going for another biopsy for which I was due and we did a bone scan. It came back clean. Thank you, God! I then decided that my only option to keep it that way was to have a radical prostatectomy, to cut it out. On the 3rd of November, I was admitted to Kent General, and Dr. Spana performed the operation using the Da Vinci machine. So I have 5 holes in my chest where the machine was hooked up and are covered with self-dissolving glue. I went in for overnight but being the weekend ended up staying for five days, being released last Monday when the only drain was removed. That left me with the catheter which was removed on Friday the 11th. I actually did not feel well enough to go get my free Veteran's day meal. Now I did get the biopsy. The Gleason score was up to 7, and the margins were clear. The significance is that a Gleason score of 8 does not guarantee containment possibility. So I got to it before it got to that point. Again, God was with me! I go see my GP as a courtesy on Friday. Today, a week after being released from the hospital, I can finally say that I feel I am regaining control of my bladder except when sneezing. So I am using pads, and if I have to use them the rest of my days, so be it. My cousin said he would never be relegated to a pad, which may have been the wrong decision; but that being an aside I miss his almost daily conversations up 'till the end. So the bottom line from this epistle is if you are diagnosed with prostate cancer, look at family history. If there is some, look at your circumstances and see what uncertainty there is, look at your potential longevity and decide. In my case, I should have said 6 years ago to take it out. I am posting this as a public post. Please feel free to share and pass on to help others who are needing to make a decision."

WASHINGTON

Gerald Richard, ARCSE Representative

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Present at our November and/or December luncheons at the Timber Creek Grill and Buffet were: **Jud Melton, Ralph Schmidt, Larry Edmonds, Carl Vennes, Ken Kaul, Harry Riehle, Lennie Husa, Jerry Richard and Chet Jahn. Stefan and Kathy Fechter** will be in Arizona from November to April and are looking forward to another great winter of spectacular Arizona sunrises and sunsets. **Jerry and Phyllis** had a good visit with **Jack and Laree Rasmussen** at their retirement facility. This will be their 3rd year. Jack is 93 and still keeping up with his daily exercise routine – that morning he had walked a mile to the library and back. **Phyllis** has had a serious bout of pneumonia that was also sepsis. She will be back home December 27th. Have also been in contact with **Russ Pringle** on the west side and **Jim Carley** in Utah and **Dick Porter** in Colorado. All doing fine. **Lennie and Florence Husa** cruised the inland passage to Alaska the last part of August through September 12th. **Larry Edmonds** had a major heart attack back in November. The Doctors put in a stent and Larry has since made an amazing recovery. After 5 days Larry told the Doctors that he is going home. The Doctors said OK, you can do most things but you can't feed your livestock until after the middle of January. And guess what, Larry was at the December luncheon, telling stories and looking good. **Ken Kaul** reported that **Austen Kaul**, his Grandson, applied for and received a \$1,000.00 NARFE 2016 Scholarship. He was a senior at

Midway High School in Waco, TX and is now a freshman majoring in Biomedical Engineering at Texas A&M. One of the application requirements was to compose and submit an essay. The topic of the essay was: "How is the agency in which your sponsor works/worked important in the daily life of an average citizen." If anyone would like a copy of the essay, e-mail Ken at kenkaul@msn.com.

NRCS: Developing the Backbone of America--Austen Kaul

For over the past 80 years, the Natural Resources Conservation Service has worked incessantly to provide the highest quality service to landowners and users in the United States of America. My grandfather, **Ken Kaul**, worked for NRCS for a majority of his professional career. He strongly believes that the best and most effective form of government is at the lowest local level. There is an NRCS office in each county that works in conjunction with locally elected supervisors of approximately 3,000 conservation districts in the United States. The NRCS teaches its employees to utilize every acre of land within its capability and treat it according to its needs. Local NRCS staff assists private landowners, tribes, organizations, and conservation districts. The NRCS was the primary force that ended the dust bowl and still is exceedingly important in the lives of millions in ways that typically go unnoticed. The NRCS benefits the average citizen through their public services, catalysts to production, and development of property.

The NRCS is not regulatory; participation in all of the agency's programs and technical assistance is completely voluntary. The primary goal of the NRCS is to assist private landowners, tribes, organizations, and conservation districts through programs like Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA). The benefits are as maintaining and improving private lands and protecting and improving water quality and quantity. Every person greatly benefits from CTA, because land and water are needed by everyone. The NRCS specializes in providing one-on-one help from local offices. Through local and individual assistance, the NRCS is able to effectively make changes in the nearby communities because the employees and offices work locally.

