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**NEWSLETTER**

The Newsletter for Retired SCS and NRCS Employees

Vol. 41, No. 1 January/February, 2014

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*John Stierna*

Farm Bill Status: What was to be the 2012 Farm Bill, and later pushed into 2013, is now slated to be the 2014 Farm Bill. The four principals, Senators Debbie Stabenow and Thad Cochran, and Representatives Frank Lucas and Collin Peterson, appear to have reached some level of agreement on the major Farm Bill issues that had been outstanding. The intent is to share the terms of the agreement with other conferees prior to public disclosure—likely in early January after the Congress returns to Washington. In the meantime, the House has passed a short term extension of the Farm Bill, but the Senate is unlikely to take up that bill.

Although little has been made public, most of the conservation title provisions are very similar between the bills passed by the House and Senate, so very few surprises are expected. The final bill will almost certainly include a consolidation of easement programs, creation of a regional conservation partnership program, shrinking of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and a slowing of enrollment in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) will absorb the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP). Funding for conservation programs will be reduced compared to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) baseline, but the amount is not known at this time.

One point of contention in the commodity title has been whether to use actual planted acres or historical base acres as a basis for determining benefits. Dairy provisions also need to be resolved.

The eligibility criteria for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (also known as food stamps) will be tightened somewhat in order to obtain savings.

Budget Deal and a User Fee for Conservation Planning: The House and Senate passed the Bipartisan Budget Act (HJR 59) that establishes budget limits for the next two fiscal years—2014 and 2015 (<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d113:hj59>). The package, negotiated by Rep Paul Ryan and Senator Patty Murray, Chairs of the House and Senate Budget Committees, requires appropriations committee action to complete a set of appropriation bills or an omnibus bill before January 15th to avoid another government shutdown. With the budget and the appropriation bills in place, it will help avoid Congress lurching from crisis to crisis and get back to a regular order of business. However, the debt ceiling issue will be a topic of debate leading into February.

The enacted budget deal includes a provision that authorizes a user fee for conservation planning technical assistance. The fee would be capped at \$150 per conservation plan, but could be waived in the case of beginning, socially disadvantaged, or limited resource farmers or ranchers. It could also be waived for Highly Erodible Land (HEL) compliance plans or conservation plans to help comply with Federal, State, or local regulatory requirements. The fees would be deposited into a “Conservation Technical Assistance Fund” in the US Treasury, and would be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture. The details in the legislative language show that the proposal amends the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act (the 1935 Act) and retains the fees for subsequent use for conservation technical assistance, but subject to appropriations. This fee provision is estimated to raise a very modest \$4 million/year or \$40 million over ten years.

A number of organizations, including the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD),

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES

American Farmland Trust, National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, and the National Farmers Union, have issued statements opposing the fee. A user fee could discourage some producers from seeking or updating a conservation plan, and could hinder the supportive relationship NRCS has with farmers and ranchers. It would be an added administrative burden for NRCS for collecting and accounting for all such funds.

Some other details in the Bipartisan Budget Act:

- An increase in retirement program contributions by new Federal employees.
- A reduction in the COLA adjustment for military retirees under age 62.

Cost of Living Adjustment: Retired Federal employees and entitled surviving family members of deceased Federal employees and retirees will receive a 1.5% Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) effective December 1, 2013 and payable January 2, 2014. The COLA percentage applies both to participants in the CSRS and FERS retirement systems. The COLA applies if benefits have been received for at least one year, otherwise it will be prorated on a monthly basis.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Warren M. Lee, wandblee@comcast.net

On behalf of your national officers and staff, I wish to extend a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We hope in 2013 that you and your families have been blessed with good health, happiness, and great friendships, and that 2014 continues those many blessings.

Barb and I made our annual migration from Virginia to our winter home in Venture Out RV Resort Community located in Mesa, AZ. The trip across the country included cold temperatures, freezing rain, snow and icy roads. It was great to drop south from Flagstaff with a temperature of -4°F to Mesa with a temperature of 70°F.

During this past year we have had the opportunity to renew acquaintances with many former colleagues. We are all very fortunate to have worked for an organization that had a great mission and a talented and skilled workforce. There are four of us retired SCS/NRCS employees living in the Venture Out. I recently met two former college classmates that were members of the Alpha Gamma Rho (AGR) fraternity living here as well. Over the years I met many SCS/NRCS employees that were AGRs. It has been great renewing our friendships.

If your travels bring you to Mesa, AZ this winter, venture in to see us. You may like Venture Out and make it your new winter home.

ARCSE President's Award for Outstanding Community Service

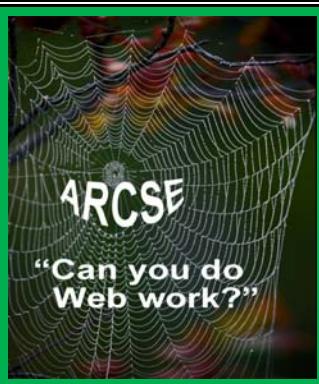
It is time once again to start thinking about potential nominees for the award. Nominations for the award and documentation (no more than 2 pages) of the qualifications of the nominee are to be made by the ARCSE Representative. Nominees' names and qualifications will be sent to the Regional Vice President **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 new Web Master is still needed for the ARCSE web site.

If you have web editing and publishing skills and would like to help support a very worthwhile organization, please contact any of the following people who can provide more information. If you think that you, or another member, or a soon-to-be-retiree might be interested, please take a look at the web site, www.arcse.org, to get a feel for its content and depth of the site. If you have questions or recommendations, please contact either:

Warren Lee, wandblee@comcast.net; Ron Marlow, arcse@cox.net; or Jerry Bernard, jbernard.nrcsret@gmail.com

A BIT OF HISTORY

Douglas Helms, Historian

Email: douglas_helms@verizon.net

Teamwork to Save Soil and Increase Production

As the deadline nears to submit one of these history vignettes and I start wondering about the subject, an incident will sometimes provide inspiration. It has happened again. Following our 50th high school reunion in North Carolina, two classmates, **Terry and Joyce Downes**, and I arranged for lunch in Philadelphia and a visit to the National Constitution Center. I asked the name of their town, and Terry responded: "Newtown. It's close to Washington Crossing." I remembered a short sighting of this famous Revolutionary War site, when three other SCSers and I drove up to Honey Hollow watershed to meet with the people organizing an environmental education center there.

The Honey Hollow watershed comprises some 840 acres in the Solebury Township of Bucks County, Pennsylvania. The farmers of Honey Hollow watershed had a long history with SCS. In 1939 some six farmers heard of the work of the new Federal agency, then visited farmers in a neighboring country who were working with SCS, and then contacted SCS for assistance. After the farmers agreed to work together, SCS staff prepared the conservation farm plans and helped in laying out the conservation practices, mostly but not limited to contour stripcropping.

The conservation showplace became a favorite with **Hugh Hammond Bennett**, who asked one of the six farmers, **P. Alston Waring**, to write about the collective conservation action in the watershed. Waring told the story in a USDA bulletin, *Teamwork To Save Soil and Increase Production*.

<http://books.google.com/books?id=MBkuAAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false>

After World War II, as the suburbs spread, some of the farmers feared that the farmland would be converted to housing. Plans for a major four-lane highway and power lines that would bisect the watershed spurred the landowners to action. In 1969 the watershed was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The **Crooks** family donated the Tuckamony Farm land and buildings for environmental education in 1980. In 1994 Bucks County Audubon Society purchased the adjacent farm, and in 1998 renovated a historic barn for the visitors center for their many environmental education programs.

You can read more about the history and current activities in the watershed at these sites:

<http://www.heritageconservancy.org/projects/honey-hollow-watershed-symposium>

<http://www.heritageconservancy.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Brochure.pdf>

<http://www.bcas.org>

ANNUAL REPORT ON FINANCES AND MEMBERSHIP

by Ron Marlow, Secretary Treasurer

ARCSE Membership Report – Fiscal

Year 2013 (ending June 30, 2013)

No. of members: 1056. Of these, 345 are lifetime members. There were 59 new members in FY13; of these 31 were complimentary. 15 of the 19 complimentary in FY12 joined in FY13. 48 members dropped at the cut-off on May 1, including four FY12 complimentary.

There are 784 newsletters distributed by email. There are 336 senior conservationists, a decrease of six from the 342 shown in the last report.

Monetary Contributions to ARCSE

ARCSE is fortunate to have a membership that continues to make generous contributions to support our operations. During our last fiscal year that ended June 30, individual contributions totaled \$1,442. The Board offers a big **thank you** to each of the 83 members who made a contribution.

The President's Message in the 2011 Nov/Dec. Newsletter included a special appeal to Life Members to make a contribution. 14 life Members contributed \$816 in FY 2013.

A review of the ARCSE records from FY 2002 through FY 2013 shows \$14,995 in contributions having been made by 469 different members. We can all be thankful for so many generous members that willingly contribute additional financial resources to support ARCSE. Cumulative individual contributions during that time have ranged from \$1.00 to a high of \$461, with 33 members contributing \$100 or more and an additional 134 contributing \$25 or more.

The Internal Revenue Service has determined that ARCSE is a 503(c)(4) organization. Unfortunately, contributions to 503(c)(4) organizations are not tax deductible by donors.

Budget Report, Fiscal Year 2013

(July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013)

Income	
Item	FY 13 Actual
Annual Mtg.-TX	925
Dues	13,403 ^{1/}
Interest Income	390
Contributions	626
Contributions (Life Members)	816
Reserve Funds	700
Total	16,860

Expenses	
Administration	2,859
Special Incentives	1,000
Annual Mtg.-TX	3,422
Newsletter	8,773
WebPage	600
Awards	91
Membership	20 ^{2/}
Investment Charge	95
Total	16,860

ARCSE Assets

As of 07/05/2013, (Includes unrealized gains)

Liquid Assets	
Total Bank Accounts (Savings and Checking)	13,395.92
Investment Accounts	
Certificates of Deposit Totaling	23,301.72
OVERALL TOTAL Assets	36,697.64 ^{3/}
OVERALL TOTAL—(07/01/2012)	37,623.82
NET CHANGE	- 926.18 ^{4/}

^{1/} Includes \$2300 in Lifetime Dues for 15 lifetime memberships; 642 members currently pay dues on an annual basis accounting for approximately \$11,100.

^{2/} Membership in CCC Legacy.

^{3/} This level of total assets is needed to meet future amortized lifetime membership expenses.

^{4/} Total assets have decreased nine of the last ten years.

2014 Dues Notice--As of December 25, 2013, 2014 dues have not been received for 256 members.

Members receiving the newsletter by hard copy: A dues notice was included with the hard copy of the Nov/Dec 2103 edition of the newsletter (blue page insert). Please follow the instructions on the notice concerning the address label information to determine if your dues are due. Send dues to

Ronald L. Marlow
ARCSE, P. O. Box 7454
Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7454

Members receiving the electronic newsletter: A dues notice is not included with the electronic newsletter.

Members receiving the electronic newsletter whose dues are due received a separate email from ARCSE on November 3, 2013. Please watch for a follow up email notice in early January. Life members and members who have already paid their 2014 dues will not receive the email transmitting a dues notice.

Complimentary membership

When you have retiree social functions or any other time that you see new retirees from NRCS, be sure to remind them that they are eligible for a one-year free membership if they retired on or after January 1, 2003. All that is required is that they submit a membership application (<http://www.arscse.org/qFormMember.htm>). Note that previous members of ARCSE are not eligible for the complimentary membership.

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

**DEADLINE FOR
MARCH/APRIL 2014 NEWSLETTER
CONTRIBUTIONS IS FEBRUARY 25**

ARIZONA

Karl Klingelhofer, ARCSE Representative

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Ron and Barb Moreland in South America

Ron and Barb Moreland took a 3 1/2 week trip to Latin America in Nov. and Dec. We did all the planning for the trip ourselves. We went first to Panama City and went through the canal on a ship small enough that we could touch the sides of the canal, and the locks opened a few feet in front of us. Then on to the wonderful city of Santiago, Chile, rented a car to visit wineries of the Colchagua Valley and then on to a lodge in the Andes where we took a horseback ride deep into the mountains. From Santiago we took a bus over the Andes to Mendoza, Argentina. One does have to have a certain blind faith in the bus driver on this spectacular and scary ride. Four wine saturated days in lovely Mendoza. We then flew to Iguazu Falls on Brazil border. Iguazu is very worthy of its World Heritage Site designation and should be on everyone's bucket list—majestic!

We stayed at the Sheraton in the park and were warned to keep our patio door locked when we were not in the room to keep the monkeys out—well, it is a jungle! Then a week in an apartment in Buenos Aires where we walked ten miles each day to explore this dynamic city.

Tommy and Lee Ann Calhoun are alive and well in Green Valley, AZ where we have lived since retirement, 9 years now. I have taken up golf, something I tried a couple of times but never really did until moving here. I also have a part time job working at the Pro Shop at our club in Quail Creek. Lee Ann is still working for H&R Block. This will be her 16th year, and she is trying to decide if it will be her last. Both of our daughters, grandson, and son-in-law live in the Phoenix area, so we get lots of face time with them. Lee and I travel in the summers doing something domestic one summer and something overseas the next. This summer we went on a great river cruise from Moscow to St. Petersburg. It was payback to Lee who never got to travel to Russia with me the three times I worked over there. It was fun seeing St. Petersburg again and seeing how beautifully the Russians have cleaned everything up. It was a great relaxing trip. I spend quite a bit of my time working on church committees and gardening in my yard. I've become adept at growing cactus! We are both healthy and enjoying life, and we love to have company. Our casita is available.

Galen Bridge, Tucson: I have recently sold my summer home in Sunriver, OR. Many retirees have enjoyed good times there. By the way, I am going on the Copper Canyon trip in Mexico.

Marion Strong, Tempe: I have not been very active for some time. I have Neuropathy and pain in both legs below the knees, and it restricts my walking. My daughter, **Linda** and son, **Jim** each have summer homes at Ocean Shores, WA. I spent a few weeks this past summer with my daughter in her home. This enabled me to spend some time with Jim who comes to the ocean on weekends. My daughter and I visited some of **Ruth's** and my family in Indiana and Michigan earlier this year.

I was privileged to attend, with my daughters, **Linda Nelson** and **Marcia Middents**, the Memorial Service for **Mel Davis** in Yuma on Nov. 2. There was a nice crowd of Mel's neighbors and friends, some of which are Snowbirds. It was a moving experience. There was a good audience in attendance. However, I was the only SCS retiree, and there were no NRCS employees in attendance. It was disappointing for me.

(Since I, **Karl Klingelhofer**, am interested in Army Air Corps history and P-38s, I asked Marion Strong to comment on this experience, and he gave me the following.) I received my "Greetings" from my neighbors early in 1941. My first assignment was with the 51st Field Artillery Bn. at Camp Roberts, CA. In December of that year I applied for an assignment as an Aviation Cadet and was accepted. I was transferred to the Army Air Corps. I completed my training and received my wings and commission on Aug. 27, 1942. I was assigned for pilot transition to P-38s at McChord Field, WA.



