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NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter for Retired SCS and NRCS Employees

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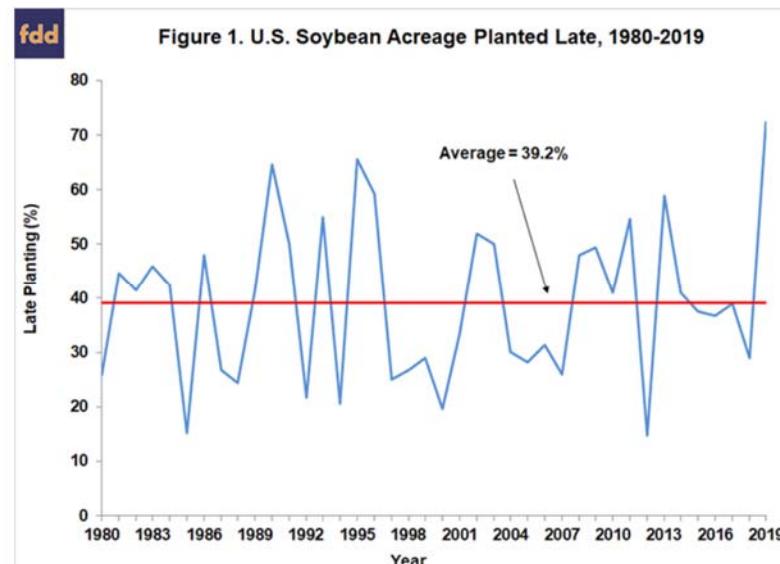
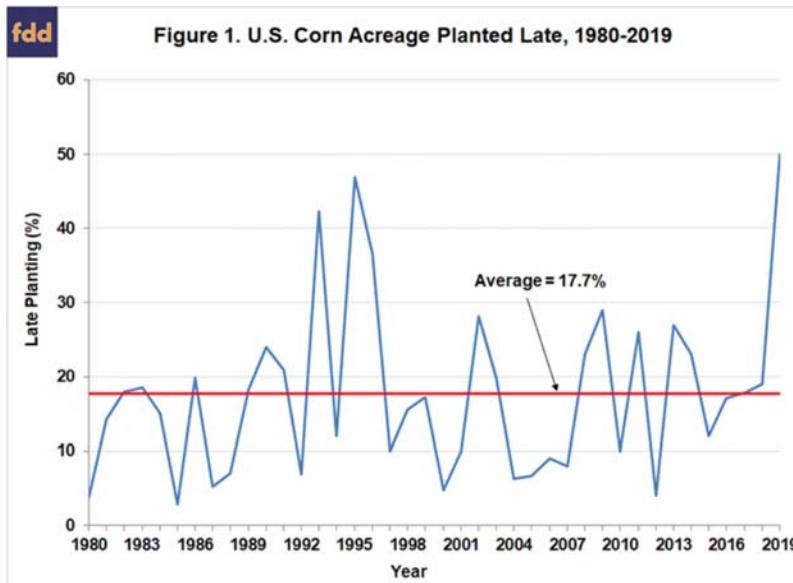
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NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

Doug Lawrence and Patty Lawrence

Greetings again from the "Land of Pleasant Living." We hope you and your family are well. Like much of the US, we have had record-setting rainfall the past year, but we haven't had the flooding problems that have plagued the central part of the country. In addition to direct flood damages in the Midwest this spring, farmers in many parts of the country have had significant delays in planting crops. **Scott Irwin** and **Todd Hubbs** at the University of Illinois created the following figures that display the percentage of the corn and soybean crops that have been planted late each year from 1980 to 2019. Based on the figures, it looks like both corn and soybeans will set records for percentage of the crop planted late.



Late planting this year could, depending on the weather this summer, reduce corn yields by about 20 bushels per acre. **Irwin and Hubbs** conclude that late planting in 2019 could lead to "a large

supply shock to corn supply that is roughly equivalent to a major drought." They also estimate that there will be a minimum of 5 million acres of corn that won't get planted or are switched to other crops. The reduced yields and the prevented planting could substantially reduce corn supply by at least 1 to 2 billion bushels. Because of the reduction in corn supply reduction, they estimate that corn prices could increase to at least \$4.50 per bushel.