The United States is the largest sustained producers of food and fiber in the world. One of the primary reasons for this success is how the NRCS assists land users in planning and applying practices to maintain and enhance the soil. Nutritious soil is essential to producing adequate amounts of food, and the NRCS helps the United States remain the leader of food production in the world. Although the United States is generating the most food, the people of the United States spend less percentage of their income on food compared to any other nation in the world. This evidence demonstrates the efficiency of the NRCS and all of its employees. Furthermore, the United States produces the most food and fiber so citizens can live comfortably. The NRCS improves the land of food producers, such as farmers and ranchers, and organizations that benefit the surrounding communities and people. Additionally, people can utilize programs like the CTA for financial aid for their conservation programs and the enrichment of their land. The NRCS has relevant, positive effects on all citizens, even though most do not realize it.

One of NRCS's main goals is to enhance recreational opportunities and improve private and public land. Public land, such as parks and schools, is frequently used and needs to be maintained so that it does not become ruined. Farmers plagued with air quality issues can apply to the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to receive financial support to responsibly manage issues like greenhouse gases. Since protecting the quality of the air is essential to health of the citizens, the NRCS quietly aids private companies and various organizations in order to preserve and promote the public good.

The NRCS has a significant effect on the average citizen because it works on some of the most critical assets of human life behind the scenes. Every person in the U.S. can take full advantage of the opportunities to maintain and improve their land, water, and air. NRCS employees are able to assist land users on their land and at their request. Employees like my grandfather have helped countless Americans through the efforts of the NRCS.

WEST VIRGINIA

Peg Reese, ARCSE Representative

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Len Alvis, Soil Conservation Technician in Princeton, Retired on December 3rd, 2016. Congratulations Len!

State Conservation Engineer **Andy Dechart** wrote the following about Civil Engineer **Sam Ware**, Parkersburg, WV who died Sept. 23rd, 2016 from cancer:

In September we said goodbye to a long-time SCS/NRCSer, an outstanding engineer, and a dear friend. Sam dedicated his professional career to this agency and its mission.

Sam's career with SCS/NRCS spanned 33 years. He worked on the more complex NRCS watershed dam projects for most of his career. In the 1980s, he started as an assistant inspector on Mill Creek Site 13 in Jackson County under the guidance of Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR) **Don Dodd, Sr.** and Chief Inspector **Harvey Mitchell**. Sam would work with Harvey for the next twenty years. From 1989-1991 Sam served as COTR on Mill Creek Site 9 in Jackson County. At Mill Creek Site 9, Sam again teamed with Chief Inspector Harvey Mitchell. In addition, he worked with assistant inspectors **Rodney Sites and Mat Lyons**, who is now the State Conservation Engineer in Virginia. Sam and Rodney would work together for many years. After Mill Creek Site 9, Sam moved on to Wheeling Creek Site 3 in Marshall County. He served as COTR in the early 1990s on this site. Wheeling Creek Site 3 was part of a multi-state watershed project. It has a large drainage area and sizeable embankment. In the mid-1990s, Sam served as COTR with **David Brackenrich** on Elk Twomile Creek Site 14 in Kanawha County. During the mid-1990s and early 2000s, Sam played a major role in the North Fork of Hughes River (NFHR) project that included a roller compacted concrete (RCC) dam, water treatment plant and associated water storage and transmission systems, and recreation facilities. One of his more challenging accomplishments was serving as COTR for the dam construction and the water treatment plant construction at the same time. Sam worked closely with **Dick Judy**, State Conservation Engineer, and Inspectors **Harvey Mitchell, Rodney Sites, Steve Gray, Dave Pierce**, and others. Shortly after completing the NFHR dam, Sam accepted the COTR duties on the Elkwater Fork RCC dam in Randolph County. Sam accepted this detail because he knew that it was best for the agency and the project given the experience he gained on North Fork of Hughes River RCC dam. Sam again teamed with State Conservation Engineer Dick Judy and Inspectors Rodney Sites, David Pierce, and **Alan Kerns**. During his career, Sam worked with many talented individuals.

During the majority of his career Sam also served as an Area/Resource Conservation Engineer in the West Area and then in the South Area, after the retirement of Loren Rice and the consolidation of areas in WV. In the latter stages of his career, he spent most of his time planning, designing, and assisting with construction of many conservation practices, as well as managing the engineering workload in his area of

responsibility. He was a valuable member of the post frame standard design/drawing update review team. Sam also served as acting State Conservation Engineer in Nevada and West Virginia.

Along with **Marvin Kerr**, now retired Soil Conservation Technician (SCT), Sam gave many of his fellow employees some insight into his keen sense of humor by transforming himself into "Sammy the Swami" for employee meetings, mostly in the West Area. The spoof on Johnny Carson's character "Carnac the Magnificent" provided us with an opportunity to laugh together and even a bit at ourselves.