Marion Strong flew a P-38 Lightning in WWII

I was able to attend the event with my daughter and son-in-law, **Marcia** and **Mark Middents**. It was very satisfying once again for me to hear that throaty roar of those turbo supercharged P-38s. One of the planes flying was named *Glacier Girl*. It had been dug out of the ice in Greenland and rebuilt. This plane was of special interest to me because my Flight Commander and later Squadron Commander had been a pilot in the flight from which *Glacier Girl* came. They had been ferrying a flight of P-38s in a flight with a B-17 to lead them when they became lost, ran out of fuel and had to land on the ice in Greenland. We had two of those pilots in my Squadron. It was very satisfying to get up close and personal with 38s again. Incidentally, that trip was my gift to myself for my 95th birthday.

I was the first pilot in my class to complete pre-flight training and make my initial flight in a P-38 on Sept. 14. My second flight was on the 15th. Everything went well until take-off. As I accelerated for take-off and just as my wheels left the runway my left engine caught fire. I cut the fuel and feathered the prop and prepared to climb. As I jettisoned my canopy, flames came into the cockpit through the ventilators and circled me in the cockpit. I climbed until I thought I was high enough to bail out but I could not roll the window down. My only choice was to stand in the seat, relax my body and let the slipstream carry me out. After my chute opened, I oscillated 90 degrees. As I stared down I was on the ground in the middle of a black unit encamped in Camp Murray, WA which is adjacent to Fort Lewis. I spent the next month in the hospital. I was the second pilot to successfully bail out of a P-38 and live to tell about. At the time of my accident, pilots who attempted to bail out of P-38s were being killed by the horizontal stabilizer. We had been briefed to roll down a window crawl out on the wing and drop off the trailing edge. I went overseas in January of 1943 and served my tour of duty in the Mediterranean Theater of Operation. I am a member of the P-38 National Association. The Association headquarters is located at March Air Reserve Base in Southern California. In May of this year the Association had their annual meeting at an old P-38 base near Ontario, CA. It was held in conjunction with an Air Show in which there were five P-38s flying.

CALIFORNIA

Bill Ward, ARCSE Representative
Email: bluegrassbillward@gmail.com

Hello and Happy New Year from California to all our fellow SCS and NRCS retirees across the nation. First one piece of sad news to share, California lost one of our retirees recently as **Boyd Desonia**, former DC at Paso Robles passed away Nov. 21st at his home in Paso Robles due to Heart Problems.

Our California retirees continue to meet for Breakfast twice monthly to get together and catch up with the latest on what is going on in our group. Here is a shot of our Dec. 4 lunch group.

Darwyn Briggs and I (Bill Ward) had a guided fly-fishing trip on November 18, and it turned out to be a great day of fishing. We hooked about a dozen nice steelhead, landed about half of them, and here are a couple pictures of the nicest fish. Darwyn and I have become good fly-fishing buddies and we look forward to doing more in 2014. If you have never fly-fished and think you are too old to start you should think again. Darwyn had never fly-fished until he was about 70! Now he is an expert at it. Well I guess I should rephrase that he is an expert at having fun fly-fishing, which is where I fit in as well.



Bill Ward, fisherman.



California retirees at December 4 luncheon. Best Wishes for a wonderful 2014 from the California SCS/NRCS Retirees!



Darwyn Briggs with nice steelhead.

COLORADO

Ivan Wilkinson, ARCSE Representative
Email: giwilk@estesvalley.net

Last year it was fire--this year it was rain. September 9th it started raining. Four days later we over 12 inches fell in Estes Park, and the Big Thompson River and its tributaries were out of control. We were more fortunate than many. Sitting on a hill we only had seepage into our basement. Many others along the river lost their cars, their homes, their businesses and, in some cases, their land. Fish Creek went on a rampage and took out the sewer line. It looked like Porta-Potty City for two months. It was rewarding to see how the community and the State came together for survival. Estes Park will remain a tourist attraction into the future. In November, **Ivan and Ginger Wilkinson** spent a week on the Island of Kauai. This was my first visit since 1977 where, as a Hydraulic Engineer, I met with **Glen Ahuna** to look at a watershed project that involved

providing protection to sugar cane fields. The striking difference this time was the absence of sugar cane, which has been replaced by coffee plantations. Still, it is a beautiful place to visit.

About 30 people attended a gathering of SCS retirees and spouses and had a fun and relaxing luncheon. This is what **Bob Dansdill's** daughter, **Pat Cottrell**, had to say about her Dad: "He graduated from "Aggies/CSU" with a degree in chemistry, and he did postgrad studies at Cornell (Ithica, NY). He worked as a soils interpreter, started his work in TX, went to OK, worked in DC for a while, then moved to CO (my Mom got tired of moving around and wanted to settle in Denver). He worked with SCS for over 40 years. I remember him being the 'Asst. State Soils Scientist' for Colorado the whole time I was growing up, and he retired in 1979."



Bob Dansdill, accompanied by his daughter Pat Cottrell, celebrated his 97th birthday at a gathering of SCS retirees and spouses.

FLORIDA

Robert G Halstead

Email: rghhmoneta@aol.com

The annual Captain Ernie Todd fishing extravaganza was held in October in beautiful Steinhatchee, FL. We shared stories about the good old SCS days, talked about our friends who did not make it this year, and shared time and memories as only friends can do. Life continues to be good for all of us. This year's group included **Billy Milliken** (TN), **Wes Oneth** (OK), **Bob Halstead** (FL) and our host Captain **Ernie Todd** (AL and FL). The early arrivals started out the first day catching a boatload of fish. Bob arrived a day late, but with a large container of **Sue Halstead's** famous seven-layer cookies in-hand, he was forgiven for his late arrival. **Billy Milliken** caught the largest trout using a special lure (others thought it smelled a lot like moonshine). **Wes (Cowboy) Oneth** occupied his favorite perch on the bow of the boat and reeled in a vast variety of fish. Our host Ernie not only showed us a great time, but shared his beautiful cottage with us, cooked for us, and showed the group some of his best fishing holes.



Bob Halstead, Ernie Todd, Billy Milliken, Wes Oneth

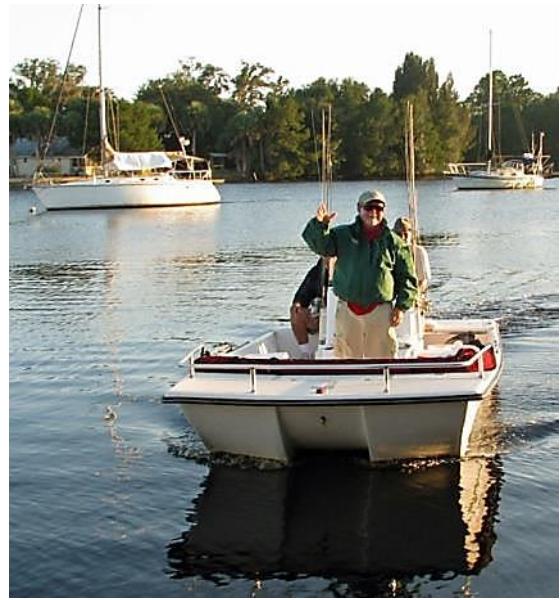


Billy (The Fisherman) Milliken

From **Ida Cuthbertson**: In an earlier edition you read about my solo auto trip to CO and UT. That was the first of four trips this year. The second one is in June in a square red truck that has big red lights. It takes me 7 miles to the Emergency Room. After 2 hours they give me a room for 7 nights. Seems as if my digestive system wants a vacation, too. Fortunately the docs get the works going again, without surgery (lots of rest and IVs), and I go home the day before my birthday! What a



Billy Milliken, Ernie Todd, and Wes Oneth



Capt. Ernie Todd docks the boat after a beautiful day on the water.

gift! Three weeks later I am in my car again on the road to Muskegon, MI to board the ferry to Milwaukee. About an hour north is Slinger, WI, where 70 cousins celebrate their first reunion in a dozen years. I drive to Sheboygan and discover my childhood home is gone, along with the playground. On the return trip I stop in Howell, MI to visit a high school chum, then continue south. The **Neil Armstrong** Space Museum in Wapakoneta, OH is small, but has excellent exhibits. I discover that Neil and I both graduated Ohio State the same year, but I didn't meet him until many years later at the National War College when he spoke about walking on the moon. The fourth trip was the familiar 1,990-miler round-trip to Arlington. This time it is to see granddaughter **Lauren** before she heads to UW-Madison to continue the Arabic studies she began in 6th grade. Back home I volunteer to help people apply for insurance under the Affordable Care Act. First I complete 8 on-line courses and pass 8 exams at 80% or better to qualify as a volunteer for the health department. Then I take the ACA on-line courses and pass each of them at 80% or better. Finally I am qualified to work with the three paid qualified applications counselors! It is very fulfilling to help people who never ever before had health insurance to now afford it. I hope each of you has had a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays, and that the New Year fulfills your fondest wishes.

IOWA

Maralee Sarasio, ARCSE Representative

Iowa retirees held their Holiday Luncheon at The Iowa Machine Shed Restaurant on November 14th. The 54 attending were: **Roger and Donita Link**, Maxwell; **Ron and Jo Elyn Herson**, Marshalltown; **Ray and Dixie Currier**, Ogden; **Russ and Donna Knutson**, Gerald and Marian Stevens, Boone; **Chuck and Phyllis Fisher**, Eldon and Jeannie Weber; **Bruce and Connie Wight**, Ames; **Henry and Mary Lou Staubus**, Art and Mary Jane Bryant, Indianola; **Don and Donna Redman**, Van Wert; **Ron and Marsha Snyder**, Burlington; **Dick and Marian Hall**, Sioux City; **Brian Peterson**, Corning; **Lyle and Charlotte Asell**, Chariton; **Tom and Beverly Braymen**, Creston; **Jim Ayen**, Urbandale; **Volney Smith**, Waukee; **Debbie Cavett**, Norwalk; **Margaret Dysart**, Rod Martin, Johnston; **Dave and Paige Rolfe**, Altoona; **Dennis and Gerri Peterson**, **Joe Ausan**, **Ron Walker**, Dennis and Linda Miller, Ankeny; **Don and Kay Peterson**, **Mark and Ann Jensen**, West Des Moines; **Don and Doris Ummel**, **Dewey Bondurant**, Deane Glen, **Jack and Maralee Sarasio**. Meals are served family style. This year's menu included old fashioned beef pot roast and pork loin with all the good things that go with a "farm" dinner. Door prizes were two gift certificates from the Machine Shed, two from IHOP where retirees meet for breakfast and three CDs of organ music recorded by **Volney Smith**. A few years ago Volney decided to take organ lessons and has thoroughly enjoyed it. I was the lucky recipient of the CD of Big Band music. It is a great CD, great selection of music, enjoyable listening. It especially reminded me of days earlier in my life when I spent lots of time at roller rinks skating to "real" organ music. I know **Jan Schmidt**, one of our retirees who still competes in roller skating dance, would agree. Thanks **Volney** for the CDs and coordinating the party. All of us were glad that **Ron and Marsha Snyder** were able to be with us this year. We will have next year's gathering at The Machine Shed around the same date. If you don't hear from us by the end of October, please call one of us so you don't miss out.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of **Don Frevert**. **Don** passed away Sept. 8, 2013, in Des Moines. **Beverly Miller's husband, Darhol**, passed away on Nov. 10, 2013. Beverly worked in Personnel in the State Office prior to her retirement. Our sympathy goes out to her.

Iowa retirees hope everyone has a great 2014.

KANSAS

Deanne Lull, ARCSE Representative

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As I prepare a few articles for the newsletter, I am dreaming of a white Christmas, and I just might get my wish as the weatherman is saying that there is a possibility of snow in the Salina area a few days before Christmas. It appears that it will be a white Christmas as Salina received over 11 inches of snow last night.

Michael L. Fengel retired Oct. 31, 2013, as a Soil Conservation Technician headquartered at the field office in Clay Center, KS. Last year about this time **James McDowell**, former Soil Scientist in the Kansas State Office, received a new heart on Dec. 21, 2012. This fall there was concern that his body might be rejecting the heart; however, early in December he received good news that all is well.

Several life-long companions have been lost. **Gloria Mae Meyer**, spouse of **Lawrence E. Meyer**, passed away on Nov. 25, 2013. **Lawrence** was a Construction Inspector at the Overbrook Watershed Project Office. **Judith Ann Reh**, spouse of **John W. Reh**, passed away on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 28, 2013. **John** was an Assistant State Conservationist (Water Resources) in the Salina State Office. **Fred B. Hadle** passed away Dec. 5, 2013. **Edith Hadle** was a Biological Technician at the Plant Materials Center in Manhattan, Kansas. **Alice M. Davidson**, spouse of **James A. Davidson, Sr.**, passed away Dec. 19, 2013. **James** retired as a Soil Conservation Technician from the Belleville Field Office.

I will certainly miss **Judy Reh**. Her husband and I worked together for many years. We often socialized together and **Judy** and I shared many laughs about what went on at home and at the office. I will particularly remember her infectious smiles.

KENTUCKY

Billye M. Haslett, ARCSE Representative

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Randal Rock, District Conservationist, Shelbyville, KY retired Sept., 2013. Randal lives in Lawrenceburg, KY. Congratulations Randall!



Former State Office Co-Workers took time from Christmas shopping on December 19, 2013 to have lunch at Cheddar's in Lexington, KY. From left to right: Linda Fryman, ret. MGT Analyst; Connie McKinney, ret. CO; and Linda Derossitt, ret. Tech. Info. Spec. Sylvia Lyons, ret. budget analyst; Cassie Pyle, ret. State Conservationist Sec. Photo taken by Billye Haslett.

KY experienced the passing of three (3) retirees since Thanksgiving: In Memory: **George "Dean" Bottrell** (1930-2013), a retired soil scientist; **James C. Ross** (1923-2013), a retired soil scientist; and **Charles W. (Charlie) Martin** (1930-2013), a retired district conservationist. See the In Memoriam section for more details.

LOUISIANA

Joe Branco, ARCSE Representative

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The 19th Louisiana SCS-NNRCS retiree's luncheon was held 11/14/2013 at the Piccadilly Cafeteria in Alexandria, LA. 41 retirees and guests were in attendance: **Francis and Helen Artley**, **Horace and Flora Austin**, **Joe and Marge Branco**, **Thomas Campbell**, **Pat Cecil**, **Warren Cockerham**, **Valine Collard**, **Gay Colvin**, **Marty Floyd**, **Don and Jo Gohmert**, **George Guillory**, **Dozier and Winnie Harrell**, **Harry and Dee Hawthorne**, **Aaron Hinkston**, **Max Johnston and Sybil Ray**, **Marlin Jordan**, **James and Robbie Loe**, **Wayne Melancon**, **Paul and Sandra Miletello**, **Kent and Sonie Milton**, **Ken and Betty Mixon**, **Marilyn Rabalais**, **Dale and Sylvia Rockett**, **Catherine Sloan**, **Ronnie Venson**, **Paul Wallace**, and **Jimmy Winston**.

Joe Branco, as MC, reminded everyone of our recent National Veterans Day observance. The group expressed their appreciation to Veterans, past and present, for their service and sacrifices for our freedom and safety around the World. He then led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag. **Paul Miletello** gave the invocation before the group adjourned to the cafeteria for lunch. After lunch, Joe welcomed the group and reported that our attendance was up and thanked them for their continued interest in the annual luncheon. Joe recognized our NRCS guests: **Nancy Vicknair**, State Human Resources Manager; and **Holly Martien**, State Public Affairs Specialist. They were representing **Kevin Norton** who is detailed to the National Office working on the new farm bill.