Pocket Book—Longtime Federal employee beat reporter Mike Causey wrote at the end of last month that the 2020 cost of living adjustment (COLA) for Federal retirees could be something on the order of an increase of about 1.2%, based on recent CPI-W changes. However, remember that the actual amount of the increase, if any, will depend on the difference in the CPI-W for the third quarter — July, August and September — this year compared to the CPI-W level for the third quarter of 2018.

Causey also noted that the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) association believes that the CPI-W (Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers) is the wrong metric to measure the impact of inflation on retirees. Many agree with NARFE that a more equitable COLA measure would be the CPI-E (Elderly), which is based on a basket of goods and services that is more relevant to retirees.

2018 Farm Bill —The following are a few Farm Bill conservation highlights. You can read all the Farm Bill News at USDA's [farmers.gov](https://www.farmers.gov/farmbill) website (<https://www.farmers.gov/farmbill>)

Rules in the News

On May 6, 2019, NRCS published an interim final rule in the Federal Register to address several 2018 Farm Bill changes to NRCS programs, including:

- Allowing representatives from the State Cooperative Extension Service and land grant universities to serve on the state technical committee that assists NRCS in guiding locally led conservation.
- Waiving the requirement for certain duplicative or unnecessary watershed plans under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program, which authorizes NRCS to install watershed improvement measures to reduce flooding and advance conservation and proper utilization of land;
- Expanding the purposes of the Healthy Forests Reserve Program to add: protection of at-risk species in conserving forest land, permanent easements as an enrollment option for Tribal lands, and land identified as being in the greatest need to improve the well-being of a species;
- Authorizing that certification of technical service providers be through a qualified non-federal entity; and
- Requiring that \$3 million of the funds to implement the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program be used to encourage public access for hunting and other recreational activities on wetlands enrolled in the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program.

NRCS is accepting comments on this rule through July 5, 2019. You may submit comments by any of the following methods through the Federal eRulemaking Portal on Docket ID USDA-2019-0005. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/05/06/2019-09151/miscellaneous-conservation-provisions>

Programs in the News

On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials (On-Farm Trials) and the Soil Health Demo Trial were new provisions added to Conservation Grants by the 2018 Farm Bill. On May 15, 2019, NRCS announced up to \$25 million per year over the next five years to help support the adoption and evaluation of innovative conservation approaches on agricultural lands. Entities eligible for the program include:

- Private entities whose primary business is related to agriculture.
- Non-governmental organizations with experience working with agricultural producers.
- Non-Federal government agencies.

Proposals are being accepted through July 15. You can read the announcement and the 2019 funding priorities at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/financial/cig/?cid=nrcseprd1459039>.

On May 16, 2019, NRCS announced up to \$40 million in **Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP)** technical and financial assistance to help eligible conservation partners voluntarily protect, restore and enhance critical wetlands on agricultural lands. Chief Lohr explained that NRCS sees WREP as important to helping communities respond to natural disasters, such as the floods in the Midwest. Proposals were due to NRCS by June 14, 2019.

NRCS announced up to \$12.5 million in **National Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)** funding on May 30, 2019, to help support the adoption of innovative conservation approaches on agricultural lands. CIG projects are intended to drive creative problem-solving that boosts production on farms, ranches, and private forests - ultimately, improve water quality, soil health, and wildlife habitat. All U.S.-based non-Federal entities and individuals are eligible to apply. Proposals are due by July 30, 2019.

The 2018 Farm Bill included a new **Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program (FSCP)** to help address the threat that feral swine pose to agriculture, ecosystems and human and animal health. On June 20, 2019, USDA announced \$75 million in FSCP funding in a joint effort between NRCS and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). NRCS will direct up to \$33.75 million of the allocated FSCP funds toward partnership efforts to work with landowners in identified pilot projects in select areas of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Texas. Pilot projects will consist of three coordinated components: 1) feral swine removal by APHIS; 2)

restoration efforts supported by NRCS; and 3) assistance to producers for feral swine control provided through partnership agreements with non-federal partners. Projects can be one to three years in duration. Applications are being accepted through Aug. 19, 2019.