As **Greg Stone**, ASTC-FO in the South expressed in his email, "Sam has left a legacy of conservation on the land as well as having made what I think is a much bigger impact among those of us who were influenced, taught, or mentored by Sam." The projects that Sam worked on will be here for many years to come, longer than all of us will be working for the agency. Sam brought a positive attitude, good work ethic, technically sound skill-set, and consideration for others to work each day. His lasting influence, teachings, and mentoring will be woven into the fabric of the agency moving forward by those of us who were lucky to be a part of his career and his life.

Sam will be missed by his co-workers in so many ways. Our thoughts and prayers remain with Sam's family who will continue to count his loss for many years to come. We are thankful to have walked the path alongside Sam. May his journey's end be filled with peace and joy. Link to this site for video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CBHA87EuxS8&feature=youtu.be>

NEW SENIOR CONSERVATIONISTS: *They have reached the minimum age of 83 years and have completed the Senior Conservationist Questionnaire. See IN MEMORIAM for the Senior Conservationists who have left us since the last Newsletter. Please help us identify retirees who should be named Senior Conservationists. Please provide their contact information to your ARCSE Representative or Regional Vice-President.*

Joseph W. Haas Sterling, VA
Kenneth W. Meyer Denison, IA

SENIOR CONSERVATIONIST CHRONICLE

Joseph W. Haas
Marc Safley, Chronicler, Senior Conservationist

Senior Conservationist **Joseph (Joe) Haas** was born June 21st, 1931 at Danville, Illinois. Danville is the county seat of Vermillion County and is about 35 miles east of Champaign-Urbana. Joe grew up on his family's farm. The farm was a general agricultural enterprise—livestock and grain. Joe attended local schools and graduated from Rossville High School in 1949. He entered the University of Illinois and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Engineering in 1953. Later (1964) he received a Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Stanford University.

Joe was drafted into the United States Army in October, 1953 and served until honorably discharged in 1955. He entered on duty with SCS in early 1956 at Edwardsville, Illinois as an agricultural engineer. He grasped an opportunity to enter into the PL-566 watershed program when he moved to Quincy, IL, in July, 1956 to take the job of Design Engineer for the Hadley Creek Pilot Watershed. He later became Project Engineer for that pilot watershed. In 1964 he became State Conservation Engineer at Champaign, IL, following a year of graduate school at Stanford University, resulting from a career education award funded by the Ford Foundation's National Institute of Public Affairs. He remained as the Illinois SCE until 1968 when he moved to Harrisburg, PA, as Assistant State Conservationist for Watersheds. In December, 1969 he again moved, this time to Washington, DC, to work as Assistant Director of the Watershed Planning Division. He later was named Director of the Watershed Operations Division and was promoted to the position of Assistant Chief for Watersheds in 1975. In a 1980 reorganization he was named Deputy Chief for Programs, which included responsibility for the management of both land and water resources programs of SCS. Later he was promoted to the position of Associate Chief, the second in command of the agency. It was from this position that Joe retired January 3rd, 1988.

Joe is especially honored by two of his many awards. He received the Presidential Rank Award for outstanding service to USDA. This award was presented by **President Ronald Reagan**. He also was honored by the University of Illinois when the University selected him "Distinguished Alumnus in Engineering." Joe was also instrumental in applying the 1970 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) guidelines to effect truly interdisciplinary planning to all project activity. As part of doing this, he organized a series of meetings across the country with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and SCS planning personnel to help both agencies understand the need for considering both biologic and soil and water resources in project impacts.

Joe married his high school sweetheart, **Lavona Green** on June 14th, 1953. Their union resulted in one daughter, **Cindy Siler**, now a software engineer for student loan programs, and two grandchildren, **Jessica**, a certified and licensed Athletic Trainer, and **Timothy**, now in his fourth year at West Virginia University, studying for a career in Mechanical Engineering. Unfortunately, Joe's wife Lavona passed away on August 16th, 2014 after 61 years of marriage.

OBITUARY INFORMATION

Ron Marlow, Secretary-Treasurer

When you receive word of someone passing, with little other information provided to you, obituaries can often be found by doing an advanced search using Google, using the full name of the deceased. If you do not have access to the web, Ron Marlow will be glad to do the search. Please send death notices and obituary information directly to Ron at arcse@cox.net. Always include the position or the spouse's position with SCS/NRCS.