Max Johnston reported that two retirees had passed away this past year. They were: **Gene Warren**, who died August 13, 2013, and **Johnny "Theo" Watson**, who died September 5, 2013. Gene was the State Public Information Specialist, who had retired December 30, 1983. Theo was an NRCS technician in the Tallulah, LA field office. He retired January 3, 2002.

Nancy Vicknair and **Holly Martien** gave us an overview of current NRCS activities. They reported that there is plenty of work to do but much concern about agency organization and direction in the future. Joe opened the meeting to questions on health care open season, COLA's and general discussion. The group thanked the planning committee for their work. They are **Paul Miletello, Dale Rockett, Warren Cockerham, Marilyn Rabalais, Max Johnston and Joe Branco**.

MAINE

John J. Simon, ARCSE Representative

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The retirees of ARCSE in central Maine have a 9 am breakfast on the second Tuesday of every month at Dysarts in Hermon.

November breakfast participants were: **Art Taylor, Bob Lagassey, Bruce Champeon, Charlie Boothby, and John Simon**. I heard from **Albert Dow** who wanted to say hello to all. **Charlie Boothby** indicated that he went to school with Al at UMO back in the late 1950. Charlie also sends his regards to Al. Al does work for his church every second Tuesday so is unable to attend. He has quite a ride from Dover Foxcroft down to Hampden anyway.

Art Taylor said his walls for his new home are all framed in and his roof trusses in place. He is waiting to sheath the roof and put on a metal roof. Four layers of aluminum coated Styrofoam, each two inches thick, make an R value over 50.

Saw **Joe Bertolaccini** over at the nursing home visiting **Sterling Dymond** (93) in Brewer, ME. Joe reminded Sterling of all the U of Maine football games they used to attend together. That brought a smile to Sterling's face. Joe also said that Sterling is a real good cook. Sterling lost his wife years ago. Sterling and **Ed Snow** used to play golf in the summer months but stopped several years ago. Sterling is an avid watcher of golf on the sports network. Sterling is very frail now and the shaking from his Parkinson's disease is getting worse. He still recognizes Joe and me when we go in, but his voice is very frail and he is difficult to understand. Quite sad.



Art Taylor's new home

I saw retiree **Richard Hunter** driving a truck in the parade on Patriots Day and waved hello. I think the truck was for the Civil Air Patrol. Joe indicated that he thought that Dick had a pilot's license, so that may be the connection. Heard from **Ray Voyer** who wrote to wish us a happy Thanksgiving. Ray is in a year-long follow up study for kidney transplant recipients, and the day long reviews are on the day of our breakfasts. Ray said his transplant is working great and he has not felt better in about 8 years. His brother donated a kidney for Ray. Both are doing well.

December breakfast participants celebrated **Art Taylor's 71st birthday**! A muffin with candle was presented to Art by four lovely waitresses with a birthday song. Attendees that joined in the birthday song were **Bob Lagassey, Charlie Boothby, John Ferwerda, and John Simon**. Art was the youngest attendee by far. Also in December was the **78th birthday of Ed Snow**. Ed and I worked many years together. He was a good engineer and a licensed electrician. His dad had an electrical company and he learned it from the ground up. He was something to behold when he was wiring!

Talked to **Cliff Roy** up in Aroostook County. He turned 86 in 2013 and both he and his wife are feeling well. Cliff put in a new high efficiency oil furnace this summer. It is quite a bit smaller and uses a lot less oil. Most of us up here in Maine use heating oil and/or a wood or wood pellet stove. The wood stuff is home grown so the heating costs stay in Maine to support Mainers. Cliff says that at his age, though, the idea of wood is user unfriendly. He has an installed generator to run his household during power outages. Cliff has four children, one son in Bangor, a son in Fort Kent, a daughter in Fort Kent, and a daughter in Presque Isle. They are all doing well although he says the economy of Aroostook is slow. Cliff indicated that the Ashland, Maine area has picked up a bit. They now have a wood pellet plant, a cedar shingle plant coming in courtesy of Irving Company, and they have a specialty hardwood furniture plant. Not bad for a tiny town up in the woods.

Contacted **Earland Morrison** in Alfred, Maine who turned 82 in 2013. He and his wife are doing well and keep active. Earland indicated he has been delivering Meals-on-Wheels since 1987 when he retired. That is some 26 years! Wow. Earland was a selectman for the town of Alfred for years after his retirement and they eventually named the recycling center after him. Quite appropriate. Earland said he moved to DC in 1966. He took **Del Moody's** position. Del was a great dowser and friend to that famous **Kenneth Roberts** guy. Del and **Ralph Walker** taught me how to dowse. Comes in handy. I use the metal survey flags, not wood. Earland is now involved in helping to restore an old Shaker building that his group recently was given as a town historical building. These ex SCSers certainly keep busy! He said there are only three living Shakers in the whole world and they are in New Gloucester, Maine.

Earland said he goes to see **Sid Emery** every 2-3 weeks at the local nursing home in Kennebunk, Maine. Sid had his 100th birthday on Nov. 24. Sid lasted until he was 99 living alone. Quite an achievement. Earland indicated that Sid is up and around and can sit and talk to you, although he may not recognize you at first. I am like that and I am only 74. Sid has one son locally who keeps tabs on him.

Bill Moulton, ex DC of the Augusta Field office, is celebrating his 71st birthday on Dec. 25, 2013. Happy Birthday Bill. Bill has an Ice fishing shack out on the Kennebec River. Just give Bill a call before you go down, he may have promised it to someone else for the day. Bill said the ice fishing camp is haunted by Scot-Irish Leprechauns, but they do not bother most folks unless the smelt are not running. Bill and his wife **Pat** have booked a Viking cruise down the Rhine River in late April of 2014 and are looking forward to the trip.

Debbie Gray of the NRCS state office has finished her chemo for lung cancer, and the doc says the lungs look clear of cancer. They will be monitoring here for several years. Debbie returned to work in early December.

John Ferwerda indicated that **Larry Long** is selling his place in Florida, and he and **Lois** now have an apartment in the Bangor area. His email is still the same for those wanting to contact Larry. John said Larry has not been feeling well as of late. I am pretty sure that Larry and Lois have children living in the Bangor area.

We are having a bitterly cold December. As I write this it has just stopped a freezing rain storm on top of several new inches of new snow. My snow blower is in top shape so that is good. From Maine, hoping you all had a very Merry Christmas and wishing you a happy and prosperous new year in 2014!

MASSACHUSETTS

Jim Wesolowski, ARCSE Representative

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Well, it's been another quiet two months here on the fringe of the frozen tundra. Two snow storms so far and it's barely a day into winter. Oh, wait. Today it topped out at 62 degrees, and all the eight inches of snow is gone.

Lots of new retiree news this time. **Ed Drake**, longtime Conservation Technician in the Pittsfield office will be calling it quits in January 2014 after 30+ years of service in Berkshire and Hampshire counties. **Ed** says he's not going to do anything for at least three months and then decide if he wants to extend his leisure further. Ed just got a new Boxer puppy to replace Buddy who passed away recently. Sounds like the pup may need some dedicated obedience training to talk him out of that habit of going for your neck. Good luck **Eddie!**

It looks like **Don Liptack** will be joining Ed on the newly retired roster. Don has been the District Conservationist in Hyannis since **Rico Devergilio** left for Amherst many moons ago. Besides Cape Cod, **Don's** territory included Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. Even though **Don's** quite an accomplished sea farer, I'm sure he won't miss those long, rough ferry rides to the Islands.

Not an official NRCS retiree, but **Jeff Perchak** will be retiring from the Army Corps of Engineers at Westover Air Reserve Base. **Jeff** left the Watershed Design staff in Amherst when the staff was led by **Don Stockwell** and included **Chet Dodge**, **Frank Wilda**, and **Norm Bernier**.

Another former Mass. NRCSer will be retiring in January after 50 (count 'em, 50) years of federal service. **Willie Ruffin** will be retiring from the national office after a one-of-a-kind career that finished up with two tours to Iraq and another to Afghanistan. **Willie** came to Mass. as Assistant STC for Watersheds after his assignment in Lancaster County, PA. I'm sure those Amish farmers never met the likes of **Willie** before or again. When things got tough, I can remember **Willie's** admonition: "Everybody wants to go to Heaven but nobody wants to die." **Willie's** definitely the most physically fit 70-year old that I ever knew. He's kept in shape with exercise and hard work. A **Willie** quote: "I may not live to be 100, but it's not gonna be my fault if I don't."

So for all four of the retirees, I'll quote the beloved Polish song with lyrics of: "Sto lat, sto lat, Niech żyje, żyje nam" or roughly translated "One hundred years, one hundred years, May they live, live with us."

Not a retirement, but certainly an exciting career experience: **Chris Clarke** our current Mass. STC will be spending four months in the coldest part of winter as the acting Director for the Pacific Basin, stationed in Hawaii. In the words of my distant ancestor, **General Casimir Pulaski**, revolutionary war hero: "Coulda been worse; coulda been North Dakota."

Which gives me an introduction into our last item. Northampton has taken Columbus Day as the day for the annual Pulaski Day parade from the Polish National church to Pulaski Park near City Hall. Our Association President-Elect **Cecil Currin** drew the assignment of driving the "potty truck" (a flatbed used to deliver porta-potties) that carried the band that led the parade with some rousing polkas including "In heaven there is no beer, that's why we drink it here." If **Cecil** drives the truck next year, I've suggested that he convince his employer to provide some butternut squash (instead of candy) to toss at the crowds along the parade route.

In the last edition of the newsletter, the passing of **Greg Smead** was reported. **Greg** and I started with SCS about the same time in the mid-1960's. If memory serves me right, state engineer **Karl Kinglehofer** asked me to spread the word in the surveying lab. I was teaching at UMass that SCS had summer jobs available. **Greg, Jack Tibbetts, Larry Boutiette, and Ray Curran** took the bait and ended up with SCS/NRCS for their entire careers. Looking back, I should have tried working as a recruiter.

MINNESOTA

Marlene Mechelke, ARCSE Representative

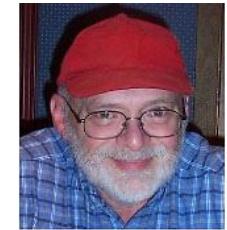
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Prepared by John Handler: My fourth year of retirement (2013) seemed to be themed around building things—physical as well as electronic: houses, patios, decks, databases, and railroads.

Yes, I built a house—not by myself, but with my Habitat for Humanity crew. We poured the footings on May 1st and finished on September 27th. Back at home, a new concrete patio and block wall replaced old wooden ones, and at the same time, ten concrete footings were poured for a new deck, which will be finished next spring. However (and surprisingly), the local lumber yard actually had a sale on decking materials in *November* (which even surprised its employees—"I guess we build decks year-round now" one of them mused, even in Minnesota). And the materials weren't the left over "junk" lumber they were trying to clear out of inventory! So, I did manage to get started on the wooden part of the deck this autumn—something to look at this winter when the temperatures are below zero and dreams are of an early spring. Electric data base builds included two for the Goodhue County Historical Society—one was the Jail Register and the second was the Rural Schoolteachers. Both were index data bases that will end up on the Historical Society's web site (<http://goodhuecountyhistory.org/>) as a source for genealogical research. It was amazing what personal data were collected by the Sheriff as he was booking prisoners at the jail from 1859 to 1960—for example, hair and eye color, place of birth, parents' places of birth, ethnicity of the prisoner and his/her parents, and languages spoken. Those of you into genealogy, assuming that you have a less than reputable member in your lineage, may want to check your local jail registers for additional tidbits about your family member. One data base I am building at home is of the family's 35 mm slide collection. We always enjoyed the slide shows we used to have, but it became cumbersome to set up the slide projector and screen, darken the room, etc.—the electronic method of viewing on a computer, TV, or hand-held device is better. Plus, if the original slides ever get lost or deteriorate, then the images will still be preserved. Next year, we will caption them with names of family members and friends (while we still remember who they are!). I've found some amazing slides of my grandparents and father from the WW II era that I did not know existed. I wonder what I will find as I complete the scanning project this coming winter? Building a railroad: the local model railroad club needed a new layout, and HO is my scale, so we collaborated on building a modular layout—six modules so far, assembled into a 16 x 5-foot layout for our Christmas show. The modular construction allows for a standard design and for portability (the largest module is 4 x 5 feet, and each is only 4 inches thick when the legs are folded under), yet its modularity allows enough flexibility to set up a differently-configured railroad at each model railroad show. Construction of more modules is planned for next year.

Soil Science is still in my blood (after a career of 37+ years, it's hard to completely let it go), so when the Wisconsin Society of Professional Soil Scientists (<http://wspss.wordpress.com/>) set up their soil pit display at Farm Technology Days nearby, I just couldn't resist volunteering to help staff it. Visitors to Farm Technology Days (<http://www.wifarmtechnologydays.com/>) seek out the pit and engage in lively discussions about what they are observing below the surface. As usual, there are as many opinions as soil scientists and visitors, but of course, those discussions further our knowledge of soils and advance the science of pedology. I think I tallied more hours on snow and ice removal this year than lawn care! The final time I shoveled snow last spring was on May 9, and the first shoveling this autumn was November 14. What a short summer, even for Minnesota.

Tall Ships visited Duluth harbor in July (<http://www.visitduluth.com/tallships2013/>), and we booked a day-sail on one of them. But with our luck with weather this year, our ship was struck by lightning out on Lake Superior and never even made it to the Tall Ships event! (It's hard to sail a ship when the masts have been vaporized.) Even though other ships' captains were very



John Handler

accommodating by accepting extra passengers onto their ships for day-sails, there simply weren't enough ships or times for everyone, so we missed out on the day-sail. The tall ships are expected back in Duluth in 2015—anyone have a weather report? Some of the ships offered on-board tours, which is like stepping back 125 years or so when you cross the gangplank. However, the best memory of the day was the look on one visitor's face when the answer to his question "When was the last time that cannon was fired?" was "Thursday." Cannon fire is the salute ships give when another tall ship first enters the harbor.

Between August 1st and mid-September we had no rain (but no snow, either), which didn't fare well for colorful leaves this past autumn—the leaves dried out and just turned brown. So I ventured out to the Black Hills in South Dakota, where **Lynn and Carol DesLauriers** were gracious enough to host my adventure. We explored areas not frequented by too many tourists and viewed golden aspen trees among the dark green conifers—beautiful contrasting colors. On one mountaintop, we could view the Crazy Horse Monument, the Mount Rushmore Monument, Ellsworth Air Force base and the Badlands simply by turning ourselves in a semi-circle.

MISSOURI

Dave Rastorfer, ARCSE Representative

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We have two new retirees to add to our ranks: **Mark Kennedy** from Houston and **Dan Yager** from Kirksville. We welcome you both to the "club."