On June 21, 2019, USDA announced farmers and ranchers with expiring **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)** contracts could re-enroll in certain CRP continuous signup practices or select a one-year contract extension. First time enrollment was also opened up for the 52nd CRP signup, which runs from June 3 to August 23. FSA had stopped accepting CRP continuous offers last fall when 2014 Farm Bill authority expired. The 2018 Farm Bill reauthorized the program and FSA determined that a limited signup prioritizing water-quality practices made sense as the agency works to implement the program. This year's CRP continuous signup includes practices like grass waterways, filter strips, riparian buffers, wetland restoration and others; you can see the full list of approved practices here (<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program/crp-continuous-enrollment/index>). Continuous signup enrollment contracts last for 10 to 15 years. Soil rental rates are set at 90 percent of 2018 rates and incentive payments are not offered for these practices.

You can see the full announcement at

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/news-releases/2019/usda-offers-producers-options-to-re-enroll-or-extend-expiring-crp-contracts>

Economic Research Service Relocation—As reported in previous “Notes from the Potomac,” **Secretary Sonny Perdue** is moving forward with his plan to move most of the employees working for the Economic Research Service (ERS) and the National Institute of Agriculture (NIFA) from Washington, DC to Kansas City, Missouri. However, there has been a significant backlash against the move and a survey of current ERS employees indicates that 80% of them would quit rather than move to Kansas City. Secretary Perdue has set July 15, 2019 as the deadline for ERS and NIFA employees to notify USDA about their decision of whether or not to relocate. USDA plans on moving all employees into temporary office space in Kansas City by September 30, 2019.

Secretary Perdue has said the relocation will bring ERS and NIFA closer to the farming communities the agencies serve, cut expenses and improve recruitment and retention efforts. The department’s cost-benefit analysis projected the move to the Kansas City area will save \$20 million per year, for a total savings of \$300 million over the course of a 15-year lease.

However, an analysis conducted by researchers at the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association disputed the department’s estimate, suggesting relocation could cost as much as \$128 million. That group’s analysis said USDA didn’t take into account the value of future research that would be lost after veteran economists leaving the agencies, and also argued the department overstated the costs of keeping the agencies in Washington.

Fiscal Year 2020 Appropriations—On July 25, 2019 the House passed a five-bill fiscal year 2020 appropriations package that includes funding for the Department of Agriculture as well as funding for FDA, Commerce, Justice, Interior, EPA, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and several smaller agencies. The House has passed 9 of the 12 annual appropriations bills while the Senate has not passed any of the 2020 appropriations bills.

Here are a few highlights from the House version of the **2020 Appropriations Bill**:

Conservation Programs—The Bill provides \$997 million to help farmers, ranchers, and other private landowners conserve and protect their land. The Conservation Operations program (which includes the Conservation Technical Assistance, Snow Survey, Soil Survey, and Plant Material programs) is funded at \$829 million in 2020 which is about \$75 million more than the President’s budget request and about \$10 million more than the 2019 appropriation. The Bill also includes \$155 million for watershed and flood prevention and watershed rehabilitation projects.

In addition, the Bill’s Report “urges the secretary to explore carbon markets for agriculture and develop common, science-based methodologies for carbon markets.”

And for all you LiDAR and digital elevation data fans the Report notes that “The U.S. Geological Survey is leading the 3D Elevation Program, a collaborative initiative to systematically collect accurate digital elevation data nationwide. The Committee recognizes the positive impact of combined resources, such as NRCS’s ‘Light Detection and Ranging Enhanced Soil Survey’ model and similar derived datasets, which can enhance conservation efforts, farmland management, and mapping of floodplains. The Committee encourages the Secretary, to the extent possible, to participate in and support 3DEP.”

Rural Development and Infrastructure – The bill provides a total of more than \$3.9 billion for rural development programs.