Surname

In Memoriam

(Note: These are recent notices. For a complete list, please see www.arcse.org)

Baker	John Michael Baker (67) of Cameron, Missouri passed away on October 31, 2016. John was born in Kingston. He earned a Bachelor of Engineering Degree from the University of Missouri. He worked as a civil engineer for the State of Missouri in the Soil and Water Conservation Department. John was also Soil Conservation Technician for NRCS, retiring a few years ago. John was a veteran of the United States Air Force serving during Vietnam with tours in Thailand and Germany. Survivors: Two sisters, Shirley (Lester) Skouby, Cameron, and Cora Blackwell, Kansas City; and several nieces and nephews and their children. Memorial donations to the Missouri Veteran's Assistance League, Cameron.
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Barnett	Helen R. Barnett (89) passed away on October 2, 2016, in Winchester, Kentucky. Helen was the wife of James L. Barnett . She is survived by her husband and one son. Helen worked in the Personnel (HR) section of the Kentucky State Office of the Soil Conservation Service for 23 years prior to retirement. She always wore a smile and was always ready to help. Staff in the state office lovingly referred to her as "Momma Helen."
Bondurant	Senior Conservationist Dewey T. Bondurant (95) of Des Moines, Iowa passed away at Wesley Acres on December 17, 2016. Dewey was born in Bazine, Kansas. Dewey graduated high school from Ness City, Kansas. He lived in western Kansas, in part of the Dust Bowl, and saw the erosion problems firsthand. He had one year of college at Emporia State Teachers College before going into the military. He was part of the Kansas National Guard until he was mobilized to Emporia, Kansas with the Company B 137 th Infantry. He did training in Little Rock, Arkansas followed by communications training. He served in the military from 1939 until September 1945. In January 1942, Dewey was part of the Signal Corp 3103 Battalion stationed in England. His job was misdirecting the Germans to think the Allied landing into France would be at a site other than Normandy. Dewey also did similar work at the Battle of the Bulge. As Dewey said, "I helped make it look like the Army was going to go one way, but instead they were planning to go another way." After World War II, he attended Kansas State University for three years. He graduated from there with a degree in Agricultural Engineering. Dewey described one memorable moment in college: "...watching Kansas State beat Wichita State in football. It was the team's only football victory in my three years of school there!" After graduation, Dewey moved to Council Bluffs, Iowa and worked in the Soil Conservation Service. Dewey married Georgia Famous Slavik in February 1949 and became a step-father to Carole Slavik and Mike Slavik . In December 1949, Robert was born to Georgia and Dewey. The family lived in Council Bluffs, Storm Lake, and Shenandoah before settling in Des Moines in 1961. Georgia and Dewey loved dancing together (square, round, and line dancing). Dewey continued to line dance and ballroom dance well into his 80s. Dewey also was an expert jelly, jam, and preserve maker, winning multiple ribbons at the Iowa State Fair, including the top award for strawberry preserves. Dewey was an agricultural engineer with the USDA Soil Conservation Service, retiring in 1980 after serving many years as the State Conservation Engineer in Iowa. He was a 50+ year member of Grace United Methodist Church. Among survivors are Robert (Monica) of Urbandale; a step-son, Michael Slavik (Sharon) of Springdale, Arkansas; seven step-grandchildren; and many step great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Georgia (1997) and his step-daughter, Carole Slavik Carpenter (1999). Memorials may be given to his church.
Counce	Richard Crosby Counce (85) of Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri passed away on October 28, 2016 in Laurie Care Center. He was born in Hayes Center, Nebraska. Richard is survived by his wife of 61 years, Phyllis , of the home; a daughter, a son, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Dick was a graduate of Hayes Center High School. He was drafted into the United States Army where he attained the rank of Corporal in two short years. He was honorably discharged and returned to the family ranch. He operated the cattle ranch and farm until 1977, at which point he became an auctioneer and opened an auction house in Franktown, Colorado. He later worked as a Soil Conservation Technician for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Dodge City, Kansas, where he won numerous awards, retiring in the early 2000s. Dick moved to the Lake of the Ozarks in 2005. He was a member of New Life Church of the Nazarene in Camdenton. He was also a sixty-one year member of the American Legion, and was a past member of the Elks Lodge. Memorial donations may be made to the STAFF Animal Care Center and left at the church. Online condolences maybe left at www.alleeholmanhowe.com .
Doren	Kenneth W. Van Doren (84) of Chaumont, New York passed away on November 22, 2016 at the Samaritan Summit Village in Watertown NY. He was the Valedictorian of the 1950 Lyme Central Graduation Class and attended Cornell University before returning home to assist his father with the family farm. He operated his own dairy farm near Chaumont from 1953 until 1959 when he joined GLF, and in 1963 he became manager of the GLF bulk feed facility in Canton. In 1969 he became a Soil Scientist with the USDA Soil Conservation Service and worked for SCS until his retirement in 1992. After moving back home to Chaumont. Ken was active for many years in the Lyme Free Library and was devoted to the care of Joanne his beloved wife of 63 years. In addition to being survived by his wife, he is survived by three sons, six grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to the Lyme Free Library in Chaumont.
Fuchs	Member and Senior Conservationist Westal Wayne Fuchs (89) of Fort Worth, Texas and formerly of Temple passed away on November 29, 2016 at his residence. He was born in Mayfield, OK. He graduated from New Liberty High School in 1944. He attended Abilene Christian College for two years, joining the U.S. Navy in 1946. He trained in San Diego and then served aboard Landing Ship Tank RL26 in China. After one year and nine months of service, he returned to ACC and then transferred to Texas Technological College, where he completed a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in August 1950. He began his career with the Soil Conservation Service in the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Lamesa. He was transferred to Spur in 1951 and then Post. He moved to Temple in 1965, where he served as the assistant state soil scientist of Texas. More moves and promotions followed to the Fort Worth Regional Service Center, Stillwater, OK as state soil scientist; Washington, DC in the Department of Agriculture, Office of Budgets; and back to the Fort Worth Regional Service Center. He retired from the SCS Blackland Research Center in Temple in 1986. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Temple and later of Gambrell Street Baptist Church. He was preceded in death by a son, Mark Allen Fuchs . Survivors include his wife of 64 years, Patsy ; a son, Paul Fuchs of Keller; a daughter, Deborah Sue Jones of Temple; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Gambrell Street Baptist Church or any charity.
Grube	Wayne R. Grube (80) of Hershey, Pennsylvania passed away on November 22, 2016. He graduated from Penn State University with a degree in Forestry. He was born in Bethlehem, PA. Wayne is survived by his wife Maryann , a son Jeremiah , a daughter Jessica , and six grandchildren. He was pre-deceased by an infant brother and a son, Joshua . He retired from the USDA Soil Conservation Service in 1993, having served on the Watershed Staff for many years and worked additional years for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture in Farmland Preservation. Wayne was a member of Christ Community Church, Camp Hill. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions be made to Grace International, Inc. P.O. Box 172508 Hialeah, FL 33017.
Hendricks	Master Sgt. Louis Patrick Hendricks , U.S. Air Force (Retired) (51) succumbed to glioblastoma brain cancer on October 30, 2016. Louis died peacefully in his home in Columbia, Missouri surrounded by his loving family. He had battled cancer for more than a year. Following graduation from Millard High School in 1983, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, where he served for 20 years. It was in the Air Force that he met his beloved wife, Alicia , whom he married May 22, 1993. After retiring from the military, Louis continued to work for the federal government in the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. His jobs included contracting, grants and agreements specialist, and most recently, as the state administrative officer. He was devoted to his faith and dedicated many hours to studying the Bible, sharing his faith and volunteering as a sound engineer at Forum Christian