Our quarterly mid Missouri breakfast was held on November 13th. Those in attendance were: **Jack and Joyce Walker, Ed and Judy Smith, Neil and Louise Randall, John and Carol McCarthy, Frank and Kay Miller, Virgil and Joy Gardner, Jerry McElhiney, Hugh Curry, Darlene Edwards, Jean Herman, Bill Pauls, Robert Hummel, John Turner, Bob Ball, and Dave Rastorfer**. The next breakfast will be on February 12th, 2014 at the Country Kitchen in Columbia.

Lane Thurman: The Springfield retirees' chapter doesn't meet until Jan. so I don't have any news from the chapter to forward on to you. On my end however, there is very little news. We did make a fast trip to West Monroe, LA to spend Thanksgiving with some of our boys. We had three of the four there and enjoyed the festivities very much. My deer hunting was not really successful this year, spent a few days in the woods and came out just like I went in, with no deer. My duck hunting days are over, just got too old to brave the cold and wet all by myself. My partners have gotten that way too, so I just gave that part of my life up to staying inside and warm. Have a very Merry Christmas and a great New Year, all of you.

Ed Smith: Not much news from the Smiths. Got all the leaves mulched between some last few rounds of golf before it got too COLD! We are off to Florida after Christmas. We will come back in March this year for a grand-daughter's wedding in St Louis. Then it will be back to the regular old grind of cut the grass, golf, cut the grass, etc.! Have a good, safe winter.

Dennis Shirk: We are getting freezing rain as I write this. The roads are fast becoming slick. We had a great Thanksgiving. Our daughter and son-in-law have become foster parents to four siblings, so we had ten kids between ages 13 and 3. It was good weather, so we spent a lot of time troup ing over their farm. We will be celebrating Christmas at our son's house at Jefferson City. We are well, have plenty of wood close to the house, so nothing too stressful happening with us right now. Feel really blessed. Have a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Jess Epple: Phyllis and I just returned from Nashville, TN. We did a lot while there, but the primary events were: being present at a grand-daughter's graduation (M.S.in occupational therapy) and seeing the New York City "Radio City Rockets"—with a nutcracker theme! Before leaving for Nashville we had our first winter storm that furnished generous amounts of freezing rain, sleet, and 5 inches snow with very cold temperatures. We hope the weather allows us to go to K.C., MO for Christmas to see our Missouri family. This time next year, **Phyllis and Jess** will have three more great-grandchildren to "spoil." The cow-hands at J P Ranch, near Warner, OK, wish each of you a special Holiday Season--Angus beef roast would be delicious for one of those festive meals, don't you think?

Mike Blaine: I've used my tractor twice in December already to clean my drive and my neighbor's drive. I don't necessarily like the slick roads, etc., but I do enjoy pushing snow with the tractor! Some of you will remember my Mom. We almost lost her about Thanksgiving. She was in the hospital and pretty much non-responsive. We called our kids to come early for Thanksgiving if they wanted to see her. But now, a month later, she is back to herself and doing well. She is 91 and lives in Scotland County Care Center. We hope all you friends and ex-coworkers had a very wonderful Christmas. God has been good to the Blaine family and we are very grateful. Happy New Year!

Dave and Phoebe Rastorfer recently celebrated their 50th anniversary (how did that happen?).

Hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

MONTANA

Dick Gooby, ARCSE Representative

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Gordon Decker report, I have missed the last few breakfasts.

We had another good hunt at the Ranch in Eastern Montana with the grandkids. Got five nice Mule Deer (4 by 4's and 5 by 5's). We saw several elk but jammed guns, and near-misses were the result! We had a nice Thanksgiving with the kids and grandkids and will be there for Christmas also. My job is to supply the fresh rolls and pies. **Kathy** bakes at least 20 different types of cookies and bars. Happy Holidays to all.

Scott Hoag Report: In late summer or early fall we had plans to hook up the fifth wheel, travel to Las Cruces to build with Habitat for Humanity and then on to Yuma for the winter. However, some health issues conspired to keep us in Bozeman--nothing major, we prefer doctors and dentists we know. So Scott is skiing and Nancy is writing and publishing. For Christmas, we'll be in the Seattle area with family. A Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone.

Jim Johnson Report: Since we were snowbound and below zero, we didn't make breakfast. **Helen Frazier** passed away on November 25. She was on our Financial Management Staff, and retired in 1995.

Gooby Ranch Report: A new law just went into effect in Montana where you can get a permit to pick up road kills for your own consumption. The hunting laws in Montana say if you have a hunting license you can't shoot off the road or within the road right away. The way I read the new law, if it is not hunting season and you have a permit to pick up road kills, then it is okay to shoot an animal within the road right away as long and you are on the road when you shoot them. The law doesn't say how the animal got killed. It just says as long as it's a road kill and you have a permit you can pick up the animal. The new law is going to work great since we see a lot of deer crossing the road, and periodically cattle get out on the road as well. Now whenever we go to town we carry a gun in case an animal crosses the road. The new law has worked really well for us. Our road kills aren't nearly as bruised as they were before and we haven't run into a single animal.

Mary Ann decided to sell her two donkeys. It was a tough decision since they loved to be petted. They also kept the coyotes away from the yard area. They would eat anything they could get close to. It was impossible where we are to keep them from over eating. After Mary Ann sold the two donkeys, I told her we weren't getting any more asses and she said that's okay since there is still one here. I wondered what that meant. But I didn't say anything, since I learned in NRCS Management Level I that sometimes you are best not to pursue some things.

We wish you happy holidays and a wonderful new year. The days are starting to get longer already, so we know summer is coming.

NEBRASKA

Norman Kempf, ARCSE Representative

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Breakfast meetings were held on November 20th and December 18th. The meetings were called to order by President, Gary Muckel.

Paul Bartlett, a Korean War veteran, was on the latest Honor Flight to Washington D.C. He, like everyone else that has gone, was very appreciative of the chance to view the memorials. He thought the Korean memorial at night was the most impressive. Paul and his wife have also recently been to Seattle to visit family there. He really liked the new Alaska Airline flight direct from Omaha to Seattle. **Gary Muckel** had recently been in the Netherlands and visited several WWII museums and cemeteries. **Gus and Donna Dornbusch** visited **Dick Folsche** in Texas. **Don Manley** spent time in South Dakota visiting four of the places he had worked early in his SCS career. **Keith Sheets** traveled to McAllen, TX

Pete and Doris Jensen proudly reported 67 years of marriage. **Bill Hance** and **Russ Schultz** also reported another year of marriage. **Lou Buller and Bob Koerner** are recent birthday guys.

Jim Carr's wife, Marilyn, has had a stroke and is recovering slowly. **Bert Boquet** has left \$60,000 to the Salvation Army for the Heat Share Program.

Joe Kuenning went with family on their annual deer hunt. Everyone in the group filled their permit, and the meat was donated to charity in North Platte. **Norman Kempf** traveled to Montana to visit his son and work on his house. From there he traveled to the Black Hills of SD to join up with his old hunting crew of 35 years. Since he did not have a license, they awarded him a stick to carry. The crew had 10 bow licenses and 4 rifle permits and all were filled in 4 days of hunting.

Steve Scheinost was nominated for the position of vice-president. He was elected by unanimous vote. **Gary Muckel** concluded the meeting by handing the gavel to **Gus Dornbusch** who will be president in 2014.

Norm sent in this article from the Lincoln Journal Star

August Dornbusch Receives National Recognition for Community Service

Mark Berkland, Past President of the National Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees has announced that Gus has received the President's Award for Outstanding Community Service in 2013.

Community service has been a life-long commitment for Gus. Since retirement, he has been heavily involved in the Kiwanis organization with the motto to "change one child and one community at a time." He has been in Kiwanis for 12 years, and in his club, he has held all leadership positions, including President and the distinction of being honored "Kiwanian of the Year" for his efforts. He was a distinguished Lt. Governor in 2006-2007 for Division 21 and Governor in 2010-2011 for the Nebraska-Iowa District. The District encompasses 193 clubs and 6,400 members.

The Tom and Nancy Osborne's Team Mates Mentoring program is school-based, where a mentor meets with a student one hour a week during the school year. The program was started in 1997 and Gus is a charter member. The mentoring starts at the third grade and goes through senior in high school. The Team Mates program is dear to Gus' heart. He is currently mentoring his seventh student and is known as the Ambassador for Team Mates throughout Nebraska and Iowa. Two DVDs have been made of one of his mentees and him, which have been used to help charter new schools and bring in new mentors. For his efforts, he was named Team Mate Mentor of the Year, and in 2011, he received The Carmen and Tony Messineo Community Service Award for outstanding Community Service.

Gus lived in 10 communities as part of his National Resource Conservation Service career tour and gave back to each community with his talent and time. For example, he was involved in outside-of-school activities, school actives, service clubs, and churches. Gus has a passion for children—to make a difference in their life and the community in which they live. Outside school activities included coaching and managing kid's athletic activities, assisting with Boy Scouts and YMCA athletic events for boys.

Church involvement has been a key part of Gus' life, and in each job location, he has become involved in the leadership of the church. In these various churches, he has held all the leadership positions. In two different locations, he has helped lead the effort to build two new churches, including a 2,000-seat sanctuary at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Lincoln. At St. Mark's (a church of 5,000 members), he has led, developed, and trained a team of callers to make monthly "caring calls" to the church's 1,700 families. Currently, he helps lead the greeting activities for the church and serves on the finances committee. Gus was a Captain in the Kansas National Guard in Kansas for 12 years. Within that tour of duty, it included a tour of duty in Vietnam where he was awarded the Bronze Star.



Norm Kempf congratulating Gus Dornbusch on receiving the ARCSE President's Community Service Award

Michael Kuck earns ARCSE President's Meritorious Service Award.

Mike Kuch received the ARCSE President's Meritorious Service Award for 2013. Mike earned the award for his efforts in reinvigorating SD participation in the association. **Jim Canterbury** will also receive the award at a spring NC picnic for his work for the association in North Carolina.



Norm Kempf presents ARCSE President's Meritorious Service Award to Mike Kuch, SD.

The Salvation Army's HeatShare program got a \$60,000 boost due to the generosity of Lincoln philanthropist Bert Boquet. [Read more](#). **Bert C. Boquet Jr.**, 96, of Lincoln, died June 20, 2012. See his obituary at www.arcse.org.

Tony Vrana sent the following to John Peterson: **John**, I appreciate all you do in helping to keep us "old timers" informed. **Elaine** and I are doing well but just don't do as much as we once did. This is my first year off the Seward City Council after 12 years and only played golf a few times. We are enjoying our first Great Granddaughter who lives here in Seward. She is 16 months old and a real delight. I did reach the point last June of having been retired from SCS for as many years as I worked. I went on to work for the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission and the International Soil and Water Conservation Society for some 10 years after the USDA retirement. I still serve on our Bank's Board of Directors which I have done for the past 21 years. We are opening our 3rd Branch in Lincoln soon after the first of the year. It would be interesting to know how many ARSCE members have reached that threshold of being retired as many years as they worked.

NEW MEXICO

Ken Leiting, ARCSE Representative

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from New Mexico. Jerry has laid the guilt trip on me and it has worked. I am finally working on some news on retirees from New Mexico. For a number of us retirement has meant just changing who we work for in New Mexico. The New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts has obtained grants from the NRCS, BLM, and the USFS for a variety of activities, including field work on conservation planning and application. NMACD has put on contract many retirees to carry out these activities. So I will relate some of these folks.

- **Troy Hood**, retired State Administrative Officer lives in Rio Rancho and provides contract and administrative support. His wife **Linda**, retired IT Specialist, provides web page support and help in developing a training program for District Supervisors.
- **Ken Leiting**, retired State Resources Conservationist, also lives in Rio Rancho with his wife Bonnie. He is Project manager for the BLM and USFS agreements. Plays with two grandkids and plays some golf.
- **Darrel Reasner**, retired District Conservationist at Socorro, provides CRM planning assistance in the south central part of New Mexico, when he is not hunting or traveling to Houston to see grandkids.
- **Elmer Veeders**, retired District Conservationist at Deming, provides CRM planning assistance in the southwest or Bootheel Country of New Mexico. He visits grandkids in Minnesota, though not this year with the weather.
- **Dick Shaw**, retired RC&D Coordinator for the South Central Mountain RC&D in Ruidoso area, also provides CRM planning assistance. He has recently returned from a month trip to Europe visiting his son.
- **Hollis Fuchs**, retired Area Conservationist, lives in Carrizozo and provides CRM planning assistance. He attended the 2013 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas.
- **Mark McKinley**, retired Area Engineer, lives in Alamogordo. He is assisting in updating O&M plans for sponsors of the many dams in New Mexico.
- **Art Arias**, retired Civil Engineering Technician at Las Vegas, and Frank Causes, retired Civil Engineering Technician at Rio Rancho are helping with designs and implementation on acequias projects in Northern New Mexico.
- **David Manzanares**, retired RC&D Coordinator lives in Canjilon and assists on CRM planning and acequia planning. David is recovering from a recent fall from the roof on his house.
- **Edward Romeo**, retired District Conservationist at Espanola, provided CRM assistance, as well as fence and pipeline designs for ranchers and acequias.
- **Ben Creighton**, retired District Conservationist at Clayton, helps with Conservation Compliance and CSP on the eastern side of New Mexico. He has had two knees fixed and can out run all of us.
- **Grace Phillips**, retired IT Specialist in Tucumcari, helps the local field office in managing the Farm Bill applications and other items associated with the Farm Bill programs.
- **Norman Vigil**, retired ASTC-Operations, lives in Canjilon and will begin with NMACD helping to facilitate activities in Northern New Mexico.
- Recently a retirement party was held for **Kenny Walker**, Area Conservationist in Clovis, **George Chavez**, State Resource Conservationist, and **John Tunberg**, State Rangeland Management Specialist. All three will be coming on board with NMACD in various roles.

I have left out some folks I am sure, but will follow up in the future with more info.

It appears we have all not retired, but just changed employers. We are enjoying working with landowners on their land to put conservation in place. It is like we have gone back in time to the days when we all were planners. Over the last 7 years have developed over 150 CRMPs, helped on over 2 million acres of brush treatments, with deferments. Hundreds of miles of fences and pipeline installation. We plan to keep doing what we enjoy. Thanks.

NEW YORK

Nancy Lee, ARCSE Representative

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From former State Conservationist, Robert Hilliard: Friends, I am doing OK and my health is good. Keeping busy with the house, yard, and garden. Have a new great grandson in Michigan, who we visited in June. Depending on our health, we intend to drive to Texas for two months this winter."

Dick Crowe writes: Elaine and I became grandparents for the first time on November 12, 2013. A baby girl born to **Rick and Lexi Crowe** weighing in at 8 pounds and named **Isabella Elaine Crowe**. We are looking forward to our Christmas with her and the rest of family and then wintering in North Port, FL for February and March.

John Dickerson: **Gail and I** are relocating to 125 Falcon Lane, Lexington, VA 24450. This is at the junction of I-81 and I-64 as 64 meets 81 from the west. Lots of history here. We bought a house on Hunter Hill where **David Hunter** (Union

Officer) set up his artillery to blast the Virginia Military Institute at the end of the Civil War. You may recall that **Stonewall Jackson** was the superintendent of VMI as the war started, and Hunter apparently held a grudge. I guess we were supposed to buy here, being Yankees.