Critical Infrastructure—The legislation includes investments in infrastructure to help rural areas of the country access basic utilities. This includes \$1.45 billion for rural water and waste program loans, and over \$655 million in water and waste grants. An additional \$6.9 billion in loan authority is provided for rural electric and telephone infrastructure loans.

Rural Broadband—The legislation invests over \$680 million in the expansion of broadband service to provide economic development opportunities and improved education and healthcare services.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)—The bill provides \$6 billion in discretionary funding for WIC, which is \$75 million below the fiscal year 2019 enacted level.

Child Nutrition Programs—The bill provides for \$23.9 billion in required mandatory funding—which is outside the discretionary funding jurisdiction of the Appropriations Committee—for child nutrition programs. This is \$873 million above the fiscal year 2019 enacted level.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)—The bill provides for \$71.1 billion in required mandatory spending for SNAP.

International Food Assistance Programs—The legislation contains \$2.1 billion for international food aid and to promote U.S. agricultural exports overseas.

Food Safety and Inspection Service—The legislation includes \$1.05 billion for food safety and inspection programs.

Farm Programs—The legislation provides \$1.8 billion for farm programs, which is \$32 million above the fiscal year 2019 level. This includes an increase of \$30 million for 2018 farm bill implementation.

Agricultural Research—The bill provides \$3.33 billion – \$387 million above the budget request – for agriculture research programs, including the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

ERS and NIFA Relocation – The bill includes language blocking USDA's proposal to relocate the Economic Research Service and the National Institute for Food and Agriculture outside the National Capital Region.

ERS Organizational Shift—The bill also blocks USDA's proposal to put ERS, currently under USDA's research mission area, under the Office of the Chief Economist, which is under the Office of the Secretary.

Disaster Relief Emergency Supplemental Appropriation—On June 6th President Trump signed the 2019 Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act. The act authorizes \$19.1 billion to help individuals, businesses, and communities recover from a series of natural disasters in 2018 and 2019. The bill includes \$435 million for Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations as well as \$3.0 billion for crop and livestock losses related to natural disasters that occurred in 2018 and 2019.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dana York

The Votes are in! Every two years, ARSCE elects new officers. This year we also appointed some new officers and support staff due to retirements or the passing of past support staff.

Here are the folks who will lead us for the next two years:

The next President of ARSCE is **Cheryl Simmons**. She has been the President-Elect for the past two years and will become President in July after the Annual Meeting. With the retirement of **Ron Marlow** after his 10-year service as Secretary-Treasurer in April, we divided his job into three positions, and the following three people accepted appointments: **Jack Carlson** as Secretary, **Paul Benedict** as Membership Chair and **Donna Beggs** as Treasurer. We are also pleased to have **Diana Morse** as Historian after the passing of **Doug Helms**. **David Buland** has agreed to be our Web Master.

From the 88 ballots we received the following people were elected:

President-Elect for the next two years is **Arnold King** who has been serving as South Regional Vice President.

Regional Vice Presidents:

SOUTH: We had several write-in suggestions that included: **Bill Kuenstler**, who has accepted the position. (**Ellis Morrow, Jim Canterbury, Earl Norton, Joe Freeland, and David Moffit** were also nominated).

EAST: **Melvin Womack** (who has been acting in that position when **William Bowers** stepped down- Thanks William!).

MIDWEST: **Norman Kempf** (re-elected).

WEST: **Bill Ward** (re-elected).

I also want to thank our great Editor **Jerry Bernard** who continues to provide the outstanding newsletter you each receive; **Marc Safley** who is the Senior Conservationist Chronicler; and **Cecil Currin** who served as Past President who will now be replaced by me! Thanks also to all the State Representatives who have sent in news for our newsletter from their state meetings and activities!

So as I leave the position of President, I want to thank all of you for your continued support and for providing information for our newsletter that keeps us all connected. I have enjoyed talking to many of you and look forward to “passing the gavel” to Cheryl at our Annual Meeting at SWCS in July. It has been a pleasure to reconnect with many of you and I look forward to hearing about your “new” adventures in the future.--**Dana York** (Almost Past President).

