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NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter for Retired Conservation Service Employees

Vol. 48, No. 4

July/August 2021

The **ARCSE Newsletter** is published bi-monthly by the Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees, 1800 Canaveral Court, Granbury, TX 76048-4370

Website: www.arcse.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Arnold King

The time has come for me to take the helm of ARCSE for the next two years. Many of you know me and worked with me during my career with SCS and NRCS. I worked as a District Conservationist, Area Conservationist, and Agronomist at the area, state, and regional levels, and various other assignments. I also worked at HQ and ended my career at the National Technical Center in Ft. Worth. I've been around, but so many things have changed – even since I retired – that a new agency has slowly evolved. Fortunately, we have new a group of directors and staff who are highly trained in information technology and motivated to adapt ARCSE to meet the needs of our new retirees. I'm the only dinosaur in the group, but they have promised to help me, as needed.



My predecessor, **Cheryl Simmons**, did a great job of heading us in the right direction, and leading us through the difficult times caused by the pandemic. My goal is to pick up where Cheryl left off and continue to strengthen ARCSE.

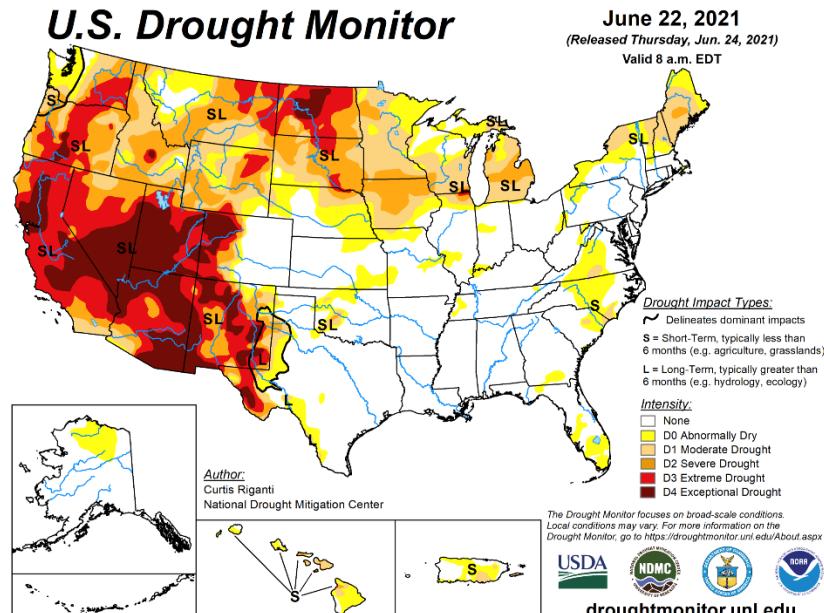
NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

Doug Lawrence and Patty Lawrence

Greetings – We hope everyone has had a safe and healthy late spring and early summer. First off, we would like to congratulate **Terry Cosby** on being selected as the NRCS Chief and **Homer Wilkes** on being selected as the USDA Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment. We wish Homer and Terry Godspeed on their journey.

Over 60% of the continental US is currently suffering under one of the US Drought Monitor's drought designations, with the Southwest and California particularly hard hit. Last week, **Claudette**, the third named tropical cyclone of the 2021 Atlantic Hurricane Season, made landfall in the central Gulf Coast, and moved across the southeast United States. Results from Claudette's rainfall included widespread improvement to drought conditions in North Carolina and South Carolina, as well as improved conditions in northern Florida and southern Georgia. (Notes continue on page 4)

U.S. Drought Monitor





One World, Connected through **CONSERVATION** **2021**

July 26-28 | Virtual Event
www.swcs.org/21AC

Conference registration is now open.

You are invited to our ARCSE Annual meeting, a Zoom webinar.

When: Jul 26, 2021, 01:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees (ARCSE) Annual Meeting

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82981996385?pwd=NGtV3cyMlk0YVEyUVhOYUpiUDBTZz09>

Passcode: 579985

Or One tap mobile:

US:
+13462487799,,82981996385#,,,*579985# or
+16699006833,,82981996385#,,,*579985#

Or Telephone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 6833 or
+1 253 215 8782 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1
929 205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592

Webinar ID: 829 8199 6385; Passcode: 579985

ARCSE is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Board Meeting - Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees (ARCSE)

Time: Jul 26, 2021, 03:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82209896493?pwd=VINSRk9oNmxaTJVN25HZnBLOVNDQT09>

Meeting ID: 822 0989 6493; Passcode: 441853

One tap mobile:

+12532158782,,82209896493#,,,*441853#
US (Tacoma)

+13462487799,,82209896493#,,,*441853#
US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 346 248
7799 US (Houston); +1 669 900 6833 US (San
Jose)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC); +1 312
626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 205 6099 US
(New York)

Meeting ID: 822 0989 6493; Passcode: 441853

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/u/khdnU4Vu7>

ARCSE MEMBERSHIP DUES

Member \$18 per year

Affiliate \$18 per year

Life (One-time payment)

Age 64 or younger	\$250
Age 65 thru 74	\$200
Age 75 or older	\$125

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

*Please submit Dues to ARCSE at P.O. Box 8965
Moscow, ID 83843*

**DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2021 NEWSLETTER
CONTRIBUTIONS IS AUGUST 25TH, 2021.**



Hi Retirees!

It is again time for elections in the Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees (ARCSE). This is the ballot for ARCSE officers for 2021. All voting members (not affiliate members) may vote for President-Elect and for a Regional Vice-President representing your state.

We are excited to place **Julie McSwain** in the running for President Elect. And we thank all Area Reps, our Board and Officers for supporting ARCSE. As always, write-ins are always welcome.

We especially want to thank you, ARCSE Members, for your membership and support for the partner youth activities. Please join us for the ARCSE annual meeting July 26, 2021 at 1pm CDST.

Thanks again.

Cheryl Simmons
Land Stewardship Specialist
817-542-2725 or 682-351-6326

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED
CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES
ELECTION OF OFFICERS- 2021

Deadline: Ballots must be received by August 15, 2021

PRESIDENT-ELECT: (All Members vote for one.)

[] **Julie MacSwain**

[] _____ (Write-In)

REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS: (Vote for one in your region.) [Incumbents names are underlined]

EAST (CT, DE, DC, MA, ME, MD, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT, VA, & WV):

[] **Melvin Womack**

[] _____ (Write-in)

MIDWEST (IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, & WI):

[] **Rebecca Fletcher**

[] _____ (Write-in)

SOUTH (AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, OK, PR, SC, TN, & TX):

[] **William Kuenstler**

[] _____ (Write-in)

WEST (AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, PB, UT, WA, & WY):

[] **Bill Ward**

[] _____ (Write-in)

Signature _____

Please Return Ballots To:

**Cheryl Simmons, President
1055 Hazeltine Rd
Moscow, ID 83843**

Or Vote by Email:

Indicate your choice for President Elect, Vice President for your Region.

Send Email to **Cheryl Simmons** – cksoil@aol.com

Please include your full name in the Email.

NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC (cont'd)

Personal Finance – With the up-tick in inflation, recent projections for the 2022 Federal retiree pension COLA are 4.0%. The official COLA will be announced in mid-October. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was great uncertainty about the future of America's economy, and the Federal Reserve signaled that monetary policy would stay very loose. However, at the Federal Reserve's meeting in June, policymakers indicated that they may raise interest rates in 2023, sooner than they previously thought. They also increased their inflation forecasts for this year.

2022 President's Budget Request – On May 28, 2021, President Biden released his budget request for fiscal year 2022. As mentioned in prior years, the budget requests Presidents send to Congress are pretty much dead-on-arrival. That said, the budget requests provide an opportunity for the Executive Branch to make a clear, detailed statement on the President's priorities.

As information in the following table (copied from the President's Budget) indicates, the outlays for 2022 are estimated to be about \$6.0 trillion. While this is lower than the outlays in 2020 and 2021, it's mostly because of the spike in 2020 and 2021 Federal assistance associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. If you include the boost in receipts associated with increases in taxes on high income individuals and corporations, the budget deficit is projected to fall by almost 50% from 2021 to 2020. The President's budget request assumes a pay cost increase of 2.7% for fiscal year 2022.

Table S-1. Budget Totals

(In billions of dollars and as a percent of GDP)

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Budget totals in billions of dollars:												
Receipts	3,421	3,581	4,174	4,641	4,828	5,038	5,332	5,632	5,888	6,119	6,370	6,643
Outlays	6,550	7,249	6,011	6,013	6,187	6,508	6,746	6,935	7,312	7,425	7,847	8,211
Deficit ¹	3,129	3,669	1,837	1,372	1,359	1,470	1,414	1,303	1,424	1,307	1,477	1,568
Debt held by the public	21,017	24,167	26,265	27,683	29,062	30,539	31,958	33,266	34,691	35,996	37,481	39,059
Debt held by the public net of financial assets	18,024	21,684	23,520	24,892	26,250	27,720	29,134	30,437	31,860	33,167	34,643	36,216
Gross domestic product (GDP)	21,000	22,030	23,500	24,563	25,537	26,516	27,533	28,590	29,697	30,867	32,094	33,391
Budget totals as a percent of GDP:												
Receipts	16.3%	16.3%	17.8%	18.9%	18.9%	19.0%	19.4%	19.7%	19.8%	19.8%	19.8%	19.9%
Outlays	31.2%	32.9%	25.6%	24.5%	24.2%	24.5%	24.5%	24.3%	24.6%	24.1%	24.4%	24.6%
Deficit	14.9%	16.7%	7.8%	5.6%	5.3%	5.5%	5.1%	4.6%	4.8%	4.2%	4.6%	4.7%
Debt held by the public	100.1%	109.7%	111.8%	112.7%	113.8%	115.2%	116.1%	116.4%	116.8%	116.6%	116.8%	117.0%
Debt held by the public net of financial assets	85.8%	98.4%	100.1%	101.3%	102.8%	104.5%	105.8%	106.5%	107.3%	107.5%	107.9%	108.5%
Memorandum, real net interest:												
Real net interest in billions of dollars	134	-53	-139	-189	-186	-136	-86	-36	9	50	108	164
Real net interest as a percent of GDP	0.6%	-0.2%	-0.6%	-0.8%	-0.7%	-0.5%	-0.3%	-0.1%	*	0.2%	0.3%	0.5%

*0.05 percent of GDP or less.

¹The estimated deficit for 2021 is based on partial year actual data and generally incorporates actuals through March.

If we ignore that Congress is unlikely to adopt the President's budget request without modifications, outlays as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) are projected by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to stabilize around 25% of GDP through 2031.

Interestingly, one of the contributing factors to stabilizing annual deficits is related to the near-zero interest rates on recently issued US securities. Note that "real net interest" (Federal interest payments minus Federal interest receipts from things like Federal student loans with inflation removed) dropped from +\$132 billion in 2020 to -\$53 billion in 2021. This trend in negative net interest payments reaches a maximum in 2023 and 2024 when it is almost -\$200 billion per year. The bottom line is that if the US is going to expend large sums on things like infrastructure enhancement, now is a good time to borrow the funds. You can find the 2022 President's budget here:

https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/budget_fy22.pdf

The following table from the President's budget request breaks down the budget by category. You can clearly see the impact of the aging population of Boomers on the US budget: Social Security and Medicare outlays balloon from a total of \$1.8 trillion in 2021 to \$3.4 trillion in 2031, an 83% increase.

2022 USDA Budget Request – On May 28, 2021, Agriculture Secretary **Tom Vilsack** released the 2022 fiscal year budget for USDA and said that "The President's budget gives USDA a new set of tools to address the urgent challenges of our time—racial injustice, a changing climate, and hunger. When we invest fairly and equitably in American families and communities, we lay the foundation for decades of American prosperity." Vilsack went on to say that the President's 2022 budget proposes historic investments focused on stimulating new job creation and expanding economic opportunities in rural America. In addition, the President's budget seeks to help restore America's advantage in agriculture production; address climate change; and support a stronger nutrition safety net.

The USDA budget request totals \$29.9 billion, almost 9% (\$2.6 billion) more than the 2021 enacted level of funding. Of the \$2.6 billion increase, 54 percent, or \$1.4 billion, are program increases, and 46 percent, or \$1.2 billion, is an elimination of the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) rescission.

Table S-4. Proposed Budget by Category

(In billions of dollars)

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Outlays:												
Discretionary programs:												
Defense	714	735	756	756	775	791	804	816	826	835	843	851
Non-defense	913	960	932	930	909	914	917	927	947	964	984	1,002
Subtotal, discretionary programs	1,627	1,696	1,688	1,685	1,683	1,704	1,721	1,743	1,773	1,799	1,827	1,854
Mandatory programs:												
Social Security	1,090	1,135	1,196	1,261	1,333	1,410	1,492	1,579	1,672	1,767	1,866	1,966
Medicare	769	709	766	841	840	947	1,014	1,085	1,227	1,178	1,325	1,412
Medicaid	458	521	571	582	616	645	674	698	734	768	801	837
Other mandatory programs	2,260	2,886	1,486	1,324	1,347	1,357	1,321	1,227	1,232	1,168	1,200	1,228
Subtotal, mandatory programs	4,578	5,251	4,018	4,008	4,136	4,358	4,501	4,589	4,865	4,882	5,191	5,444
Net interest	345	303	305	320	368	445	524	603	674	744	829	914
Total outlays	6,550	7,249	6,011	6,013	6,187	6,508	6,746	6,935	7,312	7,425	7,847	8,211
Receipts:												
Individual income taxes	1,609	1,705	2,039	2,242	2,288	2,436	2,676	2,896	3,044	3,194	3,354	3,526
Corporation income taxes	212	268	371	577	649	673	664	666	679	678	681	693
Social insurance and retirement receipts:												
Social Security payroll taxes	965	944	1,033	1,072	1,118	1,159	1,207	1,252	1,311	1,361	1,417	1,474
Medicare payroll taxes	292	287	359	383	400	418	436	453	476	496	518	540
Unemployment insurance	43	55	59	61	60	57	55	55	57	56	58	56
Other retirement	10	10	11	12	12	13	13	14	15	16	17	17
Excise taxes	87	74	84	89	93	94	95	96	96	98	101	102
Estate and gift taxes	18	18	21	18	19	20	21	32	33	34	37	39
Customs duties	69	85	57	45	45	47	48	49	51	53	55	57
Deposits of earnings, Federal Reserve System	82	97	102	103	99	77	68	65	71	75	75	79
Other miscellaneous receipts	36	37	39	40	44	46	49	52	55	57	59	60
Total receipts	3,421	3,581	4,174	4,641	4,828	5,038	5,332	5,632	5,888	6,119	6,370	6,643
Deficit	3,129	3,669	1,837	1,372	1,359	1,470	1,414	1,303	1,424	1,307	1,477	1,568

Key provisions in the budget request include:

- \$700 million to be used to provide rural residents and Tribal communities access to high quality broadband internet service. This investment is in addition to the \$100 billion in the American Jobs Plan.
- \$6.7 billion for the WIC Special Supplemental Nutrition Program
- An increase of \$1.5 billion for climate smart agriculture, climate resilience, and clean energy. This funding supports rural communities and Tribal Nations in making wise land management decisions that address climate adaptation and conservation.
- \$4 billion is requested for USDA's research, education, and outreach programs to help farmers prosper while they protect America's soil and water resources.

NRCS 2022 Budget Request – The President's budget request increases NRCS funding for discretionary accounts from \$1.025 billion in 2021 to \$1.101 billion in 2022, an increase of \$76 million (7.4%). Mandatory program funding increases from \$3,591 million in 2021 to \$3,731 million in 2022, an increase of \$140 million or 3.8%. See the following table for details.

The proposed discretionary funding for the Conservation Operations program (CO) for 2022 is \$886 million, of which \$774 million is for the Conservation Technical Assistance Program which is an increase in funding of \$54 million (6.5%).

The Soil Survey program is funded at \$84 million, an increase of \$5 million; the Snow Survey program is funded at \$16 million, a whopping 78% increase in funding, and the Plant Materials Centers are funded at \$12 million, which represents a 20% increase. The Soil Survey Program will use the additional funds to evaluate the effects of conservation practices on soil health, soil erosion, carbon sequestration, and other resource issues. The Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program will use the additional funding to enhance data collection and analysis to provide estimates of water availability, drought conditions, and flooding potential to water users. The Plant Materials Centers will use the additional funding to accelerate development of information and training for field staff to meet emerging environmental challenges associated with climate change.