	Church. In 2013, he earned his bachelor's degree in biblical studies from Moody Bible Institute. He is survived by his devoted wife of 23 years, Alicia , their daughter, Ashlyn , and their sons, Louis, Justin and Benjamin . He is also survived by his parents, Fred and Mary Hendricks . Memorials may be made to the Head for the Cure Foundation or to the Hendricks family.
Hines	Beecher J. Hines (84) passed away on November 14, 2016 at home on his farm. Born in Poplarville, Kentucky, he was a geologist for the Soil Conservation Service, retiring in 1994 with 39 years of service. He was a 40-year member at Leesburg Christian Church. He is survived by his wife, Ruby Landrum Hines ; two sons, Douglas (Sara) Hines and Daryl (Brooke) Hines ; a daughter, Deborah (Jeffery) Brock , and nine grandchildren. His son Doug works for NRCS in the state office. Beecher served in the US Army from September 14, 1954, until June 13, 1956. He graduated from Berea College with a B.A. degree in geology.
Holen	Senior Conservationist Betty J. Holen (92) of Monona, Wisconsin passed away on December 16, 2016, at Agrace Hospice Care, peacefully in her sleep. She was born in Clifton Township, Grant County, WI. Betty graduated from Fennimore High School in 1942 and attended Madison Business College. She married Theodore Holen on April 24, 1954. Betty worked for the U.S. Government for the Office of Price Administration (OPA), the U.S. Air Force, and the USDA Soil Conservation Service. She worked in the State office as a secretary and administrative assistant, retiring in 1983. She was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary and the Disabled American Veteran's Auxiliary. Betty is survived by her loving husband of 62 years, Ted ; daughter, Karen (Greg) Kehring ; son, Eric (Lori) Holen ; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Trinity Lutheran Church and Agrace Hospice Care. Online condolences may be made at www.gundersonfh.com .
Hughes	Paul A. Hughes, Jr. (69) of Cornville, Maine passed away unexpectedly at the Maine General Hospital in Augusta on November 12, 2016 after a long battle with lymphoma. He was born in Newport. In 1969, he graduated from the University of Maine at Orono, where he was a member of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity, with a Bachelor of Science in Plant & Soil Sciences. He later received his Master of Science in Vegetable Crops & Plant Physiology from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. After proudly serving in the U.S. Army Reserves in Dexter for a number of years, Paul spent over 30 years working for the USDA as a soil scientist and crop agronomist, working in many different areas all over the state of Maine before retiring in 2005 from the Natural Resources Conservation Service State Office in Bangor. He was exceptionally proud of the house he built for his family in Cornville and of the strawberry farm he ran for many years. He was a longtime supporter of 4-H, leading the South Solon Hustlers club for many years when his children were younger. Paul is survived by his wife of 46 years, Kathleen Hughes , of Cornville, two children, and two grandchildren.
Layton	Member Robert "Bob" Layton (89) of Portsmouth, New Hampshire passed away on November 16, 2016, at his home surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Russellville, Ohio. Bob graduated from Russellville High School with the Class of 1945 and was a veteran of World War II, enlisting with the US Navy on the day of his graduation. After serving his country, he attended the University of Miami before transferring to the Ohio State University where he received his Bachelor's degree in agricultural engineering. Bob was employed as an agricultural engineer for the Soil Conservation Service. He moved to New Hampshire in 1964 and retired from the Watershed Planning Staff in 1978. After his retirement he continued consulting in soil and water conservation. After some continuing education he received his teaching degree and taught general science at Portsmouth Middle School. He finally retired in 1991. Bob was an active member of the North Church serving several years as president of the Church Council. He was also active with the Portsmouth Community Development Committee for 37 years and served on the committee of the Renovation of Market Square Committee. He was a 58-year member of the Lions Club, joining in Ohio and transferring to the Portsmouth Lions Club where he was made a Melvin Jones Fellow and was a past president. He was also a member of Russellville Masonic Lodge #166, Russellville, Ohio. He shared 62 loving years of marriage with his wife Carolyn (Maxson) Layton . In addition to his wife he leaves three children: Nancy Layton and her husband Peter Anania of Portsmouth, Andrew (Judith) Layton of Deering, Daniel (Lorinda) of North Berwick, Maine, and three grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Portsmouth Lions Club, P.O. Box 944, Portsmouth, NH, 03802 or to the North Church Memorial Fund, 355 Spinney Rd., Portsmouth, NH, 03801. Please visit www.RemickGendron.com to view Bob's memorial website, sign his tribute wall.
McMullen	Member James R. McMullen (78) of Hillsdale, Pennsylvania passed away on September 24, 2016 after being diagnosed with stage 4 brain cancer on July 20 th . Jim retired from the Natural Resources Conservation Service in 1997 as a Farm Bill Specialist on the Conservation Operations Division staff in Washington, DC. His wife Elaine preceded him in death several years ago.
Moody	Member Wendell Bruce Moody (80) of Eden, Texas passed away on October 13, 2016 in Dallas at the home of his son Steven , and daughter-in-law Cheryl , after a long illness. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Carolyn , son Steven Moody and his wife Cheryl , and granddaughter Carolyn Zarnbinski and her husband Aaron Zarnbinski . Wendell was born in Tulia, Texas. A 1954 graduate of Eden High School, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Engineering from Texas Tech University in 1957. He returned to Texas Tech in 1961 and earned his Master of Science Degree in Civil Engineering. He received his Texas Registered Professional Engineers License in 1967. Wendell's professional career spanned 1956 to 1994. He began as a summer Engineering Trainee in Stanton, Texas in 1956. He advanced through the ranks of Agricultural Engineering Field and Area Offices of the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in Big Spring, Texas, and Civil Engineering Soil Mechanics, and Design offices at the South National Technical Center in Ft. Worth, Texas. Wendell was Assistant State Conservation Engineer in Temple before he became the State Conservation Engineering in Champaign, Illinois in 1974. Four years later, he was promoted to Head of Engineering at the SCS's Midwest National Technical Center in Lincoln, Nebraska until 1984. He finished his career at the USDA National Headquarters, in Washington, DC, as Deputy Director of Engineering. His professional organization memberships were numerous. He was a Life Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. After 38 years with the SCS, Wendell returned to his hometown of Eden, Texas in 1994, and started the busiest chapter of his life in community service. Since then, he served continuously on and as an officer on many local and regional boards (civic, governmental, and water conservation/planning) including 12 years on the Eden City Council, 20 years as Adult Bible Class teacher and Trustee of Eden Trinity Lutheran Church, and over 20 years on the Civil Engineering Academy, Texas Tech University.
Moran	Member Moran Betty J. Moran (92) of Westerville, Ohio passed away on December 8, 2016. Her husband Kyle was Assistant State Conservation Engineer for SCS. In lieu of flowers, it is Betty's wishes that donations be made to Ohio Bible Mission, Peniel Bible Camp, 3260 OH-314, Fredericktown, OH 43019. Condolences at morelandfuneralhome.com
Murphy	Member George T. Murphey (88) of Greencastle, Indiana passed away peacefully on October 30, 2016. George is survived by his wife of