“Getting to Retirement”--**Cheryl Simmons, In-coming President**

Retirement can be a long process. I am proof that you can retire in an area you never had the opportunity to live or work in and go from not knowing anyone, or anything about the area, to clicking in to a conservation group, the local and area NRCS conservation offices.

Moving to Moscow, Idaho took us through a 4-year time frame: time in Texas getting ready to sell the house, and a portion of time in Idaho left me in a time zone—weather quandary. Never good at goodbyes, the long to shift was tough. I often felt lost and wondered if the new normal was a new, not too happy, disconnected me.

I volunteer with CNTSC in Fort Worth and work as an ACES employee. Fortunately, Idaho State Conservationist, **Curtis Elke** supported the Moscow Area and Field Offices in providing a desk space to connect my computer and truly connect with local conservationists. As I walked in to the office the first day, my sigh of relief was audible. The familiar maps, cabinets, equipment, and work stations—all comfortable reminders of a long career in SCS/NRCS. The great folks at the local Center welcomed me as a retiree, volunteer, ACES and new Idaho resident.

I urge all retirees to consider reconnecting with nearby USDA offices and offering to volunteer. You never know, it may turn into a needed small part-time job. Regardless, meeting younger conservationists and interns allows the sharing of experience and advice that can help a more inexperienced person weather the employment storms that come and go as one moves through a career.

The Pullman WA Plant Materials Center is also nearby and just completed a brand-new training facility. I think I'll head over there to see if they need some transplant volunteer help.



Pamela Pavek (daughter of NE retiree) and landowner Rick Heistuman discussing native grass and cover crops. Pamela is a Soil Conservationist, and her Dad's name is Steve Scheinost.

From Cheryl Simmons

Many retirees joined in the NRCS Federal Credit Union Annual Dinner in May, 2019. Since 1937, the credit union serves NRCS Employees and their Family Members, Retirees, and Independent Contractors who support the Natural Resources Government Industry. For more information go to NRCS Federal Credit Union.



Doug Vik, NRCS Economist and Retirees Richard and Sara Heizer



ARSCE President-Elect Cheryl Simmons and NRCS Federal Credit Union President Cherie LaFleur, NRCS CNTSC Environmental Engineer.



Earl Blakley, Retiree



Dave Buland, ARSCE Web Master



Frank Richardson, Retiree



Bernie Owen, Carol Owen (our daughter-in-law) and wife Maxine Owen, retirees.

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

A BIT OF HISTORY

Diana Morse

Looking Back--Demonstration Projects*

*Excerpted from "Technical Assistance--The Engine of Conservation" by J. Douglas Helms, Historian, Natural Resources Conservation Service Washington, D.C., which he prepared for the Partnership Meeting, Natural Resources Conservation Service, March 15, 2005. Historical Insights Number 5. From nrcs.usda.gov.

Hugh Bennett joined the USDA as a soil scientist in 1905. While making soil surveys, he became convinced that soil erosion threatened productive agriculture. He identified areas where combinations of soil properties, climate, agricultural crops and practices resulted in erosion. His campaign for soil conservation first resulted in Congress's providing for some soil erosion experiment stations. Bennett supervised the establishment of most of the stations. Bennett had established himself the acknowledged expert and crusader for soil conservation by the time \$5 million of emergency New Deal funds were made available for soil erosion prevention in August 1933.

He was selected as the Director of the Soil Erosion Service in the Department of the Interior, partly for his persuasive arguments of the need for a coordinated approach to soil conservation. He argued against panaceas. The one at hand was a recommendation for a nationwide terracing program. He proposed that a coordinated program of agronomic, engineering, and other approaches would be needed.

As director of the new Service, which began operations on September 19, 1933, he proposed to establish demonstration projects near the soil erosion experiment stations. The results from the erosion experiment stations could be used in devising conservation practices for farms in the demonstration projects. The specialties of the demonstration projects staffs differed depending on the geographical area and the agricultural and conservation issues. Generally, each project had an agronomist, engineer, forester, economist, and perhaps biologist. Each specialist personally reviewed and contributed to the farm conservation plan of each of the cooperating farms in the project area.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Paul Benedict, Membership Chair

New Members: **Dale DuVal**, Logan, IA; **Edward Earl**, Silver City, IA; **Rick Bednarek**, Altoona, IA.