In addition, a total of \$1.47 billion in technical assistance from mandatory programs is estimated to be needed to support Farm Bill conservation program implementation.

Table FPAC-12: NRCS Budget Authority (millions of dollars)

Item	2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022 Budget
Discretionary:			
Conservation Operations	830	833	886
Watershed Rehabilitation Program	10	10	10
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations	175	175	175
Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production ^a	5	7	9
Healthy Forests Reserve Program	-	-	20
Total, Discretionary Programs	1,020	1,025	1,101
Other funding:			
Water Bank Program	4	4	-
Wetlands Mitigation Banking	5	5	-
Total, Other Funding	9	9	-
Mandatory:			
Farm Bill Programs:			
Environmental Quality Incentives Program	1,750	1,800	1,850
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program	450	450	450
Regional Conservation Partnership Program	300	300	300
Conservation Stewardship Program (2018)	725	750	800
Conservation Stewardship Program (2014)	1,835	-	-
Agricultural Management Assistance ^b	5	5	5
Conservation Reserve Program Tech. Assist	123	236	276
Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention	50	50	50
Total, Mandatory Programs ^c	5,238	3,591	3,731
Total, Current Law	6,267	4,625	4,831
Proposed Legislation ^d	-	-	250
Total, NRCS	6,267	4,625	5,082

Table FPAC-13: NRCS Technical Assistance (millions of dollars)

NRCS Technical Assistance ^a	2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022 ^c Budget
Discretionary:			
Conservation Operations (Technical Assistance):			
Conservation Technical Assistance	\$730	\$731	\$774
Soil Surveys	75	79	84
Snow Surveys	9	9	16
Plant Materials	9	10	12
Watershed Projects	6	3	-
Total, Discretionary Programs	829	832	886
Mandatory:			
Farm Bill Programs (Technical Assistance):			
Environmental Quality Incentives Program	533	617	518
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program	156	192	137
Regional Conservation Partnership Program	216	289	195
Conservation Stewardship Program	562	659	285
Agricultural Management Assistance ^b	1	1	1
Conservation Reserve Program Tech. Assist	123	236	276
Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program	1	1	-
Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot	4	3	1
Agriculture Water Enhancement Program	5	5	1
Farm and Ranchland Protection Program	51	47	33
Grassland Reserve Program	23	20	18
Wetland Reserve Program	5	17	2
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program	6	5	1
Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program	4	4	-
Healthy Forest Reserve Program	1	1	-
Total, Mandatory Programs	1,691	2,097	1,468
Total, Technical Assistance	2,520	2,929	2,354

The President's budget has legislative proposals to increase funding for:

- EQIP to address drought resilience
- RCPP to support climate initiatives
- Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program
- Healthy Forests Reserve Program to protect and restore forest ecosystems

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS UPDATE

The past two months in program news have underscored USDA's commitment to putting American agriculture and forestry at the center of climate-smart solutions. Conservation program investments emphasize climate change solutions; from a redesigned CRP initiative with new incentives and higher rates, to RCPP projects emphasizing resilience, and CIG promoting development of climate smart strategies. Expansion of CLEAR30 beyond the Great Lakes and Chesapeake Bay and Wetland Mitigation Banking opportunities highlighted water resources. Conservation also was called into action for disaster response and recovery from storms, and floods to drought, as well as ongoing work in the Deepwater Horizon recovery effort. Urban agriculture continues to gain traction, slow but steady, and NRCS leads the USDA-wide Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production. Given the recent court ruling about debt forgiveness, you may want to take advantage of the opportunity to comment on USDA's strategy to advance racial justice and equity for underserved communities.

Climate-Smart Agriculture

On April 21, 2021, USDA announced open enrollment in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) with higher payment rates, new incentives, and a more targeted focus on the program's role in climate change mitigation. USDA's goal is to enroll up to 4 million new acres in CRP by raising rental payment rates and expanding the number of incentivized environmental practices allowed under the program. To target the program on climate change mitigation, FSA is introducing a new **Climate-Smart Practice Incentive** for CRP general and continuous signups that aims to increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. USDA also announced \$140 million in increased technical assistance capacity for NRCS, and \$10 million toward the CRP Monitoring, Assessment and Evaluation (MAE) program to measure and monitor the soil carbon and climate resilience impacts of conservation practices over the life of new CRP contracts. You can read more about the changes at:

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafiles/FactSheets/crp-whats-new-fact-sheet.pdf>

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCEPRD1767626>

On April 22, 2021, FSA announced a second signup of the Soil Health and Income Protection Program (SHIPP) Pilot. The SHIPP pilot allows for a maximum of 50,000 acres to be enrolled in the prairie pothole states of Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafiles/FactSheets/fsa-shipp-factsheet.pdf>

On April 26, 2021, NRCS announced \$330 million awarded to 85 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) projects to help mitigate climate change and protect natural resources. The RCPP projects are locally driven, public-private partnerships to help farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners throughout the nation to implement systems that conserve water and soil resources; improve the health of wildlife habitats; and increase climate resilience. Partners will bring an estimated \$440 million in additional funds to the 2021 projects. You can see more about the RCPP projects on the interactive map here:

<https://nrcs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Shortlist/index.html?appid=ab6aa86f9aea48e2af92ed165450d110>

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCEPRD1769025>

On April 29, 2021, USDA released a 100 Days Update, reporting on its work toward the Administration's priorities. The update summarizes USDA efforts in eight areas: the COVID-19 pandemic, food insecurity, racial justice and equity, safety net, rural economy, climate change, markets, and the USDA workforce. The update emphasizes the steps USDA is taking to put American agriculture and forestry at the center of climate-smart solutions to address climate change.

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/04/29/usda-100-days-update>

On May 18, 2021, NRCS announced up to \$15 million to support the development of new tools, approaches, practices, and technologies to further natural resource conservation on private lands through the Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) program. This year, funded CIGs will focus on climate-smart strategies for water resources, soil health (focused on carbon sequestration and climate resilience), nutrient management, grazing lands conservation and strategies to increase conservation adoption. All US-based non-Federal entities and individuals are eligible to apply. You can read the full announcement at: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=333631>.

Proposals must be submitted by July 19, 2021 at:

<https://nrcs-sites.secure.force.com/>

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCEPRD1778431>

On May 20, 2021, USDA published the 90-Day Progress Report on Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF). The report was completed in response to Executive Order 14008 Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad (January 27, 2021). The Executive Order directed that USDA seek input on how to best develop and implement CSAF strategies, which it did through a federal register notice and listening sessions. The Progress Report outlines seven recommended elements of a USDA climate smart agriculture and forestry strategy along with supporting actions, representing the broad array of perspectives raised during the initial outreach effort.

You can read the Progress Report at:

<https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/climate-smart-ag-forestry-strategy-90-day-progress-report.pdf>

The Executive Order is at:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/27/executive-order-on-tackling-the-climate-crisis-at-home-and-abroad/>

And here's the press release:

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/05/20/usda-releases-90-day-progress-report-climate-smart-agriculture-and>

On May 25, 2021, USDA announced an initiative to quantify the climate benefits of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts. This multi-year effort will enable USDA to better target CRP toward climate outcomes and improve existing models and conservation planning tools. Projects should be 3 to 5 years in length, and survey, sample and measure the climate benefits of land enrolled in contracts with practices including one or more of perennial grass with legumes and shrubs, trees, and wetlands. Awards will range from \$1 million to \$9 million. The deadline for proposals is July 2, 2021. You can see the Solicitation for Proposals at:

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafiles/Conservation/PDF/crp-mae-climate-rfp.pdf>

Disaster Recovery, Preparedness, and Response

On April 29, 2021, USDA announced \$31 million in funding to advance restoration work and improve water quality in the Gulf Coast states impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The funds will support three priority programs and related project work approved by the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration (RESTORE) Council. NRCS and the Forest Service, along with state forestry agencies in Alabama, Florida and Mississippi will leverage the funds to restore forest health, improve coastal ecosystems and provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners. The USDA funded activities include:

- The Gulf Coast Conservation Reserve Program (GCCR) will receive \$3 million to continue planning and executing conservation and restoration activities for critical wildlife habitat and water quality. You can see the specifics at: https://www.restorethegulf.gov/sites/default/files/FPL3b_USDA_Gulf_Coast_Conservation_Reserve_Program_Activity_Description.pdf
- The Enhancing Gulf Waters through Forested Watershed Restoration Program will receive \$23 million to protect, manage and restore forests in priority watersheds where states and partners have identified the greatest need. You can see the specifics at: https://www.restorethegulf.gov/sites/default/files/FPL3b_USDA_Enhancing_Gulf_Waters_through_Forested_Watershed_Restoration_Activity_Description.pdf

The Apalachicola Regional Restoration Initiative will receive \$5 million for collaborative, landscape-scale projects focused on restoring longleaf pine, coastal ecosystems and waters in Florida's Apalachicola region. You can see the specifics at:

https://www.restorethegulf.gov/sites/default/files/FPL3b_USDA_Apalachicola_Regional_Restoration_Initiative_Activity_Description.pdf

On May 13, 2021, **Secretaries Haaland and Vilsack** outlined their goals for wildland fire management in a joint memo to wildland fire leadership. The memo highlighted climate resiliency across landscapes and communities, modernizing the firefighter workforce while creating good jobs, and protecting the safety and long-term wellbeing of our wildland firefighters and incident responders. including supporting science and research into the effects of climate change on wildland fire. You can read the memo at: <https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/secint-secag-direction-to-wildland-fire-leadership-05-13-2021.pdf>

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/05/13/interior-and-agriculture-departments-outline-wildland-fire>

On May 28, 2021, USDA announced assistance to residents, farmers, and ranchers affected by the devastation caused by the storms and flooding in Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas. USDA staff in the regional, state, and county offices provided a variety of program flexibilities and other assistance to residents, agricultural producers, and affected communities. Among the resources were EQIP to help with immediate needs and long-term support to help recover from natural disasters and conserve water resources and EWPP to assist local government sponsors with the cost of recovery efforts like debris removal and streambank stabilization to address natural resource concerns and hazards. USDA's Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool provided a guide to available resources <https://www.farmers.gov/recover/disaster-tool>

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/05/28/usda-assists-farmers-ranchers-and-communities-affected-recent>

On June 10, 2021, in response to historic drought conditions, USDA announced availability of up to \$41.8 million to help producers in Arizona, California, Colorado and Oregon address immediate drought impacts and other natural resource challenges on working lands. NRCS will make the funding available through EQIP's Conservation Incentive Contracts (CIC), which were established by the 2018 Farm Bill. CICs are five-to 10-years in length and intended to encourage adoption of locally important conservation management practices that address at least one applicable resource concern. Applications for the targeted funding will be accepted through July 12, 2021.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCEPRD1788423>

Urban Agriculture

On May 17, 2021, USDA announced the availability of up to \$2 million for local governments to host Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction (CCFWR) pilot projects for fiscal year 2021. The cooperative agreements support projects that develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and food waste reduction plans and they are part of USDA's broader efforts to support urban agriculture. Projects should span two years, starting by September 25, 2021, and finishing by September 25, 2023. Applications are being accepted through July 16, 2021. You can read the full announcement and apply at: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=333589>

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCEPRD1777221>

On May 27, 2021, USDA announced the availability of up to \$4 million for grants for Planning Projects and Implementation Projects under the Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (UAIP) Competitive Grants Program. Grants are intended to support the development of urban agriculture and innovative production projects. Non-profit organizations, tribal governments

and organizations, other units of local government are eligible to apply. The deadline for application is July 30, 2021. You can read the notice and apply for grants at: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?opId=333854>

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD1783039>

Water Resources

On June 15, 2021, USDA announced expansion of the Clean Lakes, Estuaries, And Rivers initiative, called CLEAR30, a water-quality focused option available through CRP. CLEAR30 was created by the 2018 Farm Bill to better address water quality concerns and originally, was only available in the Great Lakes and Chesapeake Bay watersheds. Now, access is expanded to agricultural producers nationwide, providing an opportunity for producers to receive incentives for a 30-year commitment to water quality practices on their CRP land, building on their original 10- to 15-year CRP contracts. Signup runs through August 6, 2021. <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/news-releases/2021/usda-opens-signup-for-clear30-expands-pilot-to-be-nationwide>

On June 16, 2021, NRCS announced up to \$5 million available through the Wetland Mitigation Banking Program (WMBP), to support development of mitigation banks for use by agricultural producers seeking to maintain eligibility for USDA programs. Funds are available to Tribes, government entities, nonprofits, and other organizations. NRCS is prioritizing funding to states with large amounts of wetlands and producers with wetland determination requests. Proposals are being accepted through August 13, 2021. You can read the full notice and apply through: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=USDA-NRCS-NHQ-WMBP-21-NOFO000116>

For more on the WMBP, go to:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/farmbill/?cid=nrcseprd362686>

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD1790821>

Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities

On June 16, 2021, USDA published a Federal Register Notice requesting public input on how it can advance racial justice and equity for underserved communities as part of its implementation of Executive Order 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government. The notice seeks input on 21 general and customer experience questions related to Sections 5 and 7 of the Executive Order:

- *Section 5. Conducting an Equity Assessment in Federal Agencies.* Within 200 days, each agency shall conduct a review and provide a report to the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy (APDP) on barriers to participation, methods to address, and resources deployed.
- *Section 7. Promoting Equitable Delivery of Government Benefits and Equitable Opportunities.* Within 1 year, the head of each agency shall consult with the APDP and OMB to produce a plan for addressing identified barriers to full and equal participation in agency programs, procurement, and contracting.

Comments are due by July 15, 2021. You can read the notice and submit comments at:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/06/16/2021-12612/identifying-barriers-in-usda-programs-and-services-advancing-racial-justice-and-equity-and-support>

The Executive Order is available at:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/01/25/2021-01753/advancing-racial-equity-and-support-for-underserved-communities-through-the-federal-government>

Bits and Bobs

On June 21, 2021, Agriculture **Secretary Tom Vilsack** issued a USDA proclamation recognizing the week of June 21 – 27, 2021 as National Pollinator Week. You can read the proclamation here:

<https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/usda-national-pollinator-week-proclamation-2021.pdf>

On June 15, 2021, USDA began accepting nominations for county committee members. Elections will occur in certain Local Administrative Areas (LAA) for these members who make important decisions about how federal farm programs are administered locally. All nomination forms must be postmarked or received in the local FSA office by Aug. 2, 2021.

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/news-releases/2021/farm-service-agency-now-accepting-nominations-for-county-committee-members>

USDA Senior Staff Changes

June 23, 2021—**Homer Wilkes**, Nomination to serve as Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment – Dr. Wilkes has dedicated his career to public service with USDA for more than 41 years. He currently serves as the Director of the Gulf of Mexico Ecosystem Restoration Division, where he has been integral to restoring the health of the Gulf Coast ecosystem after the BP Oil Spill of 2010. **Secretary Vilsack** emphasized “His nomination reflects USDA’s commitment to putting agriculture, forestry and working lands at the center of solutions to increase climate resilience, sequester carbon, protect our air and water.”

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/06/23/statement-agriculture-secretary-tom-vilsack-intent-nominate-homer>

June 8, 2021—**Vicki Christiansen**, Chief, U.S. Forest Service – announced her upcoming retirement in August 2021. Chief Christiansen’s 40-year career included serving as the Forest Service’s Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry and Deputy Director for Fire and Aviation Management, the Arizona State Forester, the Washington State Forester, and for 26 years in the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. Christiansen stepped into the role of Chief of the Forest Service on March 8, 2018, following the resignation of Chief Tooke.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/news/releases/usda-forest-service-chief-christiansen-announces-retirement>

May 13, 2021—**Dr. Jewel Bronaugh** – Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Confirmed). Dr. Bronaugh will be the first Black woman to serve as Deputy Secretary. Dr. Bronaugh has a long, distinguished career as an educator and champion for farmers and rural communities. Most recently, she served as the 16th Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. She previously served as the Virginia State Executive Director for the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA). Prior to her FSA appointment, she served as Dean of the College of Agriculture at Virginia State University (VSU) with oversight of Extension, Research and Academic Programs. Dr. Bronaugh received her Ph.D. in Career and Technical Education from Virginia Tech. She is passionate about the advancement of youth leadership in agriculture.