more than 68 years, **Elizabeth Stovall** and children **Michael (Debbie)** and **David (Cristina)**, and three grandchildren. A daughter **Susan** predeceased him in 1992. He was born on a farm near Mayfield, Ky. After graduating from Mayfield High School in 1945, George volunteered in the U.S. Army. He attended the University of West Virginia and the University of Illinois in the Army Specialized Training Program. He received basic training at Fort Knox, KY and received an honorable discharge in October 1946. George went on to receive a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture from Murray State University in 1948 and graduate studies at the University of Kentucky. After college graduation, George taught vocational agriculture at three different high schools in Kentucky. He went on to work at the Atomic Energy Plant located near Paducah, KY for three years prior to beginning his career with the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in 1955 in Princeton, IN. The SCS transferred George to Covington, IN, for two years and then finally to Putnam County in 1957, where he would work for 27 years prior to his retirement in 1985. George's retirement from the SCS was just the beginning of a second career and numerous volunteer activities. George went on to be a farm manager for farms in Central Indiana, an agricultural consultant for a number of local banks, and a consultant for conservancy districts throughout Indiana. George was very involved in and giving to his community. He and Elizabeth were active members of the First Baptist Church for more than 50 years. For all of his tireless efforts in the community, George received the Friend of the Farmer award from the Putnam County Farm Bureau in 1996 and the Distinguished Hoosier Award from **Gov. Mitch Daniels** in 2005. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Putnam County Memorial Cancer Research Fund at the Putnam County Community Foundation.