New Life Members: **Rod Baumberger**, Sturgis, SD; **Norman Koester**, Plattsburgh, NE.

If you have a change in your contact information, please send it to me right away, as soon as you know it, so you don't forget it later. Also, if there is information that you would prefer not to be included in the directory, just let me know. Send your contact information changes to me anytime at soilwarden@verizon.net.

I want to thank everyone who has been sending me information for the obituary section. It helps all of us keep track of our colleagues in conservation. Unless the State ARCSE Rep or someone else sends me information on the individual, such as what positions the individual held or what discipline they were, I will generally use information from their newspaper or funeral home obituary, often shortened to fit our newsletter. If you learn of a retired SCS/NRCS employee passing away, please let me

know. Don't worry if the individual didn't pass away recently. The ***In Memoriam*** web page can be accessed at <http://www.arcse.org/nannoun.htm>.

Retired South State Conservationists and Friends Meeting, Franklin, TN, May 5-8, 2019

From John Peterson: For many years now, there has been an SCS/NRCS reunion in the SE that was started by SE STCs. It was quickly opened up to any retiree who wanted to attend and was renamed the SE STC and Friends get-together. It is really fun, and more people from our National Capital area ought to take advantage of the opportunity to visit with old friends.

This year's reunion was held in Franklin, TN from 5-8 May, and was hosted by retired TN STC **Kevin Brown**, his wife **Theresa**, and ARCSE President **Dana York**. And the hosts did an outstanding job! Attending this year were **Bob and Sue Halstead (FL)**, **Robin Heard (TN)**, **John and Blanche Peterson (VA)**, **Niles and Carolyn Glasgow (SC)**, **Ernie and Peggy Todd (AL)**, **Dana York (TN)**, **Kevin and Theresa Brown (TN)**, **Jane Hardisty (IN)**, **Karen and Brad Tate (VA-George and Ellen Norris's daughter)**, **Bill Richards and Grace Moore (OH)**, **Bill and Betty Milliken (KY)**, **Don and Jo Gohmert (LA)**, **Shirley Klumpe and daughter Christine (MD)**, **Rich and Jude Duesterhaus (VA)**, **Frank and Mary Nell Scudder (KY)**, **Gary and Mary Ann Margheim (VA)**, **Hershel and Barbara Read (NC)**, **Dennie Burns and Lee Frederick (NC)**.



Front row seated: Carolyn Glasgow, Shirley Klumpe, Sue Halstead, Kevin Brown, Theresa Brown, Dana York. **First row standing:** Frank and Mary Nell Scudder, Blanche Peterson, Peggy Todd, Grace Moore, Robin Heard, Betty Milliken, Jane Hardisty, Jo Gohmert, Mary Ann Margheim, Karen Tate. **Rear row:** Bob Halstead, Niles Glasgow, John Peterson, Rich Duesterhaus, Jude Mollenhauer, Ernie Todd, Barbara and Coy Garrett, Lee Frederick, Dennie Burns, Billy Milliken, Don Gohmert, Gary Margheim. **Not shown:** Hershel and Barbara Reed.

Locations and hosts for the past SE State Conservationists and Friends Reunions.