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/05/13/statement-agriculture-secretary-tom-vilsack-confirmation-dr-jewel>

May 19, 2021—**Terry Cosby** – Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service. What can we say here, you all know Terry and conservation is lucky to have him at the helm! That said, he began his career with USDA in 1979 as a student trainee in Iowa and over 42 years served in numerous capacities from Area Conservationist to State Conservationist, and across the country in Iowa, Missouri, Idaho, Ohio, and now finally HQ. The farm he grew up on in Mississippi, now in his family for three generations, was purchased by his great-grandfather in the late 1800s. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture Education from Alcorn State University.

Meryl Harrell – Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment (NRE). Ms. Harrell was previously the Chief of Staff and then Senior Advisor to the NRE Under Secretary in the Obama-Biden Administration. Following that she served as the Executive Director of the Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards. She has also served as a consultant, advising non-profits, foundations, and government agencies working to conserve America's public and private working lands. She holds a J.D. from Yale Law School, and an A.B. in geosciences and environmental studies from Princeton University.

<https://www.nrcc.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcc/detail/national/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCEPRD1781021>

June 7, 2021—**Alyssa Charney** – Chief of Staff for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Previously, Charney worked for U.S. Senator Bob Casey handling his agriculture and environmental portfolio. Prior to her time in the Senate, she led conservation policy at the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, including work on the 2018 Farm Bill. Charney holds a bachelor's degree from Vassar College, a master's in Food and Agriculture Policy from the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University, and a master's in public health from Tufts University.

Meg Campbell – Senior Advisor for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. For the last ten years, Campbell has been passionate about urban agriculture and recently has focused on designing and building permaculture garden beds. She previously held roles at Campbell & Levine, where she practiced trust law, and Perkins Coie, where she practiced technology and cyber-security law. During the Obama-Biden administration, she served as Special Assistant to **Dr. Jill Biden** in the Office of the Vice President. Campbell was a law clerk for the United States Attorney's Office, National Security Section, and held roles in the office of **U.S. Senator Bob Casey** and the Senate Judiciary Committee. Campbell holds a Bachelor of Arts in political science from University of Pennsylvania and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/06/07/us-department-agriculture-announces-key-staff-appointments>

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Paul Benedict, Membership Chair

New Member

Marc Crouch – Leesburg, Florida

New Affiliate Member

Cherie LaFleur – Washington, Louisiana

New Life Members

Obie D. Ashford – Columbia, Maryland

Marshall “Mac” Nelson – Auburn, Alabama

ALABAMA

Earl North, ARCSE Representative

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It's the same song, repeating the last verse that I provided for the last newsletter, “news regarding our retirees continues to be short.” Our local group in Auburn continues to meet monthly on the first Monday, and we are seeing the same small group (4–6) of regulars attending. Our colleagues are staying close to home and looking forward to the time when we have no concerns about COVOD-19.

The Alabama employment rate continues to improve as the seasonally adjusted May unemployment rate is 3.4%, down from April's rate of 3.6%. I mentioned in the last newsletter that there is a lot of new development related to the automotive industry and home building.

The latest automotive development is in the Tennessee Valley area in the vicinity of Huntsville. Thousands of acres of the best farmland in Alabama is in this area and is being converted to subdivisions, roads, and commercial uses. One such development is a new Mazda/Toyota Manufacturing (MTM) plant. Over 3,000 acres are involved in this development that will eventually have around 4,000 employees. Another 2,000 workers will be added by new firms that will support the MTM operation.



MTM Plant – an \$850 million investment, Huntsville

Perry Oakes and **Earl Norton** assisted with a stormwater field tour at the MTM facility in early June that was a part of an International Erosion Control Association Southeast Chapter Stormwater Conference at Huntsville. Perry and Earl work with an erosion and sediment control program supported by the Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Committee which is under the leadership of **Dr. Bill Puckett**, retired Alabama State Conservationist. Perry is a retired Alabama State Conservation Engineer, and Earl is a retired Alabama State Resource Conservationist.

The 2021 National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS) National Conference (virtual) was hosted by Auburn University June 8-10, 2021. According to **Chris Davis**, NRCS State Soil Scientist for Alabama, the conference was well attended and provided much valuable information.

Ken Rogers, retired Alabama State Agronomist, hosted a garden tour at his home in June for a local class of Osher Lifelong Learners Institute. Ken has been gardening at this site for over 30 years and has never tilled his garden. He uses daylilies and rotation to control nematodes and has one of the most productive gardens in the area. He is an expert grafted and has an extensive collection of Japanese maples and camellias. Ken willingly shares his grafting knowledge with others and uses this knowledge to assist several nurseries in the Southeast develop their inventory.



ARIZONA

Kenneth Cookson, ARCSE Representative

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Karl Klingelfhofer Report. After 29 years in SaddleBrooke, The Active Adult Community that is 30 miles north of Tucson, and a broken hip that did not heal fast, I felt it was time to sell my house and move to a Senior Living Complex. My house sold in three days, and I moved to this place called All Seasons. Here I have a two-bedroom apartment with two meals per day and many amenities. Been here since October but I have no family within 400 miles.

I have now decided to move to Rancho Bernardo, CA. It is about 20 miles north of San Diego but inland some 10 miles. There is a Senior Living establishment there that is only eight miles from my son's home. It will certainly be a nice climate change. They do not have an opening for me now.

Ken Cookson Report. My wife and I took our first trip, driving in more than a year and a half because of the pandemic. We drove to Illinois and then on to Maryland to see and visit with family. We have been keeping in touch by email and text, but there is nothing like seeing the person and to be able to give them a hug.

It was really good to see something besides desert for a change. The route we took was a familiar one, and it was good to see the countryside again and to remember what those feed lots in Texas are like. It was also good to see the trees, the green leaves, the green grass and all the fields of corn and soybeans. We have had only about 0.3 inches of rain since the first of the year. We don't have much green.

We felt safe in our travels because we have received the COVID vaccinations. Also, because many of the people we encountered in each state were wearing a mask. We were surprised with this but very glad.

We left Arizona with temperatures in the 90s, and most of the days we were gone the temperature rarely got into the 70s with the coldest being 41 in Illinois. Then, when we got back home it turned hot. We have had several days with 110+ temperatures, and those were record-setting days. Looks like 100+ days are going to be with us for a while.

CALIFORNIA

Bill Ward, ARCSE Representative

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Greetings from California. We hope all our fellow retirees across the nation are doing well as we move into the summer. California, like much of the nation at the moment, is experiencing a real heat wave. Here in Sacramento today on June 17th our high temperature forecast is to reach a high of 109°!

California Update on Coronavirus. As of the week beginning June 15th, California is officially “fully opened” with regards to previous COVID-19 restrictions. Mask wearing requirements have not fully disappeared, however—especially indoors in places of business and in restaurants. Most of these kinds of businesses still have signs on their entrances indicating masks are required. It will take some time for California to adjust to this new “normal.”

CA Monthly Retiree Zoom Meeting, June 2, 2021. California continues to enjoy a monthly Zoom meeting for all retirees and some family members who wish to participate.



Top. L-R: Bill Gradle, Bill Ward, Jolene Lau.
 Middle L-R: Chester Bush, Harold Honeyfield, Ed Schmidt.
 Bottom: Walt Sykes, Rixon Rafter

In general, everybody reported that they were all doing pretty well. I believe all of us have been vaccinated. Many grandparents are now able to more easily see their grandkids, including **Dana** and me. Most folks are still not traveling far from home. However, **Chester** and his wife got on an airplane and flew back to his home state of Tennessee. Chester said they had a good time there with fewer restrictions than we have in California. It is hard to keep track of everything shared but one noteworthy thing Chester shared was being able to connect with some fellow Servicemen who served with him in Viet Nam. I am sure we all enjoyed sharing and hearing what others had to share.

I was fortunate recently to have the opportunity to reconnect with an old friend and fellow Engineering retiree **Ed Denten** and his wife **Emmy**. They had left California and moved to a beautiful ranch in Oregon in 2002. I talked Ed and Emmy into sharing an update on how they were doing with their fellow retirees.

Ed enjoyed two long stints as one of California's best project engineers. The first of these was in Lompoc as the Project Engineer for our Santa Ynez PL-566 Watershed Project. The second was in Gilroy as the Project Engineer for the Lower Llagas Creek Watershed Project. Ed retired from SCS/NRCS in 1987 at the age of 50, but he was not done working yet!

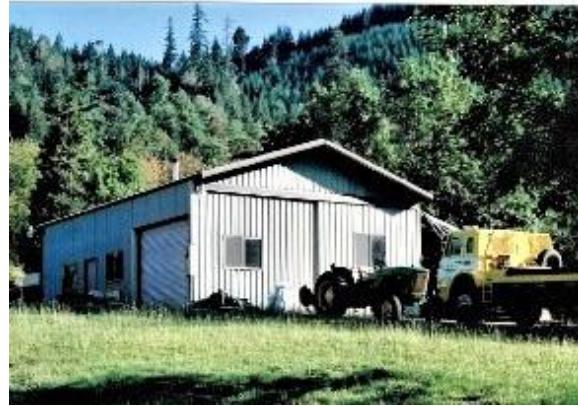
After retiring from NRCS, Ed had a very unique opportunity for several years to apply his construction experience and expertise to conservation and restoration work to benefit the San Luis Wildlife Refuge Complex, which includes San Luis, Merced, Kesterson, and San Joaquin National Wildlife Refuges. His work included the installation of new water distribution, drainage systems, road and bridge improvement, and conversion of ex-cropland to wetlands. Ed provided design coordination and construction quality control for various water control and other measures.

Ed and Emmy moved to their ranch home in Oregon in 2002. In Emmy's own words here is a brief summary of how and what they are doing on the ranch today.

“Ed is doing fine, a farmer/fix old equipment person. He has taken an old, old generator and made it run and purr like a kitten; but in reality, it would have been more economical to buy new, but that is what he enjoys doing. He still has his 1984 Chev pickup, 4-wheel drive that he keeps because it doesn't have a computer and he knows how to work on it, albeit parts are expensive and hard to find.”—Emmy.

To say they live out in the country on their ranch in Oregon away from the hustle and bustle of city life is an understatement. They live on 168.5 acres located eight miles east of Oakland, OR, population 720, in Douglas County. The road to their house is 2½ miles long—all gravel. They no doubt are very careful in making their shopping lists to not miss anything they need. Most people in their area travel to Roseburg, about 30 miles away, for their medical and shopping needs. Ed and Emmy go there about twice monthly.

Below are photos of Ed's shop or garage for all his amazing “mechanical fix-it” projects, then followed by a photo of their home.



Ed's Shop/Garage



The Denten Home

Ed and Emmy's Ranch is beautiful and picturesque as the next two photos demonstrate.



Ed and Emmy's view from the deck of their home



Ed and Emmy's Pond

Ed's trusty Border Collie, Buddy, is his "right hand helper." When you run your own cattle on your land as Ed does with those shown below you need this kind of help.



Buddy, Ed's Trusty Border Collie



Some of Ed's Cattle on his Ranch

Ed, Emmy and I enjoyed a wonderful phone conversation as I was wrapping up my update for the two of them. We ultimately did a lot of reminiscing about the very satisfying work we both did throughout our careers and the many wonderful folks we got to work with. Thanks, Ed and Emmy for sharing all of this with your fellow retirees,

Well, that is it from California, until next time, wishing all Retirees the best and to be safe!

COLORADO

Jack Carlson, ARCSE Representative

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Several current and former NRCSers attended a gathering at the Otto Pint in town for **Frank Geter**, who retired at the end of April after a long career with the agency. Frank and his family came to Fort Collins in the early 1990s, part of the first wave of subject matter experts, project managers, and IT specialists when NRCS Science and Technology consolidated its automation efforts, joining the Field Office Support Staff team to focus on field product delivery and support. NASIS, USDA PLANTS, Customer Service Toolkit, ProTracts, Resource Data Gateway, Web Soil Survey, Performance Results System, and Engineering Field Tools are among the many applications and databases brought on-line.

At retirement, Frank was the NRCS Mission Delivery Optimization (MDO) Team Leader, shepherding the delivery and operation of Conservation Desktop and the next generation of applications and tools for agency programs. Frank is the last of the original science and technology group to retire, but with confidence in those stepping forward to carry the torch. Joining Frank and his wife **Laurie** to celebrate were **Allen and Kathy Green, George Cleek, Ken Rojas, Wendall Oaks, Dave Butler, Jennifer and Greg Zwicke, Jake Zebell, Luis Gamboa, Jack Carlson**, and many other co-workers and collaborators within and beyond the agency.

IOWA

Mark Jensen, ARCSE Representative

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Lyle and Charlotte Asell sent the photo of the orange butterfly and purple milkweed plants that are by their front porch. Lyle said they like them because they are natives, beautiful, and Monarch Butterflies love them. He said the hummingbirds also feed on the purple milkweed, often getting within 2–3 feet of them. He also reported that “When we are not doing a rain dance, we watch people drive to work and also watch an oriole pair raise their family in a nest, about 25 feet from our porch.”



Orange Butterfly and Purple Milkweed Plants by Lyle Asell's Front Porch

It was good to hear from **Jim Dustin** the other day. He is doing well but says that “not much is happening that’s newsworthy.” See Jim, even that can make the news!

Marty Adkins reports that they are fine and are re-entering society as the pandemic seems to be winding down. He says they are going to church in-person after months of attending online. They have taken trips to see their kids and grandkids in Texas, Missouri, and Dubuque, Iowa. They also took a quick trip to Duluth and Lake Superior’s north shore. He expects life to get even busier in July. The kids and grandkids are coming to visit over the 4th of July. After that, he and **Carol** will be producing and directing “Shrek The Musical,” with auditions set for mid-July. Shrek The Musical will be performed at the Knoxville Performing Arts Center in early November.

I had a nice visit with **Herb Wilson** the other day. He is doing well. A few weeks ago, his family had their first “get together.” in over a year. He met up with his kids and their families from Colorado; St. Louis, Missouri; Sanborn, Iowa; Ames and Ankeny in Maquoketa. They had a good time visiting and catching up.

Thanks to **Dick Hall** for sending in the following: “Not much new in my life other than I continue to gain great grandchildren. I got a new great granddaughter last week, which makes four since **Marian** passed away two years ago. I now have 17 grandchildren and 26 great grandchildren. On another item of interest, one of my grandsons graduates today (June 25th) as a Surgical Urologist, after fourteen years of college. He has accepted a position with a firm in Omaha making much more money than I ever made as an Engineer. I still feel pretty good and am still mowing my own yard with a walk-behind personal pace lawnmower, which takes a little more time than it used to take.”

The Wednesday morning breakfast group started meeting again around the first of May. Thanks to **Don Peterson** and **Dale Faulkner** for leading the charge to get this group re-started. Other regular, mostly regular, or occasional attendees include: **Duane Miller, Don Ummel, Richard Rogers, Roger Link, Lee White, Mark Jensen, and Tom Oswald**. My apologies to anyone whose name I missed. Breakfasts are every Wednesday at the IHOP by Merle Hay Mall. We start congregating around 8am and order breakfast at about 8:30. Everyone is welcome!

On the subject of breakfast groups, **Dick Hall** said that the Sioux City group has started back up. They have had one get-together. Those attending included **Judy Clause, Gerri Ducommun, Dave and Teri Sage, Sheila Cox, and Dick**. They meet the third Wednesday of the month for breakfast. For their first meeting, they met at the Morningside HyVee, but it was pretty noisy so they will be changing location when they meet in July. Contact any of the listed folks if you want more details – I know they would enjoy including more of you.

In early June we were saddened by the passing of **Sam Shreve**. Sam was a soil map cartographer in Ames when he retired.

KANSAS

Deanne Lull, ARCSE Representative

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My, how things are changing in Kansas with vaccines available and new cases of COVID-19 continuing to drop. If one has had both shots, wearing a mask is not required for most places. How wonderful it is to see family members we have not seen in

person for months and months, attend church, dine at favorite restaurants, shop, and attend a theater production, just to name a few.

Kansas retirees will have their annual meeting at the end of June. Eleven attended last year making the most of the challenging situation. We certainly are expecting a better turnout this year.