Nancy Lee reports she attended the Christmas "Cookie Day" at the NRCS State office and saw many old friends. Retirees attending were **Walt Grajko and Mike Townsend**. Good to see everyone as it has been almost seven years since I retired. **Nancy and Mel Lee** are looking forward to grandson, **Carter's**, first Christmas. He is a real joy and just turned five months old.

Robert D. Pederson, 68, passed away in November. See his obituary in the In Memoriam section.

NORTH CAROLINA

Jim Canterbury, ARCSE Representative

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Senior Conservationist, **Julian H. McIntyre**, is a recent inductee into the Cumberland County, North Carolina Agricultural Hall of Fame. Mr. McIntyre was the District Conservationist in that county for many years before his retirement. He is a World War II veteran, having served in the South Pacific Theater.

Ron Marlow Receives NC State University BAE Outstanding Alumnus Award

Ron Marlow, who began his career in North Carolina and later worked in the National Office serving as Director of Conservation Engineering and Associate Deputy Chief for Science and Technology, was awarded the 2013 NC State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Outstanding Alumnus for Biological and Agricultural Engineering. Several NRCS retirees with whom Ron had worked attended a reception at NCSU on October 11th, where he was recognized by **Dr. Robert Evans**, Department Head, for his contributions to the University, his profession and community. Those retirees attending included **Angela Greene** and friend **Paul Gragg** from Deep Gap, **Phyllis and Gene Pate** from Lumberton, and from the Raleigh area **Tommy Cutts**, Ron's first SCS engineering supervisor, **John Garrett and Dick Gallo**. Also attending were Ron's family and a number of NCSU staff, alumni, and retirees—including two of Ron's professors, **Dr. Wayne Skaggs** and **Dr. Charlie Suggs**. Ron says he really enjoyed seeing everyone.

Dick Phillips reported to John Peterson that he continues to be active in NC as an elected SWCD Supervisor, working on Corps of Engineers issues and farm ponds, for example. He says the Corps are very unfriendly to farmers. He especially likes helping the NC Supervisor's Water Resources Committee. They are very active, and at every occasion speak to the maintenance issues of all the watershed dams, both in PL-566 and Pilot Watersheds. **Judy** says **Dick** has completely failed at retirement. That sounds familiar.

OKLAHOMA

Randy Freeland, ARCSE Representative

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On October 25, 2013, the Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees met at the Golden Corral Buffet Restaurant in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Forty five people were in attendance. They were: **David Ankle, Don and Darlene Bartolina, Steve Chessmore, Everett and Helen Cole, Duane Crider, Bob and Betty Day, Wayne Fjeseth, Fred and Gayle Fortney, Randy Freeland, Jim and Roberta Frie, Lloyd Garrison, Gayle and Mary Goforth, Sandra and Terry Hough, Otho Lamar, Nick Lambeth, Jim McCampbell, Lowell and Minnie McMasters, Gordon and Minnie Carol Moebius, Nelson and Mary Mueller, Glen and Eunice Mullen, Gary O'Neill, John and Joy Pewthers, Dan Runnels, Gayland Sandy, Jim and Terry Smith, J. C. and Shirley Spitzer, Betty Todd, Keith and Phyllis Vaughan, and Carolyn and Bob Webb.**

President **Dan Runnels** called the meeting to order. He reported that **Jo Ann Leaverton**, widow of **Erwin Leaverton**, had fallen recently and hurt her leg. She had called to say she was unable to attend. **Tom Perryman**, retired AC from Woodward, recently had surgery in Norman. He is currently recuperating there. **Randy Freeland** provided the blessing for the meal. Everyone enjoyed the buffet meal. The Oklahoma SCS/NRCS retiree website (www.cyber-shack.net/nrcs/) has been helpful in our effort to keep retirees informed. This website also has a posting of the attendees, minutes and pictures from each of the meetings.

Fred Fortney read a list of recent retiree deaths: **JoAnn Keltch**, retired clerk, Woodward TSO, 5/8/13; **James Ludwick**, retired Hydrologist, Chickasha WPS, 6/10/13, retired in 1990 was 82 yrs. old; **Eden (Buzz) Matheny**, retired DC from Madill and Marietta, residing in Ardmore, 6/25/13; **Joe Stinchcomb**, father of **Ed Stinchcomb**, DC at Chandler, August 2013; **Carl Marvin Williams**, worked in Clinton, Wewoka and OKC, 9/9/13, retired in 1974, was residing in the Leedey area. A moment of silence was observed and Fred offered a prayer.

President **Runnels** introduced a special guest, **Gary O'Neill**, NRCS State Conservationist for Oklahoma. Gary is a native Oklahoman from Osage County and started his SCS career in Oklahoma.



Fred Fortney visiting with State Conservationist Gary O'Neill and Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees President Dan Runnels.

Rice, Cotton County District Secretary, 23 years of service and wife of **Stan Rice**, retired RC&D Coordinator; **Mark Harrison**, Information Officer for OCC; **Tom Wilson**, SC at Hobart, with 41+ years of service; and **Chris Shepherd**, DC at El Reno in June.

There are 2110 watershed structures in Oklahoma, many of which have reached their designed life span. Many are in need of rehab. In 2005 Oklahoma had 350 FTEs (full-time equivalent employees) and currently only have 295 FTEs. Most of the retirees remember upward of 500 FTEs as the norm at one time. NRCS is doing more with less these days. **Gary** noted that NRCS has been able to maintain a presence in each of the 77 counties. He emphasized the importance of conservation districts in the relationship with conservation producers. As an example, Leflore County alone has over 500 contracts. He reported that the Watershed program has not been funded for several years; however, rehabilitation of watershed structures has helped provide technical assistance funds to keep our expertise in watersheds operating for now.

Randy Freeland is the Oklahoma representative to ARCSE and uses information gathered at the meeting to provide news articles for the newsletters sent to members of the organization every other month. Dues are \$18 per year and he has membership applications for anyone interested in joining. For those who retired after January 1, 2003, a one year membership is "free" by just filling out the form. He asked those in attendance to "jot down" on an information sheet something he could include in the newsletter. Here are a few of the comments he received:

Otho Lamar commented that "All his former ACs (but one) are gone, so he doesn't play much golf anymore. It isn't as much fun if you can't sneak off from work."



Carolyn and Bob Webb

Carolyn Webb said she volunteers at the hospital and substitute teaches. She is active in her church and a member of a garden club. She was in charge of the Red Cross Blood drive this year. She stays pretty current on NRCS activities as her husband, **Bob**, is the Chairman of the Creek County Conservation District Board.

Wilma Fraley wrote that she was helping out at their insurance agency a little and spending a lot of time with three grandchildren. They are now going into a busy time of year for the Fraleys. They are preparing for pecan harvest, and the actual harvesting and sales is a family affair.

"I am currently volunteering for several entities in Stillwater including Countryside Baptist Church, OSU Botanical Garden, Stillwater Public library, and Stillwater Hospital," wrote **Les Conner**. They have seven grandchildren and enjoy being involved in their activities.

Geri Cutler wrote: "Randy, just to say how much I appreciate getting your emails and hearing the news. As for me, I'm just sort of hanging in there. I describe it as 'treading water'. I am still able to care for my needs by real careful planning. No excitement to report but looking forward to your newsletter."

And **Shelley Hungerford** informed us that she and **David** are currently on vacation to the Grand Canyon. They look forward to attending our next meeting in the spring. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 25, 2014, at the Golden Corral, 520 South MacArthur Blvd. in Oklahoma City. It is located between I-40 and Reno behind the Shell Station. Take Exit #144 off I-40. Go north on MacArthur Blvd.

OREGON

Don Stettler, ARCSE Representative

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L to R Lowell Kenedy, Harbans Lal, Dan Moore, and Ken Pfeiffer



L to R – Yours truly (Don Stettler), Gary Formanek, Jim Marron, Pat Willey

Like much of the rest of the country, Oregon was in the deep freeze for several weeks in early December. In what has become an annual event, both current and former members of the Water Quality and Quantity Development Team plus others meet in December at the Rock Bottom Café in downtown Portland for a "staff meeting." As you may suspect, a great deal was accomplished. A few pictures show the level of our dedication.

For those of us who knew her, we were surprised and saddened by the passing of **Mary Martin**. At the time of her death, Mary was on the IT staff at the West National Technical Support Center in Portland. She will be missed.

The winter quarter retiree lunch will be held on January 22, 2014 at The Old Spaghetti Factory in Tanasbourne. The doors open at 11:30 a.m., and orders from the menu will be taken about noon.

PENNSYLVANIA

William Bowers, ARSCE Representative

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Annual Meeting Held in Chester County

Thirty-six retirees gathered at the Pietro Mushroom Farm where owner, **Chris Alonzo**, gave an overview of mushroom growing. He also lead a tour of their farm operations including spawning beds, emerging mushrooms and buttons ready for picking. Yearly production is about 35 pounds per acre. President **Bill Bowers** reported that the raindrop logo will be retained by NRCS. He thanked all who participated by writing letters. Treasurer **John Mickley** recommended a \$400 donation to the Keystone Chapter SWCS Penn State Scholarship fund. **Tim Murphy** reported on NARFE activities and that the new "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act" does not impact federal employees.

Pete Vanderstappen gave the report on NRCS current activities. After lunch and the notorious group photo, a fabulous tour was made of beautiful Longwood Gardens. The gardens were spectacular, especially the lily pond where some of the lily pads were over four feet in diameter. The morning rain gave way to afternoon sun which made the gardens even more beautiful. A special thanks to **Rose Marie Updegraff** for making the arrangements with Longwood Gardens and to **Bill Bowers, Tim Murphy and Rose Marie Updegraff** for arranging and hosting the meeting. Attending were **Bill and Mary Ann Bowers, Don and Shirley Lindsey, Dale and Rose Marie Updegraff, Fred and Jane Schuetz, John and Ellen Mank, John and Donna Mickley, ed and Sherrie White, John and ann Akers, Alan and Judith Wood, Alan and Deborah Bennett, Rishard and Susan Shockey, Harvey and Vickie Pinkerton, Donald and Susanj Bowers, Pete and Barbara Vanderstappen, Tim and Regina Murphy, Frank and Bev Harvetine, Frank and Jane Resides and Nevin and Judy Ulery**.

From President Bill Bowers: Where has 2013 gone? It was great to see many of you at the mushroom farm and at Longwood Gardens in September. The rainy morning turned into a good afternoon, and Longwood showed off its beauty as usual. Be sure to mark your calendars for September 15th at the McKeever Environmental Learning Center, Sandy Lake (Mercer County), PA (<http://www.mckeever.org/2014>) for our annual get together. There should be lots of stories to tell and time to view the beauty of some of the work SCS did in the "good old days!" Speaking of stories, please continue to send Fred some of your favorite stories from the SCS/NRCS work days. Hope you all had a great Thanksgiving and took the time to give thanks for the many blessings we enjoy. **Mary Ann** and I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and healthy, happy 2014!

Congress and Your Health Insurance: Washington, DC (NARFE Magazine, Dec 13) **Representative Dave Camp**, R-MI, is sponsoring H.R.1780. The bill provides that the only health plans that the federal government may make available to the President, Vice-President, members of Congress and federal employees are those created under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act or offered through a health insurance exchange. The bill would remove federal employees from the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) and place them in the health exchanges under the Affordable Care Act. The bill has 30 R co-sponsors. It is presently in conference committee.

2014 Annual Meeting Set: Next year's SCS/NRCS Retiree Picnic is set, according to Host Chair **Harvey Pinkerton**. The date is September 15, 2014. The location is the McKeever Environmental Education Center in Sandy Lake, Mercer County. **Harvey and Vickie** offered to host the 2014 meeting at that location. Harvey even has a tentative schedule. Coffee and donuts at 9:00 AM This is followed by a presentation and tour of the EE center. Lunch and business meeting follows. Last on the agenda is a tour Goddard State Park including Lake Arthur, created as a PL 566 flood protection – recreation project. Some of our retirees are familiar with this facility as they were involved in its planning and construction. Harvey adds that if time permits, a visit may be made to Ernst Farms. (Thanks to Harvey – never before in my memory have we plans set so early.)

Conservation Scholarships Awarded: **Yuri Plowden** of the Keystone Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society informs that the 2013 Conservation Scholarship winners are **Kelly A. Doyle**, Penn State University (Community, Environment and Development and Environmental Resource Management) and **Wendy M. Leuenberger**, Indiana University of Pennsylvania (Biology, Ecology, Conservation, and Environmental Biology). Each received \$750 (\$500 from SWCS and \$250 from The PA SCS/NRCS Retirees).

Bill and Mary Ann Bowers attended several Penn State football games, including two overtime games. The Michigan four overtimes was exciting with the winning TD scored right in front of us. Fortunately, both games were won by the Nittany Lions (perhaps they should try for all games to go into overtime). The Bowers family gathered at Bill and Mary Ann's for Thanksgiving. We enjoy having the family around. **Bill and brother Don** will head out for the elusive whitetail buck the next week. **Ed Brzotek** suffered a mild heart attack in July and found out his right artery was completely closed. A stent was inserted to restore blood flow. Ed is enrolled in cardio rehab and doing well. He is still working part time as an ACES employee for national headquarters. **Ed and Rita** have a 3-year-old granddaughter from their son, and their daughter is expecting in April. Ed's mailing address is 31 Cromwell Drive, Ocean View, DE 19970, email address is ejbrz@yahoo.com, phone 240-688-2415. Ed and Rita welcome fellow NRCSers to come and enjoy their beach house in Delaware.

John and Ann Akers report the most significant event recently was the marriage of their youngest daughter, **Janice** on November 1, 2013, in Richmond, VA. Her husband is serving in the Navy on a destroyer at the Hampton Navy Yard, VA. In September, Ann and John attended his 60th class reunion from the Carlisle High School. It was nice to get together again, but at 60 years the number of class mates has gotten fewer. Just received notice that John has been appointed to a four-year term to the Bedford County Conservation District. John has been serving as the Board's representative to the Southern Alleghenies Conservancy and RC&D committees.

Things are winding down on the farm in Northwestern PA., according to **Don McCandless**. Really not doing a lot of active farming these days--have most of the open land on the home farm in USDA's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). This is a great program for an 80-year-old farmer. CREP is also great for the wildlife. As a Farm Game Cooperator with the PA Game Commission, our farm is stocked with pheasants each year. We also raised about 25 birds on the farm plus 45 released this fall. Deer also use the fields, with about 15 grazing the volunteer crown vetch each night. Deer ticks really love me, and I remove most of them before they do any harm; however, missed one in early July and contracted Lyme Disease. Took antibiotics for six weeks and hope there are no long term effects.

Don and Shirley Lindsey say they are doing fine. Busy as usual and usually don't get much done. Nothing to do with being 81, I'm sure. They have had a great summer and fall with travel and visitors. Gettysburg was a hopping place this summer as the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. Next year will be the 250th birthday of Littlestown. Don, involved with the Historical Association, will be busy with activities all year. He still demonstrates at Union Mills, MD as a 19th century carpenter using hand tools. He loves it! Shirley is still doing her thing with ESL teaching, Master Gardeners, and teaching a Bible Study class at church. And we are both enjoying family--three grandchildren married this past summer. They made a trip to Penn State to see their freshman grandson, **Quinn Holland**, perform with the University Choir (in a tux yet).