Offerman	Honorary Member and Senior Conservationist Elmer E. Offerman (93) of Coventry, Connecticut passed away on December 3, 2014. He was born in Illinois. He was a graduate of the University of Illinois, College of Agriculture. He worked for the USDA Soil Conservation Service, retiring in 1984 as a Public Information Officer after many years of dedicated service. He will be remembered as a kind man who loved his family and close friends. He was an avid reader and loved to stay up on current events. He is survived by two daughters-in-law Sylvia and Barbara , two sons-in-law Robert and Konstant , and four grandchildren. Elmer is predeceased by his first wife Margaret of 28 years and his second wife Marie of 19 years, both of whom he loved very much. He was also predeceased by his son Thomas and a granddaughter Robin . In lieu of flowers, please make a charitable donation to the charity of your choice. For online memorial guestbook please visit www.potterfuneralhome.com .
Petrie	Neal A. Petrie (87) of Oakley, Kansas passed away on November 24, 2016 at the Colby Health and Rehab Center. He was born in Pratt, KS. He was a farmer and a Soil Conservation Service Technician in the Oakley field office, retiring in the mid-1980s. Neal enjoyed hunting and fishing, farming, and was an arborist. Survivors include his wife of 67 years, Retha of the home, a son, a daughter, and a granddaughter. Memorials of the donor's choice may be sent in care of Kennedy-Koster Funeral Home, P.O. Box 221, Oakley, KS 67748. Sign online guest book at www.kennedykosterfh.com .
Schuetz	Sharon Schuetz (75) of Oberlin, Kansas passed away on November 4, 2016. She was born in Oberlin. Her husband Jerry served as the District Conservationist for SCS in the Oberlin Field Office, retiring in 1989. Survivors include her husband, Jerry, of Oberlin; two daughters and four grandsons. She was preceded in death by two daughters.
Sherwood	Senior Conservationist Max A. Sherwood (87) of Carroll, Iowa, passed away on May 14, 2014 at the Dallas County Medical Center in Perry, Iowa. Born on a farm near Chester, Nebraska, he was baptized in the Christian Church, belonged to 4-H and the Dairy, Beef and Garden Clubs. In February of 1945, Max was drafted into the United States Army and took basic and advanced infantry training in Texas. He served in the 967 th Anti-Aircraft Battalion in the Philippines. He also served in the 6 th Army Infantry Regiment in Korea. He was honorably discharged in December on 1946. He then joined the United States Naval Reserves at Lincoln Nebraska in 1947 and was honorably discharged in 1952. Max attended the Agricultural College at the University of Nebraska from 1947–1950 and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Soil Science and Soil Conservation. He also attended the Soil Science Institute at Iowa State University. Max worked as a soil conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service and Bureau of Reclamation in North Dakota, Nebraska, and Montana before moving to Iowa in 1967. He worked on soil surveys for 31 years, being crew chief for 15 years, retiring in 1984. He also worked 5 years in western Nebraska and as a county Agricultural agent for the Extension Service. He was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Carroll. He was involved in senior fellowship, prayer time, adult Bible class, and attending services with the church at nursing homes. Max was a charter member of the Carroll County Genealogical Society and a member of the Professional Soil Classifiers of Iowa. He was also a member of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, the Carroll Recreation Center, the Iowa Chapter of Royal Rover Campers, and the Carroll American Legion. Max is survived by his wife of 65 years, Leona of Carroll; a daughter Nancy (Steven) Wymore of Oskaloosa, Iowa; two sons, Craig (Jan) Sherwood of Nevada, Iowa, and Brian Sherwood of Canton, Texas; seven grandchildren; and ten great grandchildren.
Stockwell	Senior Conservationist Donald M. Stockwell (98) of Groton, Massachusetts formerly of Leverett, MA, passed away peacefully on November 4, 2016 after a long and courageous battle with Alzheimer's. He retired in 1984 as a design engineer with the Soil Conservation Service. Born in Springfield, MA, he grew up in various locations including Amherst NH which he considered his boyhood home. He lost his father William Stockwell to influenza when he was an infant and was raised by his mother Florence Beechler Harris . After attending boarding school at St. Bernard's School for boys in Gladstone, NJ, he went to the University of New Hampshire where he played freshman football and graduated with a B.S. degree in civil engineering. He was a veteran of World War II where he was a Technical Sergeant in General George Patton's Third Army. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge and received five battle stars and a bronze star. He was honorably discharged on November 30, 1945.
Strong	Honorary Member and Senior Conservationist Marion E. Strong (98) of Tempe, Arizona passed away October 20, 2016. He was born near Clarksville, Michigan. Marion loved the P-38 Lightning, which he piloted in WWII; and his alma mater, Purdue University. He had a thirty-year career with the Soil Conservation Service, culminating in his appointment as Assistant Chief for the Midwest Region and Director of the Midwest Technical Service Center in Lincoln, Nebraska. After retiring in 1980 and moving back to Arizona, he served as treasurer for his church, The Church on Mill, until he was in his eighties. Marion was married to Ruth Lucile Skiles for nearly 63 years. She preceded him in death. He is survived by daughters Linda (Peter) Nelson of Mesa, and Marcia (Mark) Middents of Tempe, son James (MaryAnn) of Kent, WA and six grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that donations be made in Marion's name to Honor Flight Arizona, P.O. Box 12258 Prescott, AZ 86304 or online at www.honorflightaz.org .
Timothy	Brian E. Timothy (67) of Wyoming, New York passed away on December 11, 2016 at the Wyoming County Community Hospital in Warsaw. He was born in Warsaw. Brian was a veteran of the US Air Force. He worked for many years as a soil conservationist and District Conservationist in Wyoming County for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and also an instructor for