Mother nature amazes me. One day we pulled into our driveway and noticed a pile of sticks and trash all over our side steps. Where did that come from? The very next day there was a neat nest on top of the light fixture, and mother robin was already sitting in the nest. You would not believe the scolding we get whenever we use that door.

A few highlights were gleaned from our annual newsletter. **Bill Sorenson** related that "One of the best decisions of my life was to work as a Soil Conservationist with the SCS. Not only was it a good and satisfying career, but that experience gave me a lot of opportunities later in life." **Baron Shively** was re-elected to his second term as a Supervisor on the McPherson County Conservation District Board and stays active in archaeology. He has worked on archaeological surveys and digs for the Kansas State Historical Society and the Mud Creek Chapter of the Kansas Anthropological Society. **Dennis Brinkman** helps the Shawnee County Conservation District by managing their no-till drill, looking at conservation concerns, and managing their website.

We had three retirements in May. **John E. Vavroch's** retirement was effective May 1st, 2021, with 40 years of service. John was a Civil Engineering Technician on the Hays Technical Staff stationed in the Colby office in the Atwood Management Unit. **Dennis S. Doring** retired on May 22nd, 2021, as the Supervisory District Conservationist in the Hays office in the Hays Management Unit. Retiring on May 31st, 2021 was **Roger J. Masenthin**. Roger was a Water Resources Specialist in the Kansas State Office in Salina.

I am saddened to report that three retirees have recently passed away. **Donald J. Roberts** died on April 17th, 2021. Donald retired in the early 1980s as a Soil Conservation Technician in the Winfield Office. He is survived by his wife, **Erma. Elmer John "E.J." Richmeier**, passed away on April 24th, 2021. He retired in 1990 as the District Conservationist, in the Garden City Office. His spouse, **Mary Jean**, survives. **Eugene A. "Gene" Burns** passed away May 6th, 2021. **Gene** was the Administrative Services Officer in the Kansas State Office in Salina when he retired in 1994 with 35 years of service. His wife, **Janice (Jan)**, continues to reside in Salina.

I recently learned of a retiree death that occurred last year. **Ray G. Sawyers**, passed away on June 27th, 2020. **Ray** retired in 1994 as a Soil Conservationist on the Manhattan Area Office Technical Staff in Manhattan. His wife, **Peggy**, survives.

One spouse has passed away. **Sandra J. Compton** died on May 22nd, 2021. Her husband, **Harold**, retired in 1987 as a Soil Conservation Technician in the Hill City Office.

MAINE

John Simon, ARCSE Representative

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2021 May 11th: Some of you out there probably thought we had disappeared for good. Not so, here we are again!

We have re-started our 2nd Tuesday breakfast on May 11th after a COVID delay of 14 months! We were heartily greeted from the waitress staff at Dysarts who have missed us terribly. We are good tippers! They even took our pictures!

We had seven retirees in attendance at our breakfast: **Judy and Charlie Boothby, Karen and Bruce Champeon, Mary Thompson, Dave Musselman, and John Simon**. All enjoyed updating each other on goings on in their lives. Judy and Charlie were surprised when they found out that Mary is the neighbor of folks who have been friends of the Boothbys for years, small word. Charlie is doing well on the rehab for his broken leg (I think his right leg) but is still doing the physical therapy work necessary. Us old folks heal slower than the younger crowd! If I heard correctly, **Mary** indicated she now has five grandkids.

Dave Musselman is planning his normal spring fishing trip to Moosehead with **Peter Tidd** and Dave's son. The old crew from long ago is either gone or too old to travel way up here. Dave promised to feed the black flies well, so they would not bother us in the Bangor area. If you see Dave, ask him to tell the story about the two government vehicle rear windows he destroyed—really strange occurrence!

Karen and Bruce are doing fine and will spend a week of time share up in the Moosehead area in June. We got to talking about the old SCS vehicles not having a radio, even a lowly AM version! Bruce had talked to State Office at Orono into allowing him to put a radio into his geology vehicle at his own cost. When he got a new vehicle, the State Office made him remove the radio from his old vehicle!

Our thoughts and prayers are with **Bob Lagassey** over the recent loss of his lovely wife **Louise** to cancer on March 23rd, 2021. Bob has two daughters and a local son who are helping greatly in the grieving process. Bob is a cousin of mine through my Mom. Bob was the best man at Noreen and my wedding in 1964, and I was an usher at his and Louise's wedding in St. Agatha in October, 1962. Ancient history!

Talked to **Joe B.** recently, and he indicated he got a renewal of his driving license for four years! He was quite pleased and very grateful that the leg he broke and tore up so bad was his left leg and not his right. Otherwise, he said he could not drive. Joe is still working on the rewriting of his original book on fly fishing. He is planning on adding more diagrams and photographs. Go for it, Joe.

Still planning on a noon picnic at – next to the Bangor Water District office, opposite the old Bangor dam – on Tuesday, June the 8th. All will bring your own eats and drinks and, for safety, bring your own chairs. Every time I pass by the place, the tables seem to be in use.

The greater Bangor area has a large bunch of retirees who we (the regulars) have not seen in years. It would be great to see some of them again and catch up on your news. Us retirees are a bunch of fun folks. The park is a nice spot where lots of weddings go on all summer.

2021 June 8th. Our June picnic at noon was very pleasant! We found a large shade tree with a bench, and the 10 of us settled in nicely. The breeze up the Penobscot River was delightful, as it was a warm day. We didn't break up until about 3pm!

In attendance were **Joe Bertolaccini, and his wife Ellie, Tom Smith and his wife Connie, Kyle Bolduc, Art Taylor, Chris Jones, Mary Thompson, and Noreen and John Simon.**

Surprisingly, there were few if any black flies and mosquitos in attendance, so we were very comfortable. **Dave Mussulman** must have fed all the black flies on his finishing trip up to Moosehead Lake with **Peter Tidd** and Dave's son. Thanks guys!

Joe Bertolaccini is still using a walker but healing steadily, thank goodness. **Connie and Tom Smith** just returned from Aruba with their family. The kids had earned frequent flyer miles and insisted that they come along. They had a great time.

Chris Jones said that he lives only about one mile from Pushaw Lake. He often spends his time now on the lake in his kayak, enjoying the peace and quiet. Chris was an assistant at the State Office who had a pile of programs dumped on him to administer. I felt sorry for Chris but am glad he is retired and out from under the hassle!

Kyle Bolduc showed **Art and John** numerous photos of the upgrade he and his son have done on their old camp. They put a new foundation under it, new window and siding, and lots of new plumbing and wiring. The camp really looks nice now that it is done!

Art Taylor is progressing well from his heart attack. He enjoyed seeing us after 15 months! He was not ready to attend our May breakfast last month. Art did add an extra array of solar panels to his existing array, so he is now fully powered by solar. The utility company still bills him a minimum of 100 kWh for line usage (maintenance), even if he uses no power from the grid.

Mary Thompson will be working in the blueberry fields this summer. She explained lots of new practices for raising blueberries that make them so much more productive than in the past. Eat more Maine blueberries. They are about the #1 fruit for your health.

John and Noreen will be meeting their son and family in Bar Harbor in July. They haven't seen them since last summer. The usual Thanksgiving trip down to Montclair, NJ was skipped last fall year. We had not been vaccinated by then. Now all of us are vaccinated, so we can gather and do the hug stuff. Our grandson graduated from 8th grade! Wow, where has all the time gone?

That is all for now. You all have a great summer, and God bless you all. John Simon, State of Maine.

MICHIGAN

William J. Fude, ARCSE Representative

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The Michigan Upper Peninsula retirees got together on Wednesday, June 16th, 2021 at the Crossroads Bar in Sands Township (Marquette County). Those attending included: **Loren and Erika Berndt; Larry Carey; Selden Collins; Bobbie Hartman; Bernie Huetter; Bryan Hill; Dwight Jerome; Mike Lapointe; Bruce Petersen; Dennis Robinson; Walt and Phyllis Summers; and Randy Wilkinson.** The last meeting was in 2019, so there was a lot of catching up for everyone. Randy Wilkinson has relocated to Wisconsin since then. Loren Berndt remarked that sixty years ago in June he was traveling to Marquette for his first job with SCS. Thanks to Bobbie for organizing the lunch again this year!

MID-ATLANTIC STATES

Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC

Ken Carter, ARCSE Representative

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The National Conference of State Societies Cherry Blossom awarded **Carl Bouchard** its 2021 Champion Award. Way to go Carl for all of your hard work!

Carl also reported receiving this award just four days before receiving his second chemo infusion. (only four more to go). Our thoughts and prayers are with you Carl.

MISSOURI

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Dennis Shirk. We are well. Not much to report, staying close to home, but enjoying each day.

J.R. Flores. After 17 months of retirement, we are finally doing a little traveling. We had a great time in Playa Del Carmen, Mexico and a couple of weeks ago did a little wine tasting in Hermann. Now that we are both vaccinated, we hope to travel a bit more. We are spending more time with our grandchildren. Retirement is GREAT!



J.R. and Nancy at Playa Del Carmen.



J.R. and Nancy at Hermann

Elizabeth Cook Hello all! It has been fun to start getting back to "normal." Husband **Gene Gardner** and I are not planning our next international trip yet, as most of the places we want to go are still not admitting US tourists. But we have been enjoying the natural wonders of the Midwest, including float trips on the Buffalo River in Arkansas, and the Current and Big Piney Rivers in Missouri. We are headed this weekend to camp with our daughter and her husband in Iowa (where they live). We have also loved being able to get together with friends again for wine tastings, dinners, and trivia nights. A big 4th of July gathering is in the works! We are grateful to again be seeing my 92-year-old mother in person at her nursing home. That restriction for over a year was one of the hardest parts of COVID for me. By the time I write my next update I will have a new knee. I was doing rugged hikes in November and can barely walk in June – I think I set a record for rapid joint degeneration! But at least it is fixable!

Craig King. Good day to all. After a short heat wave, it's nice to see some cooler temps and rain. All the crops are later this year in our neck of the woods. The beans were somewhat planted on time and look pretty good, but a lot of corn was replanted. Our son **Weston** graduated this spring. We were blessed to have the ceremony outside on the football/track facility. A nice crowd of 1,500 showed up so says a lot about his class. He is working for Heimer Construction this summer, then off to UCM at Warrensburg on August 5th. We had a nice crowd for his party as well as approximately 15 others in his class. **Candra** has a full schedule this summer. Weightlifting on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Already had basketball and softball camp. Softball league on Tuesday evenings. I am glad the open gym ends this week. Probably old fashion but need to give the kids a break. Will be taking her to throwing camp on July 6 and 7. Discus, shotput, and going to attempt the javelin. **Andrea** (AC in northeast MO) is working from home mostly and stays busy with agency work. She also is the taxi service for Candra, shuffling her around. That will end in August as Candra will be able to drive. I stay busy helping a local farmer haul grain as I am heading to do now. Also help shuffle equipment, vehicles, etc. for the other workers. Will be taking Candra to a Softball Tournament on Wednesday so get in on some of those activities. Made a quick trip to Oklahoma a couple of weekends ago to see family. Nice to get away. Hope everyone is doing well and please stay safe out on the highways. Driving etiquette is slowly a thing of the past.

Mike Blaine. The summer is going by at an alarming rate. So far, the garden is doing well, hopefully we will get moisture when needed. We have made a trip to WV for a granddaughter's wedding and have another trip planned later this summer. The time to start getting wood cut and piled for winter is upon me! Also, I am hoping to get a stream crossing designed and installed this

fall. Still have some repair work to do on a big shed at the farm. Seven support posts have rotted, but the shed is only 50 years old! Best wishes to all from Blaine hill.

Alton Taylor. Just got back to Texas from Missouri last night. With exception of Sundays night's storms, you all seem OK. My traveling friend **Kay** went with me for the baptism of my triplet grand children in Jefferson City, and it was Father's Day also. Kay's daughter drove us to the northwest. She took a few thousand pictures also. We were in Washington a week and Oregon about a week and down to Joshua National Park for a couple days and stopped by **Gail's** home in Arizona on way home. It was a great trip with a house waiting at each place through Airbnb. We were in a Rain Forrest one day in Washington. Texas is looking good and west Texas got its first rain the last of April, so it too looks good. Happy Trails to All.

Doug Petersen has been released from the hospital and is at home. He made the comment on his way home the roads were not smooth enough. Ouchy!

He still has a long road to a full recovery, and he will still need a lot of encouragement, support, and prayers. Please continue to send Get Well Wishes, Cards, and Notes of Encouragement to Doug, Diane, and Family at their home. 30311 E 310 Ave, Ridgeway, MO 64481, or email to petersonsoilhealth@gmail.com

Rosie Herschbach: Wanted to let everyone know that **Bob Herschbach** had triple bypass surgery on April 20th and has been released from the hospital. The surgery was successful, and the doctor said he was very strong in the surgery and has done well in his recovery. He will be recovering for the next 6–8 months.

A memorial for **Jerry McElhiney**, former Area Engineer, will be held on Saturday, July 31st, 3pm at the John Knox Pavilion, 520 NW Murray Road, Lee's Summit, MO 64081. In lieu of flowers, please send donations in Jerry's name to the John Knox Foundation, 400 NW Murray Road, Lee's Summit, MO 64081.

MONTANA

Dick Gooby, ARCSE Representative

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Montana Big Sky Report

Gordon Decker report: Been staying home since March, 2020; got my shots, and the only outings have been Dr's appointments.

We got a very nice call from and visit with **Robert (Bobby) Richardson** yesterday (6/17). Bobby was responsible for correlating all the 5+ Million acres of Montana cropland that had to have the soils mapped in order to implement the Food Security Act in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

James Johnson report: The news in Bozeman regarding SCS retirees is that **Frank Schledorn** passed away on March 23rd. The Bozeman Daily Chronicle has published his obituary.

Gooby Ranch Report: Branding was a lot of fun this year. When we were ready to brand, the temperature dropped below freezing, and it snowed four days in a row. Here it is the middle of May and who would expect it would be winter. After the four days we had no choice but to brand the calves. When I went out to see where to build a fire to heat up the branding iron, it was cold, snowing and the wind was blowing like crazy.

I got the wheelbarrow, filled it with firewood and headed out to the middle of the pen with the cows and calves in it. I finally got the fire going, and we were ready for calves. The plan was while I heated up the branding iron, **Mary Ann** brings the calves to me. Since I was staying by the fire, I didn't get nearly as cold as I thought I would. Mary Ann had to run to catch the calves. Luckily, she can run faster than they can.

After she catches the calf, she drags it over near the fire and wrestles it to the ground. I take the hot branding iron and brand the calf while Mary Ann holds it down. Most of the calves didn't really like the hot branding iron applied to their hip. Some put up a real tussle. Mary Ann almost got launched a few times, but she had a death grip around their neck and hung on tight. I had to step back closer to the fire until things calmed down, so no one got accidentally touched by the hot iron.

We soon found out if I had to take the branding iron more than 20 feet away from the fire, it got too cold to brand the calf. A lot of the calves Mary Ann caught were two or three hundred feet from the fire, so she had to drag the calf kicking and bawling all the way across the corral. I couldn't help her drag the calf since I had to stay by the fire to make sure the branding iron was hot. Because it was taking Mary Ann so long to drag the calf over to the fire, it was obvious, we would never get done branding today.

After several times of Mary Ann having to drag a calf two hundred feet or more, she came up with the idea of building a fire in the wheelbarrow. Then when she catches a calf, I can take the fire over to the calf, and the branding iron will be hot enough. At first, I thought she had a screw loose, but we decided to give it a try. We got the fire going in the wheelbarrow and it worked like a charm. That Mary Ann is one smart girl.

NEBRASKA

Norm Kempf, Jim Culver, ARCSE Representatives

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The April 21st meeting was held via zoom because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Those attending were **Jim Culver, Gus and Donna Dornbusch, Bill Hance, Jim Harder, Norm Helzer, Harold Klaege, Gary Muckel, Tom Reinsch, Steve Scheinost, Ken Noonan, Steve Stover, Craig Derickson, Keith Sheets, Arnold Mendenhall, and Doug Christensen**.



Nebraska Group Zoom Screen photo of May 19th, 2021. Top Row L-R: Doug Christensen, Harold Klaege, Keith Sheets, Norm Helzer. Second Row: L-R Jim Culver, Marc Crouch, Donna Dornbusch, Gus Dornbusch, Craig Derickson. Third Row L-R: Claudia Stevenson, Thomas Reinsch and Jim Harder.