Liz Zimmerman thanks all of you for the cards, letters, telephone calls and emails received since her husband, **Jim**, went into a nursing home in May. She appreciates your prayers and kind words of encouragement. Jim is doing reasonably well for the situation. He can't walk and has dementia, so it looks like this will be a long-term situation. Please continue to remember them in your prayers. Best wishes to all for the upcoming holiday season.

Rose Marie Updegraff writes that she is working two days a week for NRCS. She has been back one year and is managing their Mentoring Program and Teleworking Program. She surprised Dale with a trip to New Orleans for his birthday in September. They enjoyed great food, great music, and a visit to the outstanding World War II Museum. The biggest surprise was tickets to see the New Orleans Saints play in the Superdome. In October, they enjoyed the Hudson River

Valley. They toured the Rockefeller estate in Sleepy Hollow and saw an Army game at West Point. She said they are looking forward to a Rhine River Cruise the beginning of December visiting the Christmas Markets. They will start in Switzerland and travel to France, Germany, and the Netherlands. Then, she and Dale will do their own thing traveling to Brussels and Bruges, Belgium, and return home for Christmas.

Samuel "Sam" Young tells us that he retired from Larson Design Group on December 10th. He now has a new cell phone, 570-594-0986 and e-mail, seyoung@ptd.net. **Art Holland** sent a note of thanks for our thoughts, prayers and support in the recent death of his wife, **Jeanette**. He said he just returned from visiting his children in PA and VA following the burial at Glenn Mills near where we used to live (see "In Memoriam").

Frank Resides reported that the **Southeast PA retirees group** met for lunch at Roger's Bistro in Chester County. With plenty of sunshine, rapidly melting snow and temperatures in the 60s, it was a great day to be out to lunch. Those present were: **Len and Mary Beck, Helen Brossman, Jim and Maria Cropper, Bob and Nancy Escheman, Carolyn Gehlen, Tom and Joyce Iivari, Jean Kirkaldie, Ann Magee, Joe and Janice McDonough, Frank and Jane Resides, and Mercedes Seman**. **Bobby and Gail Brant** stopped by for a short visit. It was great to see everyone, and we had a good time at Roger's as usual. We look forward to our next meeting this summer.

Thought for the Season: "Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to all men." Luke 2:14

Best wishes for a blessed Christmas and Holiday Season and a wonderful 2014.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Byron Thompson, ARCSE Representative

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Bobbie McGee and family took their camper and made the trip to Ohio by way of the Great Smoke Mountains in November. They were in Eaton Ohio to visit their son and were able to make a visit to Dayton Ohio to see the US Air Force Museum. A safe trip and back to good old South Carolina for Thanksgiving. All of the **Luke Nance** family traveled to Georgia in November to attend their grandson's graduation from US Army Basic training and Advanced Infantry.

Art Holland reported that during Thanksgiving, he lost his wife **Jeanette** after many years and buried in PA. He stayed and visited with family in the area. He also visited with several former SCS employees including **Tom and Joyce Iivary, Jane Resides, Bob and Nancy Escheman, Tom and Joyce McDonough**.

The **Hugh Caldwell** family reported they were planning to travel to the Great Smoky Mountains (Pigeon Forge) for a Christmas Vacation. **Tommy Stone** reported that **Doug Deaderick's** mother past away in December. Doug served as District Conservationist in Lexington County SC and retired as Assistant State Conservation for Operations in SC.

The **Byron Thompson** family is doing ok after a very bad truck accident in September with no issues, thank God for that. I am in the process of selling part of my business (lawn mowing) for the third time. This should free up some time for us to travel and time for the family. **Mark Berkland** and family are doing great in North Carolina.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Michael Kuch, ARCSE Representative

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Ron and Mary Hendricks from the Broken Spur Ranch in Gann Valley, SD sent this to John Peterson: **John**, about 20 years ago, I gave Earl a tractor. It had originally been on steel wheels and converted to rubber. I believe it was a 1530 international. **Earl**, and I believe his brother, came out here to pick it up. I like to kid **Ron and Mary** about their BS Ranch! Old friends can do that and not take offense.

TEXAS (NORTH AREA)

Arnold King, ARCSE Representative

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Dennis Gaster presided over the **October business meeting**. A nominating committee for next year's officers was formed and consists of **Dennis Gaster** and **Dave Stockbridge**. Eighteen persons were present for the October 25th meeting: **Earl Blakley, Bernie and Maxine Owen, Jim and Jere Rickman, Dennis and Kathy Gaster, Don and Berniece Newman, Marie Garsjo, Tom Hodges, Joe Nichols, Elaine and Billy Davis, Dave and Barb Stockbridge, Don Shanklin, and Dennis Erinakes**.

Correction: **Dave Drennen's son** is building a new home in Mira Vista, not Rio Vista as previously reported.

Bernie Owen talked with **Frank Richardson**, who is considering a heart valve, and had a doctor's appointment today. He also mentioned that **Bill Patterson** passed away in September. **Dave Stockbridge** just returned from his 50th high school reunion in central New York. He said it was a joy to find out what everyone had done, and how the focus had changed from all about me to all about you with those attending. About half of those surviving attended. **Dennis Erinakes** reported that his son **Michael** is in Saskatoon goose hunting, and 3 weeks ago he was in Louisiana hunting alligators where he got 3. A custom hunting blind, made of aluminum popped out of the ground when it became saturated, but they have that under control now. Dennis said his district is hosting a statewide meeting on managing our groundwater. Dennis is about full time involved in the groundwater management arena.

Don Shanklin explained his current health situation. After having a biopsy on his neck that turned out to be a squamous cancer, he underwent a series of tests looking for the source. The source was never found, but they did discover prostate cancer. They declined to attempt to operate on the prostate cancer, but he underwent green light laser surgery. He looks good, but gets up from a chair like Gabby Hayes. His son, who adopted two older brothers (now 15 and 17), is adapting to parenthood and it appears to be a good fit.

Bernie Owen updated the latest from IRS. IRS is blaming congress because of the shutdown, and so they won't start accepting returns most likely until February 1st. **Tom Hodges** recommended a book, *Killing Jesus: A History*, by Bill O'Reilly. **Barb Stockbridge** spent a couple of days in New York with her son, **Greg**. **Elaine Davis** missed the meeting last month, and it was the first time she missed a meeting since joining. She was at a family reunion with 42 relatives. **Dennis Gaster** has a grandson, **Jake**, who is 11 and playing football. He was hit hard after the play had ended and was flattened. His head hit the ground and an ambulance was called to take Jake to the hospital, where he was found to be okay.

Maxine Owen brought printed retirement announcements for **Bill Kuenstler**, retiring January 3, 2014, and a come-and-go party at the Fort Worth Federal Center, on December 5th, and a retirement party for **George Peacock** and **Homer Sanchez** on Nov. 21st, 2013 at Joe T. Garcia's, Fort Worth, Texas. **Jana Malot** went to their retirement parties. She worked with them on grazing both rangelands and pasture, and they worked on tweaking the Conservation Security Program grazing enhancements for the program in the beginning. She also spent a couple days with **Arnold Norman** and his family in Ft. Worth. He is retired from the GLTI in Ft. Worth as well.

Marcia Delucchi wrote: Just to let you know I just had a second back surgery Oct. 9. Have been in a rehab in Ft. Worth, and will go home Oct. 21st with the help of friends and family

Joe Nichols said there was an obituary that was for **Alice Borden's husband**, but it did not mention her by name.

The **November 15th 2013 meeting** of the SCS/NRCS Alumni Club was at St Ann's Catholic Church, Burleson, TX. Seventeen persons were present: **Earl Blakley**, **Dennis Gaster**, **Elaine and Billy Don Davis**, **Don Kapalka**, **Anita Plummer**, **Rocky and Del Rockenbaugh**, **Joyce Petty**, **Barbara Gillum**, **Barb Stockbridge**, **Helen Shanklin**, **Don Newman**, **Dave Drennan**, **Clyde Goodman**, and **Bernie and Maxine Owen**.

Dave Drennan presided over the business meeting. A motion was approved to donate \$200 to the Presbyterian Night Shelter in Fort Worth as has been the custom of the club for many years. **Donations for this gift will be taken at the December meeting**. **Bruce Harrison** discussed changes to the Blue Cross Blue Shield plans for 2014.

Dennis Gaster also reported on the nominations for 2014 club officers: **Marie Garsjo** for President, **Dave Drennan** for Vice President, **Dennis Gaster** for Secretary Treasurer, **Barbara Gillum** for Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, **Anita Plummer** for Member Relations (Cards and Memorials), and **Joyce Petty** for Newsletter Distributor.

Dave Stockbridge sent the following note October 28th: **Marsha Delucchi** is recovering from back surgery two weeks ago and came home from Rehab in Fort Worth last Monday, October 21st. Daughter **Katie** had been here and was going home the next day. A friend from California was coming tomorrow for a week. **Marsha** was not feeling well at all. I offered to do anything that I could as she sounded not very well. Did not talk but a few minutes as I did not think that she felt like talking. We sincerely hope she is feeling much better now. I thought you all would want to know and maybe give **Marsha** a call or send a card.

Anita Plummer heard from **Don and Mary Stelling**, and they are doing fine up in Deshler, Nebraska. **Barb Stockbridge** reported the "the boys" (**Dave, Don Shanklin, and Billy Teels**) are fishing on the Texas coast. Her son will be coming for Christmas on Decemer 19th. **Maxine Owen** reported that two friends from Oregon are coming for Thanksgiving in their RV. Their son **Mitchell** in Arizona just moved to a new home and will not make it to Arlington this year.

Bernie Owen has been busy giving presentations on Federal Income Taxes. 2014 IRS regulations have been slow in coming and it will be probably be late February before IRS begins accepting returns. They will accept your check, however.

Del Rockenbaugh reported the arrival of their eighteenth great grandchild (girl) about six weeks ago and recently found out their nineteenth and twentieth are on the way. **Helen Shanklin** recently returned from a trip to Gatlinburg. Family is coming for Thanksgiving. She will be going to Corsicana for her grandson's football playoff game. **Anita Plummer** has made a

couple of trips to Tennessee to help her 93-year-old aunt. She also brought the **Rockenbaughs** to the November meeting. **Joyce Petty** has her house up for sale and intends to move to Cleburne.

Don Kapalka enjoyed a patient-staff get-together at the Zale Lipsky University Hospital in Dallas, where he had his lung transplant surgery. **Barbara Gillum** has had successful cataract surgery. Her teenage grandson lives with her now. Her daughter-in-law will be doing the Thanksgiving dinner, which Barbara finds to her liking. **Clyde Goodman** reported that his wife continues to make progress after her back surgery and is off her walker now. They went to Kansas City, Missouri for a wedding and visited the World War I Memorial. The memorial is a must-see.

Dennis Gaster is recovering from his weekend backpacking hike with his Boy Scout troop to Beavers Bend State Park in Oklahoma. The trail was as tough as anything he has done in the Rocky Mountains; and even though he used walking sticks, he fell down five times. He looked like a turtle on his back lying in the creek. The rocks were slippery!

Dave Drennan recently made a trip to Honolulu, Hawaii. He also made his annual father-and-son sports trip to Kentucky. He visited Churchill Downs and the Louisville Slugger bat factory. He saw a University of Kentucky basketball game as well as a U of K football game. He visited the Wild Turkey distillery and learned about bourbon whiskey and the regulations that must be followed to make it. A sip of white lightnin' was memorable. The trip also included an Indianapolis Colts game in Indianapolis. **Dave** and his wife will be hosting Thanksgiving at their home.

We are saddened to report that a long time member, **Dorothy Green**, passed away November 17, 2014. Her service will be private. **Dorothy** was preceded in death by children **Starlene** and **Darrell Green**. **Dorothy** was a very active member until a fall a year ago rendered her unable to care for herself. We extend our condolences to her family.

Maxine Owen's sister-in-law **Judy Reh** passed away on Thanksgiving Day, following a two year bout with gall bladder cancer. **Judy's** husband and **Maxine's** brother, **John Reh**, retired from SCS in Salina, Kansas as the Assistant State Conservationist in 1992.

Larry Butler reported that **Billy Griffin, Sr.** died in a tragic farm accident. Billy Griffin, Sr. was a conservationist, and he was carrying out conservation on his place when he was accidentally killed. As a good rangeland manager, he had rotated cows to a new pasture and was in process of moving protein block to the new pasture. He had a 500-lb block in bucket of loader on tractor. It appears he got stuck in some sandy soil where hogs had been rooting. He apparently raised the bucket too high to try to improve his rear wheel traction and the bucket with the block came loose and slipped back towards him sitting in the seat. He apparently attempted to get off tractor but got hit. It appears he tried to get back on tractor, but God decided to just let him come home instead. Since he had not checked in with **Billy Jr.** as he usually does, The Sheriff's dept. was called. They found him a little after dark on Saturday. See the In Memoriam section for more details.

The December 2013 meeting of the SCS/NRCS Alumni Club will be at 10:00 AM on Friday, December 20th, 2013 at St Ann's Catholic Church, 100 SW Alsbury Blvd., Burleson, TX.

WASHINGTON

Gerald Richard, ARCSE Representative

Email: glr52pdr@aol.com

On December 2nd SCS and NRCS retirees met for lunch at the Timber Creek Grill and Buffet. Present were: **Jud Melton, Chet Jahn, Harry Riehle, Carolyn McClane, Larry and Jean Edmonds, Lennie and Florence Husa, Gary and Elinor Johnson, Hans and Kathryn Krauss, Jerry and Phyllis Richard, Phil Schauble and Carl and Paula Vennes. Hans and Kathryn Krauss and Jud Melton** provided pictures of the group. This time of year the conversation leans towards fall hunting, both small game and large game, and **Larry Edmonds, Chet Jahn and Carl Vennes** related their interesting experiences. Chet has had pheasant fee hunting in some areas on the farm for the past several years. A bird grower provides pheasants and bird dogs if needed and guarantees success if his dogs are used. Larry filled us in on some elk hunting trips that occurred back in the late 1970's with **Claude Dillon, Jerry Shrivner, and Larry**. Claude and



Seated: Phyllis Richard, Kathryn Krauss, Florence Husa, Paula Vennes. **Standing:** Jerry Richard, Carolyn McClane, Jean Edmonds, Larry Edmonds, Elinor Johnson, Gary Johnson, Chet Jahn, Harry Riehle, Jud Melton, Lennie Husa, Carl Vennes, Phil Schauble, Hans Krauss.

Jerry are no longer with us, but they were both top notch story-tellers of their hunting trip adventures. And Larry does a good job of carrying on the tradition! **Carolyn McClane** belongs to the South Hill Senior Serenaders and is busy during the holidays singing before different groups. She was recently on a trip to northern Italy, and is now expert in all kinds of pasta

cooking. **Lennie and Florence Husa** have recently traveled to the west side of Washington to visit their two sons and their families.

Ken and Tina Kaul were in Texas visiting their son and family and doing some fishing with his son's friend **Alton Jones**, who happens to be a Bass Master elite pro tournament angler. The next newsletter should have some of Ken's fishing trip news and pictures.