Conservation Field Days, and was a passionate advocate for wildlife naturalization. Brian was an avid hunter and was an instructor for Hunter Safety courses. Surviving along with his mother are his wife of forty-eight years, **Susan Stothers Timothy**; his two sons, and his three grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to University of Rochester Office of Gift and Donor Records, 300 E. River Rd., PO Box 270032, Rochester, NY 14623 (transplant services) or National Rifle Association, 11250 Waples Mill Rd., Fairfax, VA 22030. Online condolences at www.robinsonandhackemer.com

Treadway **Dwight Moore Treadway** (82) of Jonesborough, Tennessee passed away on November 29, 2016 after a lengthy illness. He was born in Jonesborough. Dwight was an Agricultural Engineer and a University of Tennessee graduate. He enjoyed a long and distinguished career spanning 36 years in the USDA Soil Conservation Service, retiring in Washington, DC as Director of Information for the organization. Upon retirement, he returned to Jonesborough and took great pleasure working around his tree farm. Dwight was preceded in death by son **Tim** and granddaughter **Morgan Burger**. Those he leaves behind to cherish his memories are his wife **Emma Sue**, Jonesborough; daughter **Audrey (Steve) Burger**, Lebanon; son **Keith (Vicky)**, Johnson City; and five grandchildren.

Wells **Doris Faye Wells** (59) of Stephenville, Texas passed away May 24, 2016. She was the spouse of **Chester Wells** who retired in 1974 as a district conservationist in the Burlington, Kansas field office and preceded her in death in 2009. Doris was born in Mineral Wells, and she worked in the nursing field for many years.

Whitaker **Josephine Stone Whitaker** (79) of Crab Orchard, Kentucky formerly of Richmond, passed away October 30, 2016. She was born in Richmond, Kentucky. She was a farming business partner with her husband and had a keen interest in health and natural remedies and enjoyed music, both singing and playing her guitar. She was a longtime member of the Crab Orchard Christian Church. She is survived by her loving husband of 60 years, **Orville J. Whitaker** of Crab Orchard; two sons, **Doug Whitaker (Julie)** of Brooks, KY, and **Larry Whitaker (Sharon Toller)** of Aberdeen, OH; and one grandson. Orville is a retired NRCS Soil Scientist, and son Larry works for NRCS in Ohio. In lieu of flowers, people are encouraged to make donations to the Crab Orchard Christian Church, P O Box 393, Crab Orchard, KY 40419.



Rescued Screech Owl



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