Norm Helzer reported that **Sarah Lewis** notified him that her husband **Dave Lewis** was on hospice in Holiday Island, AR. He was a soil scientist for the agency and had worked in Nebraska.

Norm Helzer and his wife **Linda** toured the Sandhills for a bird tour/watch. They saw about 70 different kinds of birds. The vast majority of people living in that area were not wearing masks.

Craig Derickson reported on the Leopold Conservation Award given in honor of Aldo Leopold. The award recognizes a multi-generational Nebraska ranch/farm operation that ethically manages the natural resources in their care. The award is being broadcast today from the Governor's press room. The recipient of the award is also given \$10,000. Sand County Foundation sponsors the award, and Cargill and other businesses/organizations sponsor the award amount. **Jim Culver** had a copy of the application for the award. NRCS employees at the local level often help prepare the award applications.

Bill Hance and his wife have moved into an independent living unit at the Legacy. His new address is 5600 Pioneers, Apt. 338. He has sold his house and is looking to dispose of extra household items. He has had his first COVID-19 shot after waiting 90 days since he had COVID. Most, if not everyone, has had the COVID shots.

Harold Klaege is currently president of Lincoln NARFE. They will be having an in-person meeting next month.

Norm Helzer noted that **Jim Culver**, who had worked in the Iowa soils program many years ago, recently participated in the March annual meeting of the Professional Soil Classifiers of Iowa (PSCI). Discussed was the release of a new book by **Kathleen Woida** entitled Iowa's Remarkable Soils – the Story of Our Most Vital Resource and How We Can Save It, published by the Iowa State University press. PSCI contributed monies to assist in the cost of the colored soil photographs.

Tom Reinsch asked attendees to share Earth Day experiences. Tom had worked on a soil exhibit sponsored by the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. where they had done an excavation to show various levels of soil. Earth Day began in 1970, and in the past had numerous events, but today it must compete with many other events. Other stories were shared.

Tom Reinsch reported on a book called Rabbit Effect by **Kelli Harding**. The book talks about the benefits of diets but also the effects of caring lifestyles.

June 16, 2021 Breakfast meeting. Those attending were **Thomas Reinsch, Jim Culver, Doug Christenson, Harold Klaege, Norm Helzer, Craig Derickson, Gary Muckel, Steve Scheinost, Dave Camper, Steve Stover, Roger Hammer, Lou Buller, Paul Bartlett and JoAnne Thiele.**

Mike Kucera was awarded the SCS Hugh Hammond award. **Craig Derickson** was awarded a Society Fellowship.

Harold Klaege and Becky spent two weeks in Arizona with family. One of the things they visited was the Biosphere. **Tom Reinsch** and family had a reunion in Arizona, formerly planned for last year.

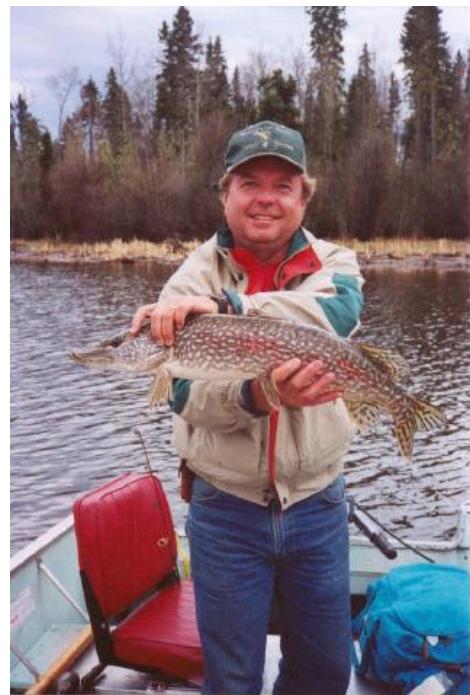
Several members attended the burial of **Francis Belohavy**, a former University of Nebraska Soil Scientist. **Kay Westerman** died on May 17th, 2021, at the age of 95. She was married to **Lyle Westerman**. She worked for the Soil Conservation Service for 34 years. **Gustov Hitz** died on April 13th, 2021, at the age of 86 years. He was the husband of **Margaret Hitz** who worked for the NRCS in Lincoln, NE. **Dorothy Meyer** died on April 2, 2021, at the age of 97. She worked in the accounting department for SCS in Lincoln, NE from 1955 to 1989.

Harold Klaege reported that NARFE has some concern regarding proposals for the Postal Service to have their own health insurance program which, could result in higher rates for our federal system.

Craig Derickson, Nebraska State Conservationist for the past 10 years, retired December 31st, 2020 after 35 years of Federal Service. Craig has been successful at a number of positions over his career. He was with ARS-USDA, Farm manager and soil scientist with University of Nebraska prior to joining SCS (now NRCS) in 1985 as a soil scientist. Later positions included District Conservationists, Area Resource Conservationist, State Resource Conservationist, Assistant State Conservationist-Nebraska, and Regional Technical Coordinator. He moved to Washington DC in 2002 to serve on the development of conservation programs introduced in the 2002 Farm Bill. He was selected as State Conservationist for Pennsylvania in 2005. He later served as NRCS Deputy Chief for Programs. In 2010 he returned to Lincoln, NE as State Conservationist for Nebraska. Over the years Craig had an outstanding career in leading the conservation activities at the local, state and national level. In February 2020 Craig was recognized as the Outstanding State Conservationist of the Year by the National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA).



Doug Christensen retired after 40 years of service for SCS/NRCS. He began as a Student Trainee in Iowa in 1975 and 1976. After receiving a PhD from Iowa State, he rejoined NRCS in Texas, HQ and Nebraska. He worked in two field offices, state office, two NTC's, regional office and HQ. Positions included Student Trainee, Economist, Watershed Planning Staff Leader, Head of Economics and Social Science Staff, Regional Strategic Planner, National Watershed Economist, and Area Conservationist. He is now an ACES employee serving as Nebraska Watershed Economist on the Engineering Staff.



NEW YORK

Nancy Lee, ARCSE Representative

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NYS Retirees' Picnic, Wednesday, July 21st at Chapman Park, Pavilion 1, starting at 11am. The park is located on NYS Route 31, about four miles east of Bridgeport and one mile west of Lakeport on the south shore of Oneida Lake. There is a fishing pier, dog walking area and tennis court. Come join us. Bring a dish to share, a meat to cook (if you want), beverage, plates, and silverware. Hope to see you there!

Sad to report that former **John Wulforst** passed away on May 24th, 2021 at the age of 91. John joined the USDA where he worked until 1987. John was recognized by the USDA for surveying more than 1 million acres during his career. He was one of two men in New York State to map over one million acres and one of ten nationally. As a Soil Scientist John surveyed and mapped acreage in New York, Texas, North Carolina, Alabama, Vermont, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Delaware, Maryland, and Mississippi.

New York is finally opening up after over 70 percent of eligible residents have received at least one shot for COVID-19. Hopefully the trend continues, and things get back to a semblance of normal.

NORTH CAROLINA

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On May 13th, 38 SCS/NRCS North Carolina retirees, spouses and guests gathered for their annual picnic at Lake Crabtree near Raleigh. Lake Crabtree is part of the Wake County Park system and is one of the structures in the Crabtree Creek P.L. 566 Watershed Project.

Attending the picnic were **Rick and Sara Bailey, Tim Beard, State Conservationist, Jim and Becki Canterbury, Tommy Cutts, Ray and Debra Dorsett, Frank Evans, David Clapp, Dr. Maurice and Nancy Cook**. Also attending were, **Dick Fowler, Dick and Carol Gallo, Coy and Barbara Garrett, Bill Harrell, Boyce Harvey, Hubert and Jamie Hawkins, Hank Henry, Ed Helmey, Howard Hobson, Ed Holland, Rodney Johnson, John Kelly, Joe Kenyon, Roger and Rebecca Leab, Phyllis Pate, Clara Raynor, Horace Smith, Wilson Spencer, Pat Tyndall, Sam and Pam Warren and A.B. Whitley**.



Senior Conservationist Ed Helmey, who is 93 years old, was recognized as the oldest person in attendance.

OREGON

Don Stettler, ARCSE Representative

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Oregon's threshold for full opening is seventy percent of the population being fully vaccinated. When this threshold is met, restaurants will no longer need to limit capacity or require masks, meaning that once again we will be able to resume our quarterly lunches. At the end of June nearly sixty percent of Oregonians have been vaccinated, so we have a ways to go. Many have told me that one thing they look forward to once the pandemic is behind us is the quarterly lunches. Surely that will happen this coming October.

Thor Thorson reports that since March 2020 several retired Oregon soil scientists have been working on publishing a book to be entitled Soils of Oregon. The effort is being directed by **Dr Jim Bockheim**, retired soils professor out of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Support is also being provided by current NRCS soil scientists. The final draft will be submitted to the publisher about August 1st, 2021. It will be one of a series of books. Currently such books are in print for Soils of Wisconsin and Nevada. The book includes a discussion on soil types found throughout the State, along with numerous maps and photos. In addition, there are chapters on land use, land management, and conservation practices. It should be a best seller.

Bill Eagle told me that he has been his usual busy self since his retirement in 2000. He has continually served as an elected Columbia SWCD Director since 2001. Besides that, he also serves as chair for the Columbia County Rider Transit Advisory Committee. He's been a member of the Rate Advisory committee and Budget committees for Columbia River People's Utility District. He's also been a member of the budget committee for the City of St. Helens, and the Club Secretary and program chair for the Kiwanis Club of St. Helens. Besides these, he serves on the Board of Directors for the Kiwanis Doernbecher Children's Cancer Program. He is also an Elder at his church and a Party Precinct Chair. For fun he hosts an Internet humor list and active personal web page, The St. Helens Update:

<http://www.sthelensupdate.com>

Beth Zetter and husband **Butch** have been staying pretty close to home the past few months. Their son, **Matt** and grandson **Matthew** have been out on weekends to do projects around our place, which has been helpful to Butch. They enjoy being out in the "country" as well. Beth enjoyed having lunch with former co-workers **Sue Soohoo Jung**, and **Toni McLaughlin**, all three of whom retired from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Beth and Sue both spent a stint with our favorite USDA agency. Sue has promised me she will be attending quarterly lunches.



Beth, Toni, Sue

Gary and Jane Formanek's buttons are popping over a granddaughter being named by her high school as one of the fifteen 2021 Portland Rose Festival Princesses. The hope was, of course, that she would be selected as the festival's queen. That didn't happen. However, it should not take away from Gary and Jane their pride in their granddaughter, **Catalina's** achievement.



Catalina

At 86 and having been retired since 1994, **Frank Reckendorf** is still involved professionally in his work as a geomorphologist. He recently submitted an abstract to the Geological Society of America's meeting in Portland on the Missoula flood in the Willamette Valley. Frank is also on the committee planning the next SED-HYD conference in 2024 and plans on writing a final paper on streambank erosion for that meeting. His motivation for doing all this is because it is enjoyable.

Gary Yeoumans at nearly 88 is enjoying retirement in Baker City. He feels fortunate that two of his and LaVonne's four children, two grandchildren, and two great grandchildren live in the area.

Stefanie Aschmann has been staying close to home but hoping that as things open up, she will be able to resume her travels. Lately, Stef has been helping teach ESL via zoom as a volunteer with the Multnomah County public library system. Recently she started playing with a string group called the Clark County Players. The orchestras she played in previously are still cancelled. For her, though, the most exciting development associated with opening up is resuming her dragon boating again.

Recently **Joe Sahlfeld** had a productive fishing trip to Diamond Lake with his brother **John** and a cousin, **Cliff Waibel**.



Joe, Cliff, and John

Kay Denfeld has been missing meeting with her ukulele group, which hasn't met for over a year. On top of that, she had a mishap that mashed up a finger. This interfered with the strumming, but it is okay now.

Tom Fujii is now 92, enjoying retirement, which includes some golfing.

Ken and Evelyn Pfeiffer are enjoying retirement on their acreage near Philipsburg, MT. Ken reports that things are pretty much back to pre-COVID-19 normal there. Recently they had a bit of excitement when two bear cubs came through their yard and tore up their bird feeders. After the cubs had a lunch, they headed for the neighbor's chickens for dessert.

Terry Mitchell has been enjoying going to her nephews' baseball games. She notes that besides the catcher and umpire, everyone is still wearing masks. Even so, Terry is finding it great to see people again.

Julie MacSwain, Oregon NRCS Partnership Liaison, retired on May 28th. Her career spanned three states: Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Oregon. She held positions of Soil Conservationist, District Conservationist, and Partnership Liaison. Julie will be relocating to River Falls, Wisconsin by Sept. 2021.

Marsel Tingey told me that he is 93 and that he is still hanging in there. His wife has several health issues which complicates life. One of their daughters is helping them to be able to stay at home.

As for me, yours truly, **Don Stettler**, I struggle to keep up with the technology available to amateur radio operators (Hams). I was first licensed as a Technician Class operator almost thirty years ago. Then ham radio was fairly simple – purchase a transceiver, hook it up to a power supply and an antenna, and you were on the air. That was pretty exciting for me as someone very taken with the magic of radio. In time I would become licensed as an Amateur Extra, ham radio's highest class. Over the years the hobby has taken me on an adventure I did not anticipate. Almost beyond belief is that for over three years, despite my reluctance, I served as president of Oregon's largest ham radio club.

Early on I became involved with the county's amateur radio emergency service (ARES). To begin with, it was rather small, but after 9/11, the group has grown to 50 or 60. After 9/11, federal funds were provided to the county from the Homeland Security Agency to beef up ham radio emergency communications for the sheriff, fire department, hospitals, and other agencies. I served as a net control operator in this several times for wind-storm flood events. My county ARES is continually preparing with training and simulated emergency tests for the big earthquake that will happen. The question is not if, but when.

Shortly after I got into the hobby, digital means of communications was in its infancy. This mode is like email but involving a network of ham radio nodes rather than the Internet. With this mode I could communicate with other hams around the country and the world. I made a friend in Bamberg, Germany who invited me to visit him – something I did in 2013. Lately, however, the digital nodes have become very sophisticated, which is making it a bit over the head of a guy who specialized in the technology of spreading manure. The latest versions of this mode allow transmitting pictures. Pretty amazing.

Must have been about ten years or so ago, **John Core** joined my county's ARES. John's father, **Edwin J. Core** (1912-2003), retired as regional director of engineering for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. John is an expert on ham radio digital nodes as well as being an outstanding trainer. Right now, he is attempting to get me going on VARA FM.

PENNSYLVANIA

Bill Bowers, ARCSE Representative

Email: wbowers@comcast.net

The CDC and **Governor Wolf** have lifted many of the restrictions necessary to control the COVID pandemic. Yay! We too will be opening to our annual September NRCS/SCS Retiree's reunion. September 19th and 20th we will meet in person (no more Zoom or virtual stuff) at State College. Contact Bill for details.

We will have a presentation by Centre County farmer Herb Grove. He raises hemp, and he will discuss what hemp is used for, its appropriateness in PA, how it is planted, harvested, and processed. This is a timely topic with the increasing use of CBD in the medical field. After lunch we will travel (using our own vehicles) to The Arboretum at Penn State where we can enjoy walking tours.

Don McCandless says: "It has been a year to remember since COVID-19 hit our country. We had not gone to church in a year but watch our church's sermons on YouTube, and our minister calls us every week and sends us his weekly sermon. We resumed going to church on Easter since **Shirley** and I have received both shots of the Pfizer vaccine.

Our family tree has gained a couple branches. One granddaughter, **Brooke Schalk**, married a man from Australia, **Ross Beard**, in a small family ceremony on May 22nd, 2020. They live in Atlanta, GA. Another branch came with a baby girl to grandson **Lee Schalk** and wife **Geneva** on February 22nd, 2021. They live in Springfield, VA, and this is their first child. This makes six great grandchildren.

Health wise I am in excellent shape, but Shirley continues to have more than her share of health issues. She had open heart surgery in January 2016 to replace a mitral valve and now is facing a heart procedure to repair another valve. Seems like once you get over 80 every time you visit your doctor the standard answer to any problem is ... "your age."