Jerry Richard did some salmon fishing with his two sons, grandson, and great grandson on the Columbia River. The Chinook salmon run on the Columbia was one of the largest in many years, so fishing was good.



Chet Jahn, Harry Riehle



Lennie Husa, Hans Krauss



Gary Johnson, Larry Edmonds



Four generations: Jerry Richard, two sons, grandson, and great-grandson.



www.arcse.org

WASHINGTON DC NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

John Peterson, ARCSE Representative

Email: jwpeterson@cox.net

Warren and Barb Lee migrated in December to their winter home in Mesa, AZ, through periods of freezing rain and snow. It was great to arrive to 70 degree temps. **Warren** is the incoming ARCSE president.

John Peterson reported that he and some VA Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) colleagues had a great day fishing in the Chesapeake Bay.

Keith and Barbara Schmude are kept busy and happy interacting with their family of 7 children, 14 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. All are doing fine and are still scattered from coast to coast in 9 different States. They now have a grandson employed as an Entomologist with USDA doing research at the University in Dover Delaware, so good old USDA is still part of their family!

Paul and Betty Howard are both doing well and are looking forward to both sons and their families being with them for a few days, and they wish all a very good Holiday and a very good New Year.

Dick and Helen Arnold wish all to have a pleasant restful holiday with family and friends. **Wes and Dottie Hofstad** are on the move again, flying to San Francisco to attend Dottie's grand daughter's wedding on 1/1/14, to be held at Mill Valley. It will be a busy 4-day trip before returning home 1/3/14. Hopefully the weather will be just right.

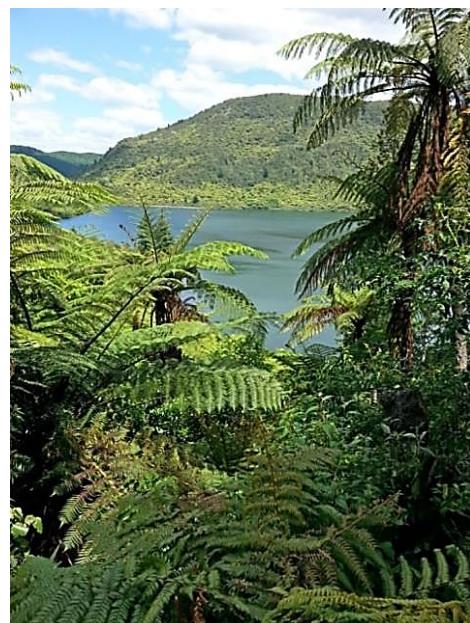


Jerry Smith (Northern Neck SWCD) and John Peterson (Northern VA SWCD).



Other SWCD members fishing were from Loudoun and Hanover-Caroline SWCDs.

John and Ruth Stierna recently traveled to New Zealand where they visited family and played the role of tourists. From Auckland, they traveled to Wellington to see the windy city and Victoria University where their granddaughter is enrolled. They also visited the WETA workshops where much of the characters, weapons, armor, and models were made for movies such as Lord of the Rings and King Kong. **Ruth** tamed the fierce troll with a make-believe kiss. They continued south to Queenstown on the south island where they visited a sheep and cattle operation and then took a cruise on the Milford Sound.



Photos from John and Ruth Stierna in New Zealand

The fantastic scenic countryside and mountains were worth the long bus trip to the cruise boat from Queenstown. The weather cooperated, as we were in summer attire the whole time. After returning to Auckland for Thanksgiving celebrations, they traveled to Hobbiton where film-makers transformed rolling hills into the Hobbits' village for some of the filming for Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit. Then on to Rotorua to see hot springs and geysers, as well as a cultural demonstration of Maori customs. So much to see and do, but it was necessary to return to Auckland and home.

This has been a busy year for the **Carl and Janet Bouchard's** with his usual trip to Clemson with NCEES to prepare the agricultural engineering professional engineering exam, a visit with the **Glasgow's** at a timeshare in Myrtle Beach, a wedding in Toronto, a visit to **Janet's** mother in New Brunswick Canada and three trips to Williamsburg, the last being the Grand Illumination (GI) on December 6th. This was their second year to the GI, and the fireworks were as great as last year's, even with a slight drizzle. Then they took the grandkids to Northern Virginia to participate in the **Wreaths Across America** wreath-laying at Arlington National Cemetery. This was the 22nd year for the event, and they helped place over 143,000 wreaths from 41 trucks. They estimate they had between 25,000 to 30,000 volunteers helping. The goal next year is to cover all 240,000 markers, since it will be the 150th anniversary of ANC. When they started this effort in 1992, they had 5,000 wreaths, and in the past 7 years the effort has taken off after a picture of the wreaths was put in the Air Force Times. The effort has also expanded to over 900 cemeteries worldwide. The effort has grown too big for the Maine State Society to handle alone, and fortunately the Military and other groups, including the CAP are helping us with the coordination. It's a moving effort, and pickup is just as moving on January 25, 2014. They are now making it a family affair, and our twin Grandson's now have their driver's licenses so they can help with the driving, once **Carl** can trust them. Congratulations and well done on your Wreaths Across America involvement, **Bouchard's!** What a great activity.



Maurice Cook says "Thanks, John, for sharing the names of some of your earlier SCS colleagues. A name I recognized was **Earl B. Garrett**, Raleigh, NC. He retired about the time I came to NC State in 1961. He was a good man and did much to get a solid conservation program going in NC. **Maurice** is a past president of SWCS and a retired head of the Soils Department at NC State. He is a great friend of SCS/NRCS. Regarding the listing of original STC's, **Art Holland** reports that **Longfellow Lough** in WV hired him in June of 1954. Thanks for checking in **Art**.

Earl and Judy Terpstra report that **Judy** is still cancer free. That's a blessing. **Earl** helps on the farm, collecting old tractors and machinery as well as more farm toys. He also collects literature on farm machinery and agriculture. He recently sent your reporter a copy of the Farm Implement News from December 25, 1953, 60 years ago. In it they listed some of the very first SCS State Conservationists after moving in that direction from Regional Conservators. It was interesting to look at that list and see how many people and names I recognized.

Submitted by John Peterson, from Earl Tepstra, Washington, IN. **Earl Terpstra** was inducted into the National Farm Toy Hall of Fame this November. He joins 40 others who were named previously. Earl also reports that Judy is still breast cancer free, and they are very happy about that.

From Farm Implement News, December 25, 1953

Soil Conservation Set-up

Moving toward completion of the reorganization of the Soil Conservation Service, D. A. Williams, administrator of the Soil Conservation Service, has announced the designation of State and Territorial Conservationists who will head SCS work in 29 States and Alaska. Selection of men for the remaining States and Territories is expected to be completed soon.

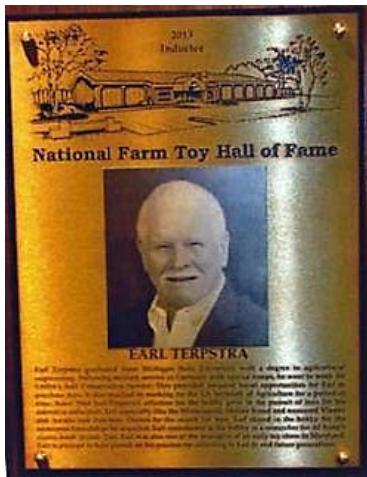
In the reorganization plan announced by Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson on Nov. 2, seven SCS regional offices were abolished and state offices of the Soil Conservation Service were given additional responsibility for direction of work in each state. In all positions announced today, the present state conservationist has been appointed to continue administration of the SCS program.

Mr. Williams also announced that SCS staffs in state offices will be increased to enable them to carry the additional responsibilities and work load.

The list of state officers of the Service as announced includes:

Charles W. Wilson	Palmer, Alaska
Hollis R. Williams	Little Rock, Ark.
John S. Barnes	Oakland, Calif.
Kenneth W. Chalmers	Denver, Colo.
Julian G. Liddell	Athens, Ga.
Robert N. Irving	Boise, Idaho

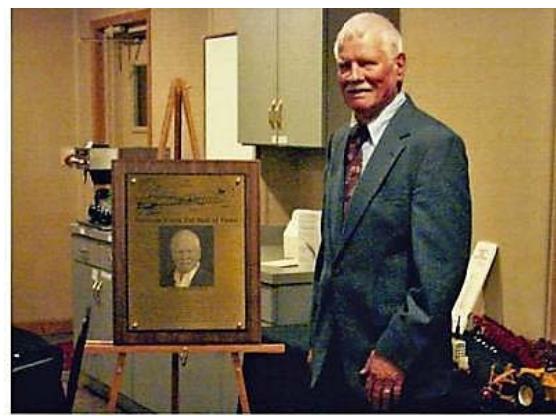
Bruce B. Clark	Champaign, Ill.
Frank H. Mendell	Des Moines, Iowa
Fred J. Sykes	Salina, Kans.
Hubbard K. Gayle	Lexington, Ky.
Harold B. Martin	Alexandria, La.
William B. Oliver	Orono, Maine
Edward M. Davis	College Park, Md.
Arthur B. Beaumont	Amherst, Mass.
Everett C. Sackrider	East Lansing, Mich.
Herbert A. Flueck	St. Paul, Minn.
George Hardman	Reno, Nevada
Allan J. Collins	Durham, N.H.
Robert A. Young	Albuquerque, N.M.
Irving B. Stafford	Syracuse, N.Y.
Earl B. Garrett	Raleigh, N.C.
Lyness G. Lloyd	Bismarck, N.D.
Ivan McKeever	Harrisburg, Pa.
Ross D. Davies	Huron, S. Dak.
Joseph R. Sasser	Nashville, Tenn.
J. A. Libby	Salt Lake City, Utah
Lemuel J. Peet	Burlington, Vt.
Paul C. McGrew	Spokane, Wash.
Longfellow L. Lough	Morgantown, W. Va.
Marvin F. Schweers	Madison, Wisc.



Earl Terpstra inducted in the National Farm Toy Hall of Fame



Earl Terpstra receiving award.



Earl Terpstra receiving award.



Jim Talbot receives the first Danny McCook Award

Jim Talbot, retired NRCS geotechnical engineer, was presented the **Danny McCook Award** at the annual Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO) conference in September as the first recipient of the medal. During his 40+ year career in dam safety, engineering and design, **Jim** established NRCS standards and guidelines used across the country. Since retiring from NRCS, **Jim** has been sought after as a senior technical advisory on many dam-safety projects and recently helped write the updated manuals published by Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The award was created to honor the memory of **Danny McCook**, also a former NRCS geotechnical engineer, who passed away earlier this year. The Danny McCook medal will be awarded by the Association each year to honor outstanding contributions to research and/or practice in geotechnical engineering for dams. The work done by both **Danny and Jim** helped NRCS become a national leader in the geotechnical field. Congratulations **Jim**. **You and Danny** bring much honor to SCS/NRCS and its technical capability. Thanks for passing along this information, **Larry Caldwell**. *Editor's Note: Danny and Jim continued the outstanding technical reputation of the SCS/NRCS in the field of soil mechanics engineering and design, not only for the thousands of small to large earth-fill dams, but also the soils design and construction of the hundreds of thousands of conservation practices across the country.*

WEST VIRGINIA

Peg Reese, ARCSE Representative

Email: pegreesewv@gmail.com

Steve Ritz, Soil Conservationist at the State Office and former District Conservationist in Romney, plans to retire on January 3rd. **Rose Fraley**, former Budget Director, passed away unexpectedly Thursday, Nov. 21, 2013 at her residence. Read more information about Dixie in the In Memoriam section of this newsletter.

A small group of retirees attended the annual meeting at the WV State Office on November 7th. **Karen Fitchett**, Human Resources specialist, was presented an award to recognize her assistance to retirees. Active employees joined us to hear about health plan changes from a Blue Cross/Blue Shield representative. After a lunch of pizza and salad, State Conservationist **Kevin Wickey** gave a presentation on the budget and structural changes affecting NRCS. Nationwide, NRCS is moving toward the "Field Office of the Future" where technical services will be separated from administrative services. This will allow the field staff to work more efficiently as they will be able to focus on technical assistance while support staff will handle most of the administrative work. Working more effectively is crucial as the amount of NRCS employees has dropped from 105 people in 2004 to 131 permanent full-time, one temporary full-time, and 11 shared partner positions in 2013. WV has gone from three area offices to two area offices. The North Area Office is located in Morgantown and the South Area Office is still located in Beckley. Kevin also gave an overview of the work done at the 2013 Boy Scout Jamboree and indicated that NRCS will also have a presence at the 2015 International Jamboree. Charlotte Friend, Assistant State Conservationist – Civil Rights/Outreach, won the 50:50 drawing and donated her \$15.50 winnings back to ARCSE to cover expenses. **Jim Clevenger and Jim Cooper** volunteered to organize the 2014 meeting that has been tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 16th.

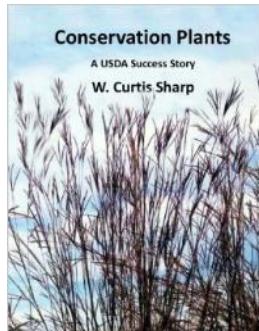
Willis and Janice Ridenour have moved! "After 40+ years in Parkersburg, WV, we pulled up stakes and headed south to Largo, FL. Here we have great year-round biking, running, and swimming. Life is good! Since age 75, my marathon days are over. Life is full of adjustments, but Janice and I still enjoy running half marathons, 5Ks and 10Ks and walking on the beach. We are very blessed with seven children, 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren."

Judy Fairbanks shared the following message: "Dear friends; some of you may remember I moved in with my 90 year old Mother after **Terry** died (almost 7 years ago. Where does the time go?). I gave up my Morgantown home, (with Life Rights), to my youngest son **Tim**; and my third son **Pat**, came to help me with Mother. We enjoyed this arrangement until she died at 96 years of age. I acquired Mom's house from my sister and decided to settle in the old homestead; and while Pat cared for the house and animals, I was able to travel with the Senior Citizens. We went to Williamsburg, Dollywood, mansion tours, and on train excursions. During the winter months I was free to visit my second son **Danny** and family in Georgia.

As with all things in life, you never know what lies ahead. **Patrick** was killed this spring in a car accident. For just a few yards, one wheel hit the narrow berm on a steep hillside, Pat over-corrected back onto the highway, directly in the path of a school bus with 40 kids on board. Several children came to Pats funeral to tell me how my son was their Hero; for at the last second he jerked his car almost upward and then, over the cliff to his death. One young man said Pat almost seemed to turn his car upward jerking the steering wheel and turning the car away from them and the children prayed loudly as they watched him die.

Sending Christmas Greetings from the village of Parsons WV and pray your holiday season is a Blessed one."

Jim Clevenger reports that "**Mary** and I will spend Christmas with our kids and grandchildren in Virginia Beach. Then will be at our son-in-law's home in Augusta, GA for New Year. Following that, we head for our winter home on South Padre Island, TX. Can't wait to get away from this cold weather. The average daytime temperature on South Padre is around 72. I play golf with an old bunch of Winter Texans twice a week. We have a lot of friends there and always have a great time. We wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year."