Year	State	Hosts
1994	Texas, Nacogdoches	George Stone
1995	South Carolina,	George Huey
1996	North Carolina, New Bern	Coy & Barbara Garrett
1997	Kentucky, Bardstown	Glen Murray, Billy & Betty Milliken
1998	Alabama, Gulf Shores	Ernie & Peggy Todd
1999	Virginia, Afton	Eddie Wood
2000	Georgia, Pine Mountain	George & Ellen Norris, Edna & Dave Firor
2001	Arkansas, Little Rock	Whitey Spears
2002	Pennsylvania, Gettysburg	Monk & Mo Munkittrick
2003	Tennessee, Gatlinburg	Dwight & Emma Treadway
2004	Florida, St. Augustine	Bill Austin
2005	Texas, Fort Worth	Rocky & Del Rockenbaugh
2006	North Carolina, Waynesville	Coy & Barbara Garrett
2007	Kentucky, Paducah	Billy & Betty Milliken
2008	Virginia, Williamsburg	Gary & Mary Ann Margheim, Ed and

		Delores Nelson, Doug Hawkins
2009	Alabama, Guntersville	Ernie & Peggy Todd
2010	South Carolina, Charleston	Mark Berkland
2011	Georgia, Callaway Gardens	George & Ellen Norris
2012	Florida, Crystal River	Bob & Sue Halstead
2013	North Carolina, Waynesville	Coy & Barbara Garrett
2014	Kentucky, Berea	Billy & Betty Milliken
2015	Alabama, Florence	Ernie & Peggy Todd
2016	Virginia, Fredericksburg	Warren & Barbara Lee, Gary & Mary Ann Margheim, Ed & Delores Nelson.
2017	Ohio, Circleville	Bill Richards & Grace Moore, Rich & Jude Duesterhaus
2018	South Carolina, Columbia	Niles & Carolyn Glasgow
2019	Tennessee, Franklin	Kevin & Theresa Brown, Dana York
2020		

Sunday afternoon was a time to gather and renew old friendships. Monday was golf day for some and sightseeing for others. This year there were only six golfers: **Frank Scudder, Niles Glasgow, Bob Halstead, Ernie Todd, Bill Milliken and Kevin Brown**. Many who did not golf visited Franklin's War Between the States historical sites, historic Franklin and its many antique

shops, and some went to Nashville for the Grand Ole Opry. Tuesday was more sightseeing, reminiscing, and a farewell banquet in the evening. Wednesday it was time to say goodbye and head home. There will be an announcement soon on where the gathering will be held in 2020.

From Bob Halstead: **Frank (and Mary Nell) Scudder (KY)** have been at most of these gatherings, and Frank has usually "managed" the golf outing. And our golfers **do** need some managing. Frank's dry humor is the highlight of the golf prize recognitions.



GOLFERS? *Kevin Brown, Ernie Todd, Niles Glasgow, Frank Scudder, Bob Halstead, and Billy Milliken ready to hit the links in the annual golf tournament.*



Ladies meet in the reception room.



Kevin with local team Robin Heard, Jane Hardisty and Dana York.



Kevin and Theresa Brown the meeting hosts

Ernie Todd said "I can tell you how this retirement thing started but not the dates. **Bill Lingle** told me that he, **Al Chalk (SC)**, **Cecil Chapman (GA)**, **Bill Herd (MS, TN)**, and perhaps others would bring their bottle and gather at various locations to do what we have been doing. I remember going to one of these meetings, perhaps in 1994 in Texas, the year I retired. We are

carrying on the tradition started by some good SCS STCs." **Ernie Todd, George Norris, Bob Halstead, and Coy Garrett** contributed to this list. And some of what George had come originally from **Edna Firor**.



Niles Glasgow, Gary Margheim and Don Gohmert share past stories about "the good old days



Golf chairman Frank Scudder announces the winning golf team of Kevin Brown, Niles Glasgow and Ernie Todd. Second place team was Bill Millken, Bob Halstead and Frank Scudder. Please note there were only two teams entered.



Gary Margheim, Bob Halstead, Ernie Todd and Coy Garrett have a meeting to plan next year's gathering somewhere.

ARIZONA

Ken Cookson, ARCSE Representative

Email: ckcookson@aol.com

Christopher Williams Report: From April 25th to 30th **Karen** and I made a short trip to Folcroft, PA. This is the town and area in which Karen spent most of her life until I transported her to AZ.

The 15-year old son of a close friend had called and asked if we would attend a surprise birthday party for his mother. He pulled it off well, and the surprise was complete when she saw us sitting in her living room. We visited several other friends and began the process of finally selling Karen's PA car.