The farm was a good place to be this past year. Everywhere you looked from our house in the center of 108 acres there was something to do. Some of our friends cooped up in their houses got very bored. The home farm looks like a farm now after 20 years in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program with the USDA. A neighbor farms it and has the entire cropland in conservation strips growing corn, oats, and wheat. About half is no-till, and the balance is chisel-plowed. A dairy farmer nearby farms our other 54-acre tract.

I hunted deer more last fall than normal with 14 outings in archery season and 10 times in rifle season. Shot a nice doe in archery season with a crossbow. The bucks avoided me most of season. Only saw two during legal hunting hours, both during archery season. A nice legal buck at nearly three hundred yards and a non-legal buck at twenty-five yards. The bears that were in our corn fields left the area when the farmer harvested corn two weeks before bear season.

Don and Shirley Lindsey are enjoying life at Homewood in Hanover, PA. They moved in Dec 2019. It's a 55+ retirement facility with all the perks. It's been especially nice to go about without a mask!

Don is busy working in the workshop here or the workshop **Julie** and family built for him in the barn at our farm (since 1957), which she now owns. It's nice to be only five miles away.

Our son Bruce and his family are still in Carlisle, so we see them often. We have not been to **Scott's** in Anchorage since summer 2019 but hope to go this fall since our 8th great grandchild will be born there in October.

We have our garden planted (Okay, it's a 10' x 10' plot). Don is back as the colonial carpenter at Union Mills, busy with the local Historical Society, and feeling well. Shirley is excited with the prospects of getting back to teaching ESL, Master Gardeners, Book Clubs, etc. Somehow ZOOM meetings are getting old.

We have survived the COVID crisis. We are well protected here. We've stayed healthy, been able to get outside for walks most days, Fitness Center on other days, and reading. Shirley has enjoyed genealogy, keeping in contact with family and friends, quilting, etc., so the time has gone surprisingly fast.

Alan and Judy Wood drove out to Breckenridge, CO (elevation 10,000 feet) in early May, so Judy can babysit their new granddaughter for the summer (Mom's maternity leave was over). On the way out, they stayed with friends in Kansas City and got to do some kayaking on their lake. Alan plans to fly back out in August for the drive back.

Fred Bubb provided this update: "I am alive, contrary to what IRS says. Late last year IRS sent me a message that they were not processing my 2019 income tax because I was dead. Social Security gave me a paper that confirmed I was alive. I sent that, copies of three IDs, and my entire 2019 tax return and waited. About a month ago another IRS office sent me a similar notice. In doing research on IRS, it said not to expect a reply to this action for 180 days. In another few weeks, I will reply to the second IRS office sending them a copy of everything sent to the first office. I note that they have no problem accepting and cashing my payment checks. I thought it was against the law to cash dead people's checks. Whatever!"

Ed Helmey worked in the state office in Harrisburg from 1969 to 1974 and in the Northeast Tech Center from 1974 to 1981. After moving to Georgia in 1981, Ed lived in Athens, retiring in 1988 and subsequently moving to Raleigh, NC where he lives today.

Over the last few years, he has been writing a three-part series of his life's story called Life As I Remember It. In October 2020, he published Part 1, which covers his early years from 1928 to 1956 while growing up on a farm and eventually becoming a pilot in the Air Force. In April, he published Part 2 covering 1956 to 1988. In this volume, he focuses on his family life, his continued flying career in the military reserves, and his career with the Soil Conservation Service. In Life As I Remember It: Part 2, 1956-1988, he shares several stories of projects and events from his time in Pennsylvania which many of us may enjoy.

If you are interested, you can find Ed's books by searching for the title online in the books section of www.amazon.com. Congratulations to Ed on your books. Ed is working towards publishing Part 3 later this year.

Following is a continuation of **Frank Resides'** WWII recollections.

I was nine when the war ended in August of 1945. I remember the prolonged blowing of fire sirens, the parades and other celebrations that followed.

Other things I remember: We had a 1941 Plymouth coupe, which was new, and served us well during the war years. It cost around \$600. We also had a 1936 Chevy pick-up that we used occasionally for heavy hauling of the milkweed pods, scrap metal, and chicken feed. Many people had problems keeping their older cars running until new ones were sold again in 1946. Tires were a perennial problem. You didn't put new tires on your car and take them off 30 or 40 thousand miles later, when the tread wore out. Wartime tires were of inferior quality to say the least. Punctures, leaks, and blowouts were common.

My grandfather's part-time occupation as a fur dealer entitled him to extra stamps for gasoline, which was strictly rationed, to collect the animals; and when he worked at the poultry farm, he only had two miles to drive there. These facts, in combination with the relatively economical Plymouth coupe, meant we had no problem getting enough fuel for the car. Sometimes we went for a Sunday afternoon ride to see friends and family in the Milesburg, Howard, and Beech Creek areas about 25 miles from home.

Many food items were rationed, especially meat, butter, sugar, and shortening. Margarine came in white blocks with a packet of orange colored powder. I always helped my grandmother mix the powder with the margarine by hand in a large bowl to make it look yellow like butter. Spam, considered an "alternative" meat, made from the cheaper cuts of pork and scraps, I guess, came on the market. Some people liked it, many did not; however, it must be OK for it is still sold today.

One day I was in the Acme store helping my grandfather do the grocery shopping. He usually sat on the windowsill at the front of the store, while I collected the items on our list. That day they opened a case of 1 lb. cans of Crisco. There were no 3 lb cans during the war. Each family could have one can. When the box was opened, there was a mad rush and free-for-all of shoppers trying to get one of those cans. Granddad said, "Get one for your Grandma," so I dove into the mob of mostly older women and did come out with a can. I hope I didn't take it out of some lady's hand, but I don't know just how I got it.

Butter was really scarce and expensive, so we used only margarine, a practice we continued for many years after the war. We did have lots of buttermilk, which was given to us each week by a neighboring farmer's wife. She made butter often, had no young children, and gave us the real buttermilk with specks of butter in it. I usually drank a pint or so every day after school.

Fred Schuetz shared the following stories from the very early PL 566 Program and the building of flood control dams.

One of the earliest projects in PA was the Lackawaxen Creek Watershed and the construction of the first group of 3 dams. At the end of a workday at the PA 421 dam the job foreman, John, was with me as I was making a density test. Two dozer operators, one pulling a scraper, were making a wild race to the equipment parking area. A short time later the operator pulling the scraper came to us and said to the foreman, "John, I hit your car", which was an old 4 door Oldsmobile. John's reply, "You might as well, everyone else does." Operator response: "I'm serious. Look."

While looking to his left and making a rapid left turn the operator had neglected to see the car. The right dozer track centered on the rear of the car and stopped just before reaching the back of the front seat. the car looked like a crude version of an El Camino or Ranchero. It was still drivable. No blown tires or broken springs. It was a memorable moment.

At the Martin Flood Control Dam, recent photos still show the tree line on the left valley abutment. It was under those pine trees that the first SCS inspector "trailer" was situated. The office and testing facility, contractor supplied, was a beat-up school bus. Heat for drying soil samples was from a single kerosene burner that we had to pressurize by pumping the fuel reservoir. I still have recollection of throwing a flaming burner out the bus door. That happened only once without creating an accident report.

Thanks to Fred for sharing these stories from the early 1960s Honesdale area of Wayne County.

John Zaginaylo writes: "I would like to share a memory of my father, Soil Conservation Technician in the Bloomsburg Field Office from 1955 to 1990. He once commented to me in retirement that his life work installing conservation practices was being erased from the landscape. I reminded him that new conservation measures are taking their place, and new people are promoting that work. He needed to know his legacy is safe in the people he mentored, and them mentoring others. He loved his work and was proud of the accomplishments he made over the years installing practices that he believed in. He started his SCS career after working with **Bill Tinsely**, District Conservationist, installing practices on his own farm. He wanted to help other farmers by selling the merits of soil and water conservation.

As I farm those same fields, I must explain to my kids and farm hands why things are so. We still have diversions 200 feet apart and big enough to handle the 100-year storm (built in the 50s). There are narrow fields on the contour that have point rows. The larger equipment makes it challenging following a narrow strip of hay or corn. Contours on steep slopes make round bailing interesting. At least the large diversions catch them and maybe send them part way down the channel. The channel is exactly 2 percent and follows the contour wherever it goes (built in the 50s).

My fondest memory is Dad telling me about my mother helping him clear a hedge row when she saw a snake and immediately went into labor. I was born with an abhorrence to picking stones. People may still think I use no-till for other reasons. Our family farm, which includes the past Soil Conservation Technician from the Clearfield Field Office, **Laune Gordon**, is still committed to conservation old and new. My Dad's legacy is safe for at least awhile."

Ed Brzostek recalls a prank that backfired:

When I was Supervisory DC in Bucks County, I went out to do a construction check on some diversions and tile that were being installed on a farm. One of the contractor's laborers saw a large black snake in the field and said 'I am going to catch that snake and put him on the front seat of my boss's truck. Won't he be surprised when he goes to eat his lunch!' So, he finds a large forked branch and is trying to pin the black snake's head down so he can grab it and throw it in Big John's truck. He keeps chasing the snake and missing its head with the branch. The large black snake had enough of the laborer's jabbing with the stick and went after him. Well, it turned out the joke was on the laborer. It was really funny watching the snake chase him across the field after his failed prank. His boss caught a glimpse of him, too and also had a good laugh.

From **Carl DuPolt**



Dedicated pollinators, courtesy of Carl DuPolt

TEXAS NORTH

Arnold King, ARCSE Representative

Email: arnolddking@hotmail.com

Arnold King report for North Texas

Things are slowly opening up here in Texas. We still haven't re-established our local monthly meeting, but the planning committee for the statewide annual meeting will get together during January and complete final plans for the April meeting at New Braunfels, TX. We are pretty excited about that. For many years we have checked into the motel, rested and/or visited a while, and gone out to a specific place for a catfish dinner. We get up early next morning and eat a great buffet breakfast, do our fundraising silent auction, eat BBQ, conduct a business meeting and head home. Same thing every year, but we love it. Our only problem is our declining membership.

Willeene and I are still mainly focused on grandchildren. Our oldest grandson recently moved to North Carolina, working as a water quality engineer for **Kodak**. Hopefully, he will be able to transfer back this direction before too long. The youngest is attending a saddle bronc riding school in Wyoming. The horses are rougher than he's used to, so hopefully it will make the high school class horses more rideable. He qualified to participate in the state finals here in Ft. Worth during July. Our granddaughter, **Gilly**, graduated from Texas Tech this month and accepted a real estate job of some kind in the Bahamas. The other two are involved in cheerleading and acting. So, we are a pretty diverse family.

Jim Rickman reported that he caught a six-pound trout near their cabin in Arkansas. **Jim Robinson** held the record for several years with a five-pounder, so the contest will continue. The Rickmans have generously taken retirees and other guests to their cabin on Spring River (Arkansas), and the tradition continues.

TENNESSEE

Allen T. Crowe ARCSE Representative

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Submitted by Dana York.

The retirees met at Loretta Lynn's Kitchen with 23 members and five spouses present: **Debbie Brasfield, Faye Floyd, Paula and Art Schroth, Brad Denton, Craig Ellis, Paul and Laura Aydelott, Patty Lane, Ray Curl, Larry and Beth Goff, John and Betty Harris, Billy Headden, Naomi Hamilton-Johnson, Will Nesby, Marie Blackwell, Anna and Jack Chidester, Richard Bryan, Allen Crowe, Steve Koonce, Phillip Brasfield, Tom Beasley, James Sims, Odell Poyner and Traci Horne.**

Those not present but reported on were:

Rusty Walker - doing well

Vic Simpson - unable to attend due to his mother's 95th birthday

Mike Hart - is out of town

Kevin Brown - sorry to miss the meeting

Kathy Daughtery - having some issues with her feet

Jeff Bowie - doing well

Blanche Malone, former SCS employee, recently passed and Allen Crowe shared part of her obituary.







Faye Floyd re-retired from ACES last year. She and her dog Gabby survived COVID together.

Paula Schroth and **Art Schroth** live in Murfreesboro in a 65+ community, where he is on the board, and she does the newsletter.

Brad Denton retired in January and stays busy on his farm.

Craig Ellis enjoys gardening and the family farm.

Paul and Laura Aydelott moved back to Tennessee to Hickman County after retiring from Ft. Collins. He kayaks and maintains 100 acres of trees.

Patty Lane stays busy with her grandkids and going to the doctor and drug store.

Traci Horne is eager to get back to traveling. She has been to Gatlinburg, Tampa to visit her parents, and has an upcoming trip to Universal Studios with her nieces.

James Sims is still working for ACES 32 hours per week. Dog and house sits for his daughter and son-in-law.

John and Betty Harris moved 21 times over his career, and still goes to Knoxville occasionally.

Larry and Beth Goff took their grandkids to Cincinnati and worked on his parents' house.

Ray Curl is doing well but has some back problems. He has done some wood turning and basket weaving.

Odell Poyner works for the district and is also the Director of Emergency Management for Humphreys County.

Allen Crowe survived COVID and wants to get back into the Wendy's dining room which he has missed.

Billy Headden had a 60th wedding anniversary and lives on 117 acres. Just got out of the rental property business four years ago.

Naomi Hamilton-Johnson is still dealing with the loss of her husband. COVID kept her in, but she still tries to get to Celina as often as she can.

Will Nesby spent his last working years at TSU, first with USDA, then went into recruiting.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

September 16, 2021 - Cookeville area

December 9, 2021 - Lebanon/Nashville area

WASHINGTON

Ken Kaul, ARCSE Representative

Email: kenkaul@icloud.com

Hot, drought, wind, and fires. We are experiencing record breaking temperatures, way below normal precipitation, and strong winds. To date, we have had 460+ wildfires. Normal for this time of the year is about 200. Irrigation water is in short supply. Crop yields are expected to be way down. And we still have the COVID virus to contend with. As they say, "It will be a better year next year."

Stefan Fechter Report: Not much here. We're doing house updates: quartz countertops, new appliances, painting most of the interior, and enjoying the yard and garden with lots of color. We'll be in Montana for the 4th.

This is from **Joe Carmack**.

I returned to Spokane last week after two months assisting with spring planting on the family farm in TN. A tractor that I was operating caught fire and burned. No injuries but a close call. Our theory is that a hydraulic leak was ignited by the manifold.



Joe Carmack's tractor fire

WEST VIRGINIA

Peg Reese, ARCSE Representative

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Theodore Betoney, Jr., retired Civil Engineer, died on October 30th. 2017. You can read more about her life in the "In Memoriam" section of this newsletter.

On a happier note, **Pat Bowen's wife, Dr. Elaine Bowen**, will be inducted into the Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame next month. Elaine joined WVU Extension Service in 1978 and became a statewide specialist focusing on children and at-risk families in 1988. She worked with the American Heart Association to educate women about heart disease, the Center of Excellence in Women's Health to organize wellness retreats and the Center for Excellence in Disabilities to develop a health and safety program for seniors.

The West Virginia Ag and Forestry Hall of Fame (AFHOF) will add two years' worth of members to its rolls Saturday, July 24th, after the Covid-related cancellation of the 2020 banquet. As in past years, the banquet will be held at Jackson's Mill, but the reception will be moved up to 4pm, and the dinner will start at 5pm to allow for the larger number of inductees.

Tickets are available from the WV Department of Agriculture by calling 304-558-3200, or by mailing jkeaton@wvda.us. Cost is \$35 per person, although inductees receive two free tickets. Ticket sales end June 30th.

Among the 17 people who will be inducted include **Jean Field-Smith**, WV Department of Agriculture; **Barry Lester Cook**, WV Division of Forestry; **Stacy A. Gartin**, WVU; **Mark L. Double**, WVU; **Larry S. Barger**, U.S. Forest Service and Barger Forestry Services; **Jeffrey D. Orndorff**, 4-H; **Hayward "Harry" Huff**, WVU Extension; **Joe Gumm**, Tygart Valley Conservation District; **Don Michael**, FFA; **Mary Beth Adams**, USDA Forest Service; **Dr. Phillip I Osborne**, West Fork Conservation District; **Terry Jones**, West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Rich Mountain Forestry; **Patricia R. Gruber**, Community Education Outreach Service; **Andrew Hopkins**, WVU; **William McClellan Ritter**, lumbermen and businessmen; and **Jules August Viquesney**, West Virginia's first Forest, Game and Fish Warden.