Curtis Sharp has completed and published a 494 page history of the NRCS Plant Materials Program. Curtis worked within this Program from 1957 through 1993, spending the last nine years as Program Leader in Washington, D.C. The title of the history is Conservation Plants, A USDA Success Story. The history discusses why such a program was needed, the efforts and accomplishments of resource conservation pioneers, how the Plant Materials Program came about, what it has accomplished, its plant and people stars, where it may have strayed off course and where it got things right. The book is available now at <https://www.createspace.com/4404432> or Amazon.com. Curtis can be reached at curtissharp@netscape.com.



Eric Staddon with WV buck.

Alan Staddon contributed the following, "As I await the return of **Gretchen** from Australia, I got to spend some time hunting with **Payton**, my 14-year-old granddaughter. She harvested her first buck on December 14th. The six-pointer was taken with my .50 caliber Muzzleloader. During the week of Thanksgiving, I got a nice seven-point buck on Monday, November 25th, and my son, **Eric** harvested a very nice eight point on Wednesday. Gretchen will be returning from Sydney and bringing our daughter Heather and her family home for a four week visit. I look forward to their arrival and having a great time celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ."



Alan Staddon with WV buck.

NEW SENIOR CONSERVATIONISTS

No new Senior Conservationists are reported in this edition of the newsletter. Senior Conservationists are a minimum age of 83 years and have completed the Senior Conservationist Questionnaire.

See *IN MEMORIAM* for the Senior Conservationists who 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.

No Senior Conservationist is chronicled in this edition. Please stay tuned for the next edition.

New Year's Wish

This sent to John Peterson from a colleague in India:

Dear Friend's, Aristotle famously said:

"All human actions have one or more of these seven causes: chance, nature, compulsions, habit, reason, passion, desire"

For 2014 we wish you:

- *Chances aplenty to carry out your heart's fondest desires;*
- *Nature that soothes those around you;*
- *Compulsions to meet and be with your friends;*
- *Habits that strengthen all your relationships;*
- *Reason that overcomes fear, greed and hatred;*
- *Passion that allows you to perform to your God-given talents; and*
- *Desire that allows you to reach, touch and kiss the stars!*

Season's greetings and health, happiness, and prosperity for 2014.

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 of the full name of the deceased. If you do not have access to the web, I will be glad to do the search. **Please send death notices and obituary information to Ron Marlow at arcse@cox.net.**

SURNAME

IN MEMORIAM

(Note: These are recent notices. For a complete list, please see <http://arcse.org/nannoun.htm>)

Bottrell	George (Dean) Bottrell (83) of Somerset, Kentucky passed away on December 14, 2013. He was a retired soil scientist. While with the Forest Service, he worked on the Soil Survey of McCreary and Western Whitley Counties, Kentucky. While with the Soil Conservation Service, he worked on soil surveys in Ohio. He held degrees from the University of Illinois and from Lexington Theological Seminary. Dean is survived by his wife Ruth Day Bottrell ; one son, David Dean Bottrell of Los Angeles, CA; and one daughter Mary Ester Bottrell of Somerset, KY.
Bozeman	Honorary Member and Senior Conservationist David Eli Bozeman (94) of Plains, Georgia passed away on October 30, 2013. David was a graduate of The University of Georgia and a retired Soil Conservationist with the US Department of Agriculture, retiring in 1978. He was a Veteran of WWII and the Korean Conflict, having served in the Army Air Corp as a ground crewman with the rank of sergeant. He was a dedicated member of Plains United Methodist Church. He is survived by his beloved wife, Sara Helen , and his loving daughters Lynn (Marvin) Griggs of Preston, and Diane B. (Roy) Worrell of Perry. David was also dearly loved by four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.
Clarke	Andrea Clarke (53) of Charles County, Maryland passed away on November 27, 2013. She worked as an energy analyst for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. She attended the University of Maryland and Montana State University, and received her PhD from Colorado State University. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the American Chestnut Land Trust, P.O. Box 2363, Prince Frederick, MD 20678 or ACLTweb.org .
Davidson	Alice M. Davidson (71), spouse of James A. Davidson, Sr. , of Cuba, Kansas passed away December 19, 2013. James retired as a Soil Conservation Technician from the Belleville Field Office. Survivors include her husband, James Sr., of Cuba; a son, a daughter, three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.
Doyle	John T. (Jack) Doyle (82) of Pinedale, Wyoming passed away November 9, 2013. In 1950, he married his high school sweetheart, Virginia Adams . Jack graduated from the University of Wyoming in 1955 with a degree in civil engineering. During his 35-year career with the Soil Conservation Service, he served as project engineer, area engineer, and state design engineer in Farson, Gillette, Sheridan, and Casper. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Virginia ; three sons, a daughter, eleven grandchildren, and seventeen great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions can be made to the Pinedale Food Basket program or to the charity of your choice. Condolences can be left at covillfuneralhome.com .
Fraley	Rose Zilkanich Fraley (77) of Morgantown, West Virginia passed away unexpectedly Nov. 21, 2013 at her residence. Survivors include her companion of more than 42 years, Herold Berthy . She was preceded in death by her husband, Augustus C. "Gus" Fraley . She was employed by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, retiring after 29 years of service as a budget director. In lieu of flowers, contributions in her name may be made to the Morgantown Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 379 Smithtown Rd., Morgantown, WV or the Herold Berthy and Rose Fraley Scholarship fund at West Virginia Wesleyan College, 59 College Ave., Buckhannon, WV 26201. Send condolences online at www.hastingsfuneralhome.com .
Frazier	Helen Penelope Frazier (76) passed away on November 25. She was an accountant on the SCS Financial Management Staff, retiring in 1995. Helen received her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from the

University of Idaho. She is survived by her a daughter, a son, two grandsons, and three granddaughters. She was preceded in death by her husband, **Joe**.

Frevert

Member **Willis Donald Frevert** (87) of Des Moines, Iowa passed away peacefully on September 8, 2013. Following an honorable discharge from the Navy, he graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in agricultural engineering. **Don** was employed by the Soil Conservation Service in Audubon and Des Moines, Iowa, retiring in 1988 as that State Construction Engineer. He was an active member of Our Saviors Lutheran Church (Audubon) and Faith Lutheran Church (Clive) where he sang in the choir for many years. **Don** was also involved in the Boy Scouts of America and Lions Club. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, **Joyce Frevert**; three daughters, **Diane Frevert**, **Karen (Randy) Nelsen** and **Nancy (David) Solohub**; his son, **Charles (Regina) Frevert**; and five grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorials be made to Faith Lutheran Church in Clive, Iowa, the Mid-Iowa Council Boy Scouts of America in Des Moines, Iowa or Iowa State University Department of Music.

Griffin

Senior Conservationist and Member **Billy C. Griffin** (84) passed away on December 21, 2013 at his ranch in Gonzales County. He was a graduate of Southwest Texas Teacher's College. He was a teacher at Bandera High School. He married **Jo Ann Word**, September 1954. They pursued careers with the USDA Soil Conservation Service in Bandera, San Antonio, Pecos, and Temple, Texas; and Jackson, Mississippi. In 1986 they retired to their home in Morgan's Point Resort. **Billy** was a Mason for more than 60 years. He was preceded in death by his wife in 2003. Survivors include two sons **Billy C. Griffin, Jr.** of Bandera and **Dr. Pat Griffin** of Academy; one daughter, **Vicki Griffin Hart** of Lucas; eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Hadle

Fred Benton Hadle (96) of Manhattan, Kansas passed away peacefully in his sleep on December 5, 2013. **Fred** was an Assistant Professor in Horticulture at Kansas State University and was Superintendent of the Horticultural Farm at Ashland Bottom from 1951 until his retirement in 1984. He was married to **Edith Hadle**, who was a Biological Technician at the Plant Materials Center in Manhattan, Kansas, retiring in 1983. **Fred** is survived by two sons, 12 grandchildren, and 23 great-grandchildren.

Holland

Jeanette Ann Holland (Grover) (76) of Bluffton, South Carolina, formerly of West Chester, Pennsylvania, passed away on November 10, 2013. She was in marketing and sales for radio and television groups in Philadelphia. She is survived by her husband, **Arthur B. Holland** of the home. **Art** retired in 1994 as Director of the SCS Northeast Technical Center. Jeanette is survived by a stepson, **Arthur B. Holland, Jr. (Diane)** of VA and stepdaughters, **Ruth Ann Proctor (Lance)** of Chambersburg and **Amy Lynne Czajkowski (Robert)** of Exton, and nine grandchildren. Remembrances may be made to St. Jude's Hospital or to the SPCC-Humane Society.

Keltch

Jo Ann Keltch (68) of Sharon, Oklahoma passed away on May 8, 2013 in the Woodward Regional Hospital. She worked for 15 years as a clerk at the Natural Resource Conservation Service Woodward office before retiring. **Jo Ann** is survived by her husband **Tom Keltch** of the home; one son, two daughters, four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Magee

Tom Magee (43) passed away on November 2, 2013. **Tom** is the son of member **Ann Magee** of Media, PA. Ann retired in 2004 as a computer specialist with NRCS.

Mantell

Leigh Douglas Mantell (71) of Nashport, Ohio passed away on December 26, 2013. **Leigh** retired from the Natural Resources Conservation Service after having worked as a District Conservationist in Putnam and Perry Counties in Ohio and as a WAE in Licking County. **Leigh** was a very active member of the St. James Episcopal Church and the Experimental Aircraft Association. He was a graduate of The [Ohio State University](#), Stockbridge School of Agriculture at University of Massachusetts. He served our Country in the U.S. Army. **Leigh** is survived by his loving wife **Linda Cz Mantell**; two sons, **Stephen (Maura) Mantell** of Dresden and **Matthew (Angee) Mantell** of Medina; and one granddaughter.

Martin

Member **Mary I. Martin** (65) passed away on November 17, 2013, in Hillsboro, Oregon. At the time of her death, **Mary** was on the IT staff at the NRCS West National Technology Support Center in Portland.

Martin

Charles W. (Charlie) Martin (83) of Stanford, Kentucky passed away on November 27, 2013. He was an Army veteran, having served during the Korean War. He retired as a district conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service, with 34 years of service. He was also a soil and water conservation district conservation board member in Lincoln County (Stanford, KY). **Charlie** is survived by his wife of 57 years, **Lou Martin**; two sons, **David Martin (Kimberley)** of Mansfield, Ohio and **Joe Martin (Tanya)** of Lexington, KY; a daughter, **Kim Dampier (John)** of Nicholasville, KY; and seven grandchildren. He enjoyed beekeeping and once was named Kentucky Beekeeper of the Year.

Matheny

Honorary Member **Eden "Buzz" Matheny** (96) of Ardmore, Oklahoma passed away on June 24, 2013. **Buzz** earned a Junior College degree at Cameron Junior College in Lawton, Oklahoma and a Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. **Buzz** finished flight school in Pensacola, Florida and served in the Aleutian Islands and South Pacific in World War II as a Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy. In 1979 **Buzz** retired from a career with the Soil Conservation Service. He and his wife, **Velma** had lived in the Ardmore, Oklahoma area since 1962. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church. Survivors include his wife of 71 years, **Velma Matheny** of the home in Ardmore, Oklahoma; a sister, **Bonnie Lawrence**, Palm Springs, California; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Meyer	Gloria Mae Meyer (92) of Mascoutah, Kansas passed away on November 25, 2013. Gloria is survived by her husband of 74 years, Lawrence E. Meyer who retired as a Construction Inspector from the Overbrook Watershed Project Office in 1977. Additional survivors include one son, one daughter, six grandchildren, fourteen great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.
Miller	Darhol M. Miller (77) of Des Moines, Iowa passed away on November 10, 2013. Darhol is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Beverly , an ARCSE member who retired from the SCS state office personnel staff in 1994. Also surviving are his daughter, Deborah (Philip) Trent ; three grandsons; and three great-grandchildren.
Payne	James E. Payne (93) of Baxley, Georgia passed away on December 4, 2013. He retired as Area Engineer for the Soil Conservation Service. James was a 1941 graduate of the University of Georgia earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Engineering. He also served during WWII with the Army Air Force. He was a member of the Kiwanis Club of Baxley and Jackson, GA for 67 years and held several positions including Lt. Governor for the 12 th District of Georgia. His wife, Martha H. Payne , precedes him in death. He is survived by his daughter, two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.
Pederson	Robert D. Pederson (68) of Wellsville, New York passed away in his home on November 5, 2013 following a courageous battle with cancer for the past 2.5 years. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. Bob was in federal service for 36 years and spent 27 years of his career in Allegany County as the SCS District Conservationist. Surviving are his wife of 47 years, Susan ; son, Steven (Dana) Pederson of Atlanta, Ga.; daughter, Beth Pederson of Wellsville; and two granddaughters. Memorials may be made to the SPCA Serving Allegany County.
Peterson	Dale R. Peterson (57) of Portage, Wisconsin passed away on December 5, 2013. Dale worked as a soil conservation technician for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service for 32 years. He was a member of CrossPoint Assembly of God, where he served as a deacon. Dale was lead guitarist and vocals for Prairie Smoke Bluegrass Band. He is survived by his wife, Cynthia Peterson of Portage; three children and two grandsons. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Agrace Hospice, Fitchburg.
Reh	Judith Ann Reh (74) of Salina, Kansas passed away on November 28, 2013. Judy was the spouse of John Reh who retired from the Salina SO as Assistant State Conservationist (Water Resources) in January 1992. Survivors include her husband of 53 years, John ; a daughter, two sons, and three grandchildren. Judy has requested memorials to the Salina Child Care Association in lieu of flowers.
Riese	Stephen Leslie Riese (59) of The Dalles, Oregon passed away on November 10, 2013 from complications associated with leukemia. He attended Sheldon Jackson College in Sitka, Alaska and graduated from Washington State University with a B.S. in Forest Management in 1977. Stephen served in the U.S. Peace Corps in Chad from 1977-1979. He was a soil conservationist for the USDA-NRCS in Salem, Moro, Condon, Tangent, and The Dalles, Oregon. Stephen is survived by his wife of 31 years Karen Riese , two sons and two daughters. He was preceded in death by his twin brother, Mark Allen Riese .
Ross	James C. Ross (90) of Campbellsville, Kentucky passed away on December 16, 2013. He was a veteran of World War II having served his country honorably in the United States Army and retired at the rank of major. He was a retired soil scientist with Soil Conservation Service. His wife, Fay Roeder preceded him in death in 1986. He is survived by one son and one daughter: Richard Ross (Mary Lou Fay) of Douglasville, GA and Donna Ross Carter (Joe) of Frankfort, KY; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.
Warren	Gene Warren passed on August 13, 2013. Gene was the State Public Information Specialist for SCS in Louisiana, retiring December 30, 1983.
Watson	Johnny "Theo" Watson (77) passed away September 4, 2013. Theo was an NRCS technician in the Tallulah, Louisiana field office. He retired January 3, 2002. He also served in the U. S. Army. Survivors include his wife, Maydell McManus Watson of Tallulah; a son, a daughter, and four grandchildren.
Williams	Carl Marvin Williams (84) of Leedey, Oklahoma passed away on September 9, 2013. He worked for SCS in Clinton, Wewoka and Oklahoma City, retiring in 1974 with 20 years of service. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Lela Ealyene Williams of the home, two daughters, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren, and six step-great grandchildren.

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