WISCONSIN

James Enlow, ARCSE Representative

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Retiree Luncheon for August 6th in Antigo: the group is still growing and is bigger than the place booked so change in location. The new location is Swartzendrubers Supper Club, 1315 Forest Ave. (Cty Road Y) one mile west of State Hwy 45. A tour has been arranged by **Jean Omernik** to visit Sheldon's, where fishing lures are made. It will be at 11:15am, and please meet there by 11am. Sheldon's is at 626 Center Street. Order off menu lunch will follow at Swartzendrubers at 12:15pm. Please contact John Campbell if you are coming so to know the number of people for the tour (jecampbell51@hotmail.com).

SENIOR CONSERVATIONISTS

Prepared by Marc Safley, Senior Conservationist Chronicler

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

Loren W. Berndt

Bridgman, MI

Richard J. (Dick) Gooby

Twin Bridges, MT

Ron E. Hendricks

Gann Valley, SD

SENIOR CONSERVATIONIST CHRONICLE

Senior Conservationist

Richard J. Gooby

Richard J. Gooby (Dick) was born in Sandpoint, Idaho, June 21st, 1937. Sandpoint is a city in northern Idaho, situated on Lake Pend Oreille about 45 miles north of Coeur d'Alene. He grew up on a farm at Sandpoint where Dick milked four cows by hand twice a day. He attended grade and high school at Sandpoint. After he graduated from high school, Dick got a job with what is now the Farm Services Agency for the summer measuring grain fields in Bonner County. The County Executive Director told him he needed to go to college, or he wouldn't hire him back the next summer. Dick attended the University of Idaho in 1955. He was lucky to have had a good mentor. He graduated in 1960 with a BS degree in agriculture. In 1975 Dick received his Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Idaho.

While in high school and at the University of Idaho Dick played football with **Jerry Kramer**. Jerry went on to play for the Green Bay Packers and was inducted into the NFL football hall of fame. Dick went on to pursue his career with the Soil Conservation Service.

Dick began his SCS career in Idaho. In July 1961 he started as a Soil Conservationist in Rupert, and in 1962 he transferred to Dubois. In 1964 Dick was selected as the District Conservationist at Soda Springs. In January 1966 he moved to Aberdeen as District Conservationist, and in May 1966 he was selected as District Conservationist in Gooding, Idaho. In 1971 he moved to Moscow, Idaho, as the Area Conservationist. In 1974 he was selected for the Pocatello Area Conservationist position. In 1976 Dick left Idaho when he was selected as the Assistant State Conservationist for Operations in Iowa. In 1983 he moved to Bozeman, Montana as the Deputy State Conservationist. In 1988 Dick was selected as the State Conservationist for Montana, the position he held until he retired in 1997.

After retirement Dick continued to work with the Tribal Conservation Districts. In 2003 he helped establish the Indian Nations Conservation Alliance (INCA), a nonprofit which is the national organization representing the Tribal Conservation Districts. Dick served as the Executive Director of INCA until January 2020.

Dick and his wife **Mary Ann** live on their ranch outside of Twin Bridges, Montana, where they spend their leisure time riding their horses in the nearby mountains. They also raise a small herd of cattle. Dick makes Mary Ann a to-do-list every day. She does all the work, and he takes all the credit.

Note: The ARCSE Chronicler acknowledges and appreciates Dick's preparation of his own chronicle. The Chronicler has been careful to only lightly touch the text in order to preserve Dick's dry wit.

OBITUARY INFORMATION

Paul Benedict, Membership Chair

When you receive word of someone passing, with little other information provided to you, obituaries can often be found by doing an advanced search using Google, using the full name of the deceased. If you do not have access to the web, Paul Benedict will be glad to do the search. **PLEASE SEND DEATH NOTICES AND OBITUARY INFORMATION DIRECTLY TO PAUL AT soilwarden@verizon.net.** Always include the position or the spouse's position with SCS/NRCS.

Surname	Year	<i>In-Memoriam</i> (Note: These are recent notices. For a complete list, please see www.arcse.org)
Barrier	2021	Cleveland Lipe Barrier, Jr. (81) of Salisbury, North Carolina, passed away in peace on May 12, 2021 at the Novant Health Glenn A. Kiser Hospice House after a long illness. Lipe was born on July 3, 1939 in Mt. Pleasant, North Carolina, the firstborn child of C. Lipe Barrier, Sr. and Evelyn Blackwelder Barrier . Lipe received a degree from North Carolina State University in 1961. He began a career with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in September 1961 in Yadkinville, North Carolina, transferring to Tarboro, North Carolina in 1963, to Monroe, North Carolina as District Conservationist in 1966 to 1976 and then to Salisbury District Conservationist. Lipe retired as a Federal employee in Rowan County, North Carolina in 1994. He did contract work for SCS in after his retirement. He was an active member of Milford Hills United Methodist Church. He is survived by his cherished wife, Renda Treece Barrier and his caring son, David M. Barrier (April) of Salisbury; and two grandchildren, Taylor McKenzie Bell (Frankie) and Mason Cole Barrier .
Betoney	2017	Theodore Patrick Betoney Jr. (71) of Morgantown, West Virginia, passed away October 30, 2017 at his home. He was born March 2, 1946 in Morgantown to Theodore Patrick Betoney Sr. and Lelia Doris Mayfield Betoney . Theodore graduated West Virginia University in 1969 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. Theodore worked for over 34 years in federal service as a civil and mining engineer for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service and the Mine Safety and Health Administration. He also attended West Virginia Tech for mining engineering classes and worked for many years at several coal companies, with his most recent employment at Murray Energy. He was also a land surveyor and a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Theodore loved the outdoors and hunting and was a longtime member of the Pioneer Sportsman's Club. He also built and raced late-model stock cars, racing at the Morgantown Speedway and other local racetracks. Theodore is survived by his wife Rita Moore Betoney , one son Patrick Betoney (Stacey) of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, two daughters, Nicole Betoney of Morgantown, and Cathy McMaster (Michael) of Hagans, West Virginia; and two grandchildren Brady and Tyler .
Bridge	2021	Doris A. (Partridge) Bridge (93) of Bangor, Maine, passed away peacefully after a short illness on May 8, 2021, at Ross Manor in Bangor. She was the daughter of Louis and Edna Partridge of Corinna, Maine. Doris' ex-husband, Galen Bridge of Tucson, Arizona, worked in many western states and Washington, DC, for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, giving Doris the opportunity to meet and socialize with many Soil Conservation Service employees. She herself often worked as a nanny for several doctors and their families. Doris is survived by a daughter, Patricia Hughes of Stuart, Florida; and a special nephew, Gordon Simmons of Greenville Junction, Maine, who she and Galen raised as a son.
Burns	2021	Eugene A. "Gene" Burns (81) of Salina, Kansas, passed away May 6, 2021. He was born July 30, 1939, in Chicago, Illinois, to J. Robert "Bob" and Evelyn (Buckley) Burns . Gene served two years in the US Army and four years in the Army Reserves. He married Janice Hartman on October 9, 1966. His career spanned 35 years for the USDA Soil Conservation Service where he served as an Administrative Services Officer. Gene coached youth sports in Salina during the 1970s and '80s. Additionally, he served as President of the Kansas Parents Association of Hearing-Impaired Children. He is survived by his wife, Janice (Jan), of the home; sons, John (Linda Oldham) Burns , of Topeka, Kansas, and Curtis Burns , of Salina; grandsons Hunter Burns and Tyler J. Burns .
Burns	2021	Phillip Joseph Burns (88) of Portland, Maine, passed away on April 20, 2021. Phil was born in Binghamton in upstate New York, the son of John and Merian Burns . Phil graduated from Hamilton College and then, two weeks later, found himself taking basic infantry training at Fort Dix in New Jersey. After receiving his honorable discharge from the US Army, Phil took the Korean War G.I. Bill and entered the New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University. He then worked as an Agricultural Economist for 30 years for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service working in Oregon, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. While in Europe observing Denmark's successful exporting of foods, Phil met a lovely nurse from Australia, Jean McMahon , who was working and traveling in Europe. They became acquainted and wound up being married for 55 years while living in Ontario, Canada; Oregon, Maine, and North Carolina. In retirement, Phil was active with Reading for the Blind in North Carolina and reading with elementary students both in North Carolina and in Maine. Jean predeceased Phil; Phil is survived by his daughter, Linda (Bruce) Stone , of Portland, Maine; and by sons, Terry of Windham, Maine, David (Rebecca) of Naperville, Illinois, and Kevin (Melissa) of Saco, Maine; and four grandchildren. Donations in his memory may be sent to the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation: pulmonaryfibrosis.org/ .
Compton	2021	Sandra Joyce Compton (84) of Hill City, Kansas, passed away May 22, 2021, at the Graham County Hospital in Hill City. She was born July 9, 1936, in Goodland, Kansas, to Vernon and Bessie Ratcliffe . She married to retired Soil Conservation Technician Harold Compton on May 29, 1954, in Goodland, Kansas. Harold retired in 1987. Sandra's survivors include her husband, Harold Compton of Hill City; a son, Lee Compton (Deloris) of Mesa, Arizona; a daughter, Robin King (Howard) of Chandler, Arizona; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.
Forrand	2021	NRCS Employee Mark A. Forrand (63) of Madison, Wisconsin, passed away at home Tuesday, June 1, 2021. He was born March 1, 1958, in Madison, to George and Thelma Forrand . He obtained his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and then worked for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, followed by a 30-year career at the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service where he worked as a cartographic technician. Mark was an active outdoorsman and enjoyed camping, fishing, and duck and grouse hunting. He always had a boat of some sort and knew the best fishing and duck hunting spots on the Madison chain of lakes and sloughs of the Mississippi River around Stoddard, Wisconsin. He was an excellent cook, enjoyed good food and could make wild duck melt in your mouth. Mark loved to ride motorcycles and owned everything from motocross dirt bikes and enduros to Harley-Davidson Sportsters. Mark was a kind and caring brother, and his sweet soul will live on through everyone that knew him. He is survived by his brother, Randy (Bridget) Forrand ; and sister, Kristine (David) Pitz . He was preceded in death by his special friend, Penny Adams .
Graham	2020	Clarence "Cal" Graham (100) of Redmond, Oregon passed away July 29, 2020, just a few months after his 100 th birthday. Cal was a strong, quiet hero veteran of World War II. During the war, Cal was captured on Corregidor (Island) and survived

		a death march, followed by 3 1/2 years in brutal Japanese slave labor camps and transfers in "death ships." He escaped from the last camp just after the bombing of Hiroshima and witnessed the bombing of Nagasaki. Despite several near-death experiences, Cal never lost his faith in God or mankind. After the war, he married his true love, Doris Lueders , and enjoyed a long and happy marriage until her death in 2016. Cal retired after a long career with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. He also rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the Oregon National Guard. Later in life, he authored a highly acclaimed book, "Under the Samurai Sword," documenting his experiences during WWII. The native of eastern, rural Nebraska has been featured in Tom Brokaw's book and documentaries about the Greatest Generation. He was interviewed by Brokaw for NBC News six years ago. Cal is survived by four children, 10 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.
Hitz	2021	Gustav (Gus) R. Hitz Jr. (86) of Lincoln, Nebraska, passed away April 13, 2021. He was born in Dennison, Iowa on July 8, 1934 to Gustav R. Hitz, Sr. and Edna Hitz . Gus was the husband of retired USDA-Soil Conservation Service employee Margaret A. Hitz (Struebing) . Gus retired from Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company in 1996 after 42 years of service. Gus is survived by his loving wife of 59 years; Margaret A. Hitz (Struebing); children, Gus (Tina) Hitz, Laura (Brian) Runge, Richard Hitz, Trisha (Lloyd) LaFountain, and Guy Hitz ; grandchildren, Ryan, Erin, Anna, Margaret Kathryn, Evan, Liam, Derek, Eleanor, Steffanie, Rebekah, Trevor, and Barrett . Gus wished to have no funeral. A celebration of life was held on April 25, 2021.
Karnosh	2021	James "Jim" Leslie Karnosh (85) of Salem, Oregon, passed away June 17, 2021, from Parkinson's disease. Jim was born June 11, 1936, and grew up in Scio, Oregon. He worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in Idaho and Oregon as a contract specialist for 37 years. He was an avid hiker, and enjoyed wood working and camping. Jim was preceded in death by his wife, Linda . He is survived by his children, Kristi Runa, Michael Karnosh, and Stephanie Karnosh ; his grandchildren, Aaron Albrecht, Richard Karnosh, and William Jackman ; and his sister, Janet Jenkins. A memorial service was scheduled June 30, 2021, at Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Salem.
Lagasse	2021	Louise A. Lagasse (78) of Bangor, Maine, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on March 23, 2021, following a courageous battle with cancer. Louise was born in Fort Kent, Maine, on July 7, 1942. In 1962, she married Robert "Bob" Lagasse , the love of her life for nearly 60 years. For many years Louise, and successfully operated her flower business, Flowers by Louise. Bob survives and is retired from the USDA-Soil Conservation Service.
Malone	2021	Blanche Evelyn McPherson Schultz Malone (100) of Nashville, Tennessee, passed away June 2, 2021. Blanche was born October 12, 1920, to Edith Minton Spann and John Milton McPherson in Triune, Tennessee. She played AAU professional basketball during World War II for the Vultee Bomberettes, winning the national championship in St. Joseph, Missouri. She was also a champion bowler, winning many City Championships. She married Major League Baseball player Bob Schultz on April 7, 1950. Bob played 11 seasons for the Chicago Cubs, Pittsburgh Pirates and the Detroit Tigers. They later divorced. Blanche worked in the transportation department for Seward Air Base where she met and married James O. Malone, Jr. She then worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service and in 1986 retired after 29 years of civil service. She was preceded in death by her husband. She is survived by daughter, Debbie Schultz (Charles) Chadwick , son, Duffy (Trish) Schultz , grandsons, Joshua (Sara) Schultz, Michael (Melanie) Schultz, Kristofer (Carrie) Chadwick, Zachary (Justine) Schultz, Erich (Emily) Chadwick, Phillip (Nick Maynard) Chadwick, and Timothy Charles Chadwick , and 9 great-grandchildren.
Malone	2021	ARCSE Member Paul LaVerne Malone (82) of Boise, Idaho passed away June 5, 2021. Paul was born November 16, 1938, in rural Lancaster County Nebraska near Lincoln, Nebraska, the ninth child of Frederick and Ruby (Holley) Malone . In 1956 he enlisted in the Nebraska National Guard. Paul had active duty for training from November 1956 to August 1957 and employed as a Radar Technician with Nebraska National Guard at Lincoln Air Force Base until November 1959. He was employed at Martin Company in Denver, Colorado from November 1959 until January 1962 when he entered Colorado State University, completing a degree in Soil Conservation in March 1965 after 3.5 years, graduating in the top 5% of the class with High Distinction. He was employed by the USDA Soil Conservation Service in Burlington, Colorado (1965-1967); Rifle, Colorado (1967- 1970); Rocky Ford, Colorado (1970-1975); Bellingham, Washington (1975-1978); Shelby, Montana (1978-1979); Rio Rancho, New Mexico (1979-1983); Pocatello, Idaho (1983-1987) and Boise, Idaho (1987-1994) retiring as State Resource Conservationist in 1994. He married Shirley Davis in Denver 1960; they were later divorced. They had 2 daughters (Melissa and Jennifer). Paul then married Kip Coffelt in Bellingham, Washington in 1975. Since his retirement Paul worked for the Peregrine Fund in Boise leading tours of the visitor center assisting with captive birds of prey and maintenance of facilities. He loved to play the guitar and played in bands with the Idaho Old Time Fiddlers for several years and the Eagle Bluegrass Gospel Band (EBGB's) at the Eagle United Methodist Church where he was a member since 1994 and volunteered with the Morrison Center for the Performing Arts (2004-2021). He loved music especially old-time country bluegrass and gospel as well as fishing, woodworking and was an avid reader. He was preceded in death by grandson Tyler Matus . He is survived by his wife Kip , 2 children, Melissa Malone (Barry Henderson) , Jennifer (Dave) Schiff , 2 stepchildren: Ed (Carolyn) Coffelt, Stacey (Dave) Matus , 5 grandchildren Santana Matus (Corey Richards) , Shaelyn Coffelt, Andy Schiff, Gracie Schiff, Finnegan Henderson and 2 great-grandchildren (Brayden and Jaxson Richards), and numerous nieces and nephews. Memorials may be made to the Peregrine Fund of Boise or Eagle Methodist Church.
Matheson	2021	Senior Conservationist Lawrence Evander Matheson (97) of Raleigh, North Carolina, passed away May 1, 2021. He was born in Chesterfield County, South Carolina on September 13, 1923, to the late William Norman Matheson and Nezzie Boswell Matheson . Lawrence honorably served his country in the US Army, 32nd Infantry Division during World War II. He retired as a Conservation Technician from the Department of Agriculture and was a member of Trinity Presbyterian Church. He served as Soil Conservation Technician in the Raleigh Field Office for many years. He had the distinction of having attended more of the annual SCS/NRCS retiree picnics than any other retiree. He is survived by his daughters: Margaret M. White (Mike) , Janice M. Lillenthal (John) ; grandchildren: Angie W. Dutton (Bobby) , Brian White (Tina) ; great-grandchildren: Christa, Caroline, and Sam Dutton . Lawrence was preceded in death by his wife, Ollie Brown Matheson , and daughter, Lois Elaine Matheson .
Mott	2021	Senior Conservationist Frederick "Fred" Thurston Mott (92) of Dover, Delaware passed away May 21, 2021. Fred was born on September 28, 1928 in Seneca Falls, New York to the Helen Greenman Mott and Herbert L. Mott . Fred received his Associate Degree in Agronomy and Soil Conservation from Alfred University and then went on to earn his Bachelor of Science from the University of Georgia. After graduating, Fred became a student trainee for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS) beginning in 1949. In 1952, Fred married Genevieve Whitney and was given a permanent position with the USDA Soil Conservation Service. Two years later, Fred joined the U.S. Army where he was a part of the Special Category

		<p>Army Personnel with Air Forces (SCARWAF) troops. After serving, Fred and Genevieve came back to Dover and he returned to work for SCS. Fred retired from the SCS in 1987. Following his retirement, Fred began serving as Administrator of Conservation District Operations for the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. He was then employed with his daughter and son-in-law Sue and Bob Bartley as the Safety Manager for their electrical contracting business – B&D Electric for 13 years. Some of Fred's other accolades include chairman of the Optimist Club of Dover, past president of the Soil Conservation Society of America (Pocomoke Chapter), and past Kent Conservation District Supervisor for 10- 3year terms. He retired from this position in 2020. Fred was honored in 2020 with the Kent Conservation District Office building named in his honor, the Frederick T. Mott Conservation Center. Fred was also a devoted husband and family man. He enjoyed fishing, wood carving decoys, backpacking, swimming (until the age of 85) and even writing poetry. Fred was heavily involved in his community. He was an active member of Christ Episcopal Church in Dover for over 69 years. Fred was also a volunteer for many years at Bayhealth Hospital – Kent Campus of which he was rewarded the Jefferson Award by the Governor. Fred is survived by his loving wife of 68 years, Genevieve; daughters, Susan (Bob) Bartley of Lewes, Delaware, Becki (Mark) Mott-Lynn also of Lewes, Carrie (Dean) Geyer of Milford, Delaware; grandchildren, Michele Bartley, Whitney Mott-Lynn Murray, Hannah, Tillie, Bonard and Camille Geyer. For those interested, the family suggests donating to the Delaware Envirothon c/o Frederick T. Mott Conservation Center, 1679 S. Dupont Hwy., Dover, Delaware 19901.</p>
Phillips	2021	Senior Conservationist and ARCSE Life Member Richard L. Phillips (96) of Maplewood, Minnesota (previously of Gibsonville, North Carolina) passed away earlier this year at The Homestead at Maplewood Assisted Living Community. An obituary was not published. According to the ARCSE database, he worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, serving as a State Engineer, and a soil conservationist, retiring in 1982.
Richmeier	2021	Elmer John "E.J." Richmeier (88) of Shell Knob, Missouri, passed away April 24, 2021, at his home. Elmer was born April 12, 1933, in Salina, Kansas, to Fred and Philomena (Rome) Richmeier . He was a graduate of Joseph Military Academy, in Hays, Kansas and graduated from Kansas State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture. He married Mary Jean Aich on April 15, 1952, in Hays. He was a district conservationist employed by the USDA Soil Conservation Service. He was a member of Holy Family Catholic Church. He was a storyteller and had an amazing sense of humor. He enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. Survivors include his wife; a son, Glenn Richmeier (Jennifer) of Brooksville, Florida; two daughters, Lisa (Brad) Bascue , of Manhattan, Kansas, and Brenda (Danny) Spain of Aurora, Missouri; nine grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by two sons, Fred Joseph and Gary ; and a daughter, Janice .
Sawyers	2020	Ray Gene Sawyers (71) of Manhattan, Kansas, passed away June 27, 2020, at Good Shepherd Homecare & Hospice in Manhattan, surrounded by his family. He was born March 7, 1949, in Duncan, Oklahoma, the son of Raymond L. and Thelma Jean (Best) Sawyers . On November 24, 1967, in Dalhart, TX, he was married to Peggy Elliott . Ray earned his bachelor's degree from Kansas State University in 1979 in Agriculture. He served in the United States Navy for 6 years on nuclear submarines. He later worked as a Soil Conservationist with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. He worked as the District Conservationist in Kearney, Clay and Riley Counties from 1980 until his retirement in 1994. Ray enjoyed fishing, hunting and playing cards and games with friends and family. He was also an avid reader. He loved spending time with his family, he had a quick wit and uncanny recollection of all thing's history. He was a wealth of knowledge and a storyteller extraordinaire, everyone who knew him enjoyed listening to the many stories he shared. Ray is survived by his wife, Peggy, his three children: Dr. Eric Sawyers (Leslie) of Casper, Wyoming, Jason Sawyers (Tara) of Topeka, Kansas, and Dené (Zachary) Mosier of Manhattan; and four granddaughters: Ashley and Ellie Sawyers , and Grace and Gabrielle Mosier .
Scheffe	2021	Kenneth "Ken" Francis Scheffe (64) of Corrales, New Mexico, passed away February 22, 2021, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Kenneth was born on November 6, 1956, in Wichita Falls, Texas to Earl James Scheffe and Evelyn Olivia Koetter . He attended college at Texas Tech University and graduated in 1979 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Soil Science. In 1982, he graduated with a Master's degree in Soil Science from Texas Tech University. He married Linda Oyer on July 5, 1997 in Bernalillo, New Mexico and they were married for 23 beautiful years. For 40 years, Kenneth worked for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (New Mexico State Soil Scientist and other positions) from 1978 to 2014. He served as the National Soil Classification Specialist (Soil Taxonomy) at the National Soil Survey Center from 2014-2018. He was also a co-author of National Soil Survey Manual published in 2017. He was a Co-owner of Sustainable Soil Systems LLC from 2019 to 2021, and from 2019 to 2021 was a contract Soil Scientist working in soil health with New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts. He was an EMT and volunteer firefighter & Chief in Santa Rosa, New Mexico. He was an active and dedicated member of the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in Rio Rancho, New Mexico and St. John the Apostle Parish in Lincoln, NE. Among Kenneth's survivors is his wife, Linda Oyer Scheffe of Corrales, New Mexico; son, Shawn Oyer (Kristin) of Colorado Springs, Colorado; daughter, Xela Oyer (Kamil Javon) of Las Vegas, Nevada; granddaughter, Cora Grace Oyer ; and grandson, Paul Russell Oyer .
Schledorn	2021	Senior Conservationist Frank J. Schledorn (98) of Bozeman, Montana, passed away March 23, 2021. Frank was born on a farm in near Edmore, North Dakota, to Franz (Frank) Nicholas Schledorn and Marie Clara Vander Heiden Schledorn on September 19, 1922. Several years ago, after his wife of 64 years Doris Mollerud Schledorn passed away, Frank recorded a video reflecting on his life. He things he believed in were family, church, and good citizenship. "If we look to our elders as forests, their wisdom teaches us that patience is the work we can till into the soil". Frank said, "Overall, as I look back, I think maybe the thing I've learned is to be patient with life. You need to think things through, not just react to them, and think about what might happen five years from now, ten years from now." Frank worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service as an Engineer. Frank is survived by his son Rick Schledorn (Betty) ; daughters, Patti Marshall , Lynn Speakman (Fred) , Laurie Lint ; six grandchildren; and nine great grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his wife Doris Mollerud Schledorn , loving companion Brigitte Zobel Yearman . Memorial services were held June 19, 2021 in Bozeman, Montana at Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ.
Scott	2021	ARCSE Member Swayne Scott (87) of Reston, Virginia, passed away in February of 2021. Swayne served as the National Irrigation Engineer for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, retiring in 1988. The family chose not to publish an obituary. He is survived by his wife Frankie Scott and children.
Shreve	2021	Senior Conservationist Sterling "Sam" Paul Shreve (89) of Ames, Iowa passed away at the Israel Hospice House in Ames, Iowa, on June 9, 2021, with his loving family near his side. Sam was born in Sioux City, Iowa to Neal C. and Esther (Christiansen) Shreve on February 26, 1932. Sam was united in marriage to Ruth Ilene Lauritsen on February 13, 1957.

		Sam and Ruth had two children, Kelly Brodie and Karen Thiel. Sam had a son, Paul Shreve, from a previous marriage. In 1956 Sam started working for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in Sioux City where he was a surveyor. He transferred to Ames in 1971 as a soil map cartographer. He retired in 1988. Sam enjoyed spending time with his family and playing cards with his many friends. He was known for his quick wit and making people laugh. He was a longtime member of St. Andrews Lutheran Church in Ames. He is survived by his loving wife, Ruth, and his daughters, Kelly Brodie and Karen (Denny) Thiel ; four grandchildren, Michael Ryan Brodie (Katy Beerhohm-Young) , Emily (Nic Carnes) Brodie , Amber (Tim) Jacklin , Justin (Ashley) Redding ; and ten great-grandchildren. The family would like to thank Mary Greeley Hospice Services for their care and comfort. Private graveside services were held at the Iowa Veteran's Cemetery in Adel, Iowa. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be directed to the Israel Family Hospice House in Ames.
Wells	2021	Darrell Lee Wells (82) of Clinton, Oklahoma passed away May 5, 2021 at Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Darrell was born March 26, 1939 to W.C. Wells and Charlene (Swearingen) Wells in Visalia, California. He was raised in the Stafford community west of Clinton and graduated from Stafford High School in 1957. That same year he began his working career at the age of 18 for the United States Soil Conservation as a soil mechanics technician. He did a lot of compaction testing on dams to ensure they were safe. He worked in Okmulgee, Davis, and Pauls Valley, Oklahoma, retiring after 37 years later in 1994. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and working in his garden. He is survived by daughter, Cindy Hicks (Frank) of Watauga, Texas; son, Darren Wells of Ft. Worth, Texas; three grandchildren, Angie Hicks , Lee Hicks , and Dylan Hicks ; four great-grandchildren.
Westerman	2021	Kathryn (Kay) Louise Westerman (95) of Lincoln, Nebraska, passed away May 17, 2021. Kay was born in Atkinson, Nebraska December 6, 1925, to Archie and Lucile J. Millington . She attended the University of Omaha. On June 14, 1947, she was united in marriage to Lyle Westerman who was a Soil Conservation Technician for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. Kay worked for the War Department and Finance Department during and after World War II. Kathryn worked for LL Coryell in Lincoln and the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in Pawnee City, Nebraska and Lincoln for 34 years. After retirement, she served as secretary for the SCS Retirees Breakfast Club for several years. She was also secretary for the VFW Women's Auxiliary Post 4626 until its disbandment. Surviving Kay are her children, Susan (Ken) Mayberry of York, Nebraska, David Westerman (Terri Tobias) of Cooper Landing, Alaska, Joan Kennedy of Cypress, Texas, and James Westerman of Rapid City, South Dakota. Also surviving are seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. A funeral service was held May 22, 2021, at Southern Heights Presbyterian Church in Lincoln.
White	2021	Lonnie Kent White (75) of Keeling, Virginia passed away May 14, 2021, at a memory care facility in Forest, Virginia after a decline in his health for the last six years. Lonnie was born on September 12, 1945, a son of the late Johnnie Kent White and Gladys Dunn White . He had been a resident of Keeling, Virginia for the past 37 years. He retired from the USDA NRCS as an engineer after 36 years of service. Lonnie was a member of the Virginia Army National Guard for 26 years. He was also a member of the American Legion Post 325 and the Keeling Volunteer Fire Department. He was married to Carolyn Shively White, who survives, for 53 years. In addition to his wife, he is survived by a son, Kent L. White (Michelle) of Lynchburg, Virginia; and two grandchildren, Aiden L. White , and Dylan J. White .
Wulforst	2021	John P. Wulforst (91) of Hornell, New York, passed away May 24, 2021, peacefully and surrounded by family at his home. John was born in Hicksville, New York (Long Island) on October 9, 1929 to John F. and Magdalena (Hoeffner) Wulforst . John attended Lemoyne College before transferring to Cornell University. Prior to receiving his Bachelor of Science degree from Cornell in 1958, John served three years in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. John joined the USDA-Soil Conservation Service as a Soil Scientist where he worked until 1987. He then joined the staff of the Allegany County Soil Water District as an environmental specialist until 1999. John was recognized by the USDA for surveying more than 1 million acres during his career. John worked in over half of the counties in New York, which included a special facilities project at Lake Placid in preparation for the 1980 Winter Olympics. In addition to New York, John was detailed to soil survey projects in Texas, North Carolina, Alabama, Vermont, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Mississippi. In his own words, "This was my life, and I couldn't have picked a better job." John is survived by his wife of 62 years Jo Ann (Ray) ; four children, Michael (Charlene) Wulforst of East Islip, New York, Michelle (James Wancha, Jr.) of Olympia, Washington, Matthew Wulforst of Hornell, and Andrew (Amy Amphlett) of Rochester, New York; and, and seven grandchildren Brenndan, Anna, Patrick, Eva, Ashley, Noah, and Ella . John was preceded in death by his grandson, Ryan A. Wancha .
Wyman	2021	ARCSE Life Member Henry "Hank" Schainck Wyman (80) of Davis, California, passed away at home on May 1, 2021, surrounded by family. Hank Wyman was born in 1941 in The Dalles, Oregon and grew up in Corvallis and Eugene, Oregon. He met his high school sweetheart, Christie Bransford , in 1958 at a Boy Scout-Girl Scout party when they were 15 and 16. He earned his Eagle Scout award in 1958; graduated from Eugene High School in 1959; joined the Air Force, and was sent to Korea, then Japan. He served as editor of several air base newspapers while in the Air Force. Hank and Christie were married in Japan and their first child was born there. They returned to Eugene, where he raced through the University of Oregon School of Journalism in three years, using the GI Bill to help pay for his education. He worked as a reporter for the Eugene Register Guard while in college. Their second child was born in Eugene. After graduation, he was hired by the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (now Natural Resources Conservation Service) as a public information specialist in Portland, Oregon. Their third child was born in Portland. In 1968, he was reassigned to Hawaii, where they lived for seven years. He also served in Washington, D.C., and in California, stationed in Davis. In 1977, he became California state information officer, and in 2003, he retired as California's deputy state conservationist after 40 years of service. After he retired, he joined the Friends of the Davis Public Library (FOL). He served in various roles in the group, including president and first manager of Logos Book Store after it was acquired by the FOL. He was a very active FOL volunteer through February this year, when he fell ill with COVID-19. After recovering from COVID, his health began to deteriorate rapidly, and he was diagnosed with advanced cancer. Hank loved to travel. His last big trip in 2019 was to France and Spain. Over the years, he traveled to many Pacific Islands, Indonesia, Japan, China, Hong Kong, Korea, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, Czech Republic, The Netherlands, France, Greece, Switzerland, Austria, England, Sweden, Finland, every state in the United States, and more. He was intelligent, compassionate, kind, generous, funny, and loyal — a remarkable human being in all ways. He will be remembered for being able to see the "big picture" for everyone who worked with or for him. He helped people recognize their potential and achieve their dreams. He is survived by his wife, children Bryan , Michael , and Catherine ; seven grandchildren: Hanah, William, Elise, Ivy, Juliet, Kyle and Monica ; and daughters-in-law Michelle and Loran



Reflections of the Grand Tetons