On May 8th, we wrapped up another year of helping to lead the AWANA ministry at our church here in Chandler and recognized the children who had completed their study books and Bible memory successfully. There were 32 Kindergarten to 6th grade children participating in the program and five high-schoolers who began last August.

In May we also made the decision to add a Solar System to our home and began the process of hiring a contractor and filing the necessary paperwork. The schedule has us being complete in early August.

Finally, the first week in June we helped organize and implement our four-day, annual Vacation Bible School for K to 6th grade children at our home church. We called it a Vacation Bible Splash and featured water games to keep them wet and cool as well as crafts, singing and Bible study. On the last day we rented a large blow-up water slide to celebrate this successful event attended by 38 children.

Karen taught the Bible lessons each night. The day after this ended we drove to Anaheim, CA to participate in an outreach to Arabs for five days.

On June 29th we once again head north to Olympia, WA for a month of cooler weather and a large Vacation Bible School held at the church my son attends there. They had 900 attendees last summer and 350 volunteers. On the way home in mid-July we will drive through SE Utah to visit Arches and Canyonlands National Parks.

Ron Moreland Report: **Ron and Barb Moreland** had a fun trip to Europe. We started with a few days in Paris, seeing lots and surrounded by seemingly all Parisian's on scooters. We took a train through the Alps to Milan and then on to Venice. We crossed the Adriatic on a two-level catamaran to Istria, Croatia. From our base in Rovinj we explored that beautiful Croatian peninsula, learning about the amazing history, and tasting truffles, olive oil and wine. Back across the Adriatic and on to Verona/Veneto where we toured the Amarone wine region.

Rod Alt Report: **Sally** and I hosted 20 golfers in Tucson May 1-3 at Sewalio and Starr Pass Golf Courses. Everyone had a great time, and the weather was perfect.

On May 9th Sally and I traveled to Colorado in rain and snow and visited my daughter, **Terri Sullivan** and Husband **Shawn** in Burlington, CO. On Mother's Day, my grandson, **McKlain** and girl Friend, **Bailey**, stopped by to enjoy dinner.

On May 11th, Sally and I attended my 65th High School reunion in Akron, CO. There were 41 in the graduating class of 1954, with 20 still living. Only seven attended the reunion event. Afterwards we attended the Akron High School Alumni Banquet at

the Washington County Event Center. I got to see a number of people who attended Akron High, including my sister **Connie Gray** and Husband **Roger** and my cousin, **Ray Skiles**.

We went to dinner on May 13th and had dinner with my Granddaughter **Meagan** and Husband **Logan** and then visited some friends in the Denver area before traveling home on May 16th.

Glen Johnson Report: Back in Beautiful North Dakota, but with some difficulties getting here. I made it safe to south of Denver where I ran into a heavy snow squall. The road was covered white and visibility very low. There was a red car in front of me, so I stayed close enough to see him (and where the road was) but far enough back so I could stop. There was an accident up ahead of us and traffic stopped. I stopped behind that red car but the guy behind me didn't and rear ended me knocking me into the rear of that red car and demolishing the front end of the Cadillac. When he hit me it crushed the rear end close to the back seat. There were so many accidents in the five-mile stretch that the SP couldn't get to all of them, so they gave us a form to fill out and told us to file it with the State HP. I was able to drive it home, though not legal. The headlight worked but don't know which stars they were pointed at, and had one tail light. No loss of fluids. So I made it home safe and a bit sore and stiff. The Cadillac was totaled out so had to look for a replacement.

Now the grass is growing fast so have get to the mowing routine. Other than that I'm doing OK! **Glen**.

CALIFORNIA

Bill Ward, ARCSE Representative

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Greetings from California!

California is very sad to share the news of the passing of **Ted Gerbaz**, a beloved man in our agency and the first State Conservation Engineer who I worked with extensively. Ted's memorial service was held June 6th and was well attended by family and close friends, including a group of nine SCS/NRCS staff.

The eulogy and sharing of memories for the service was done admirably by Ted and his wife **Illa**'s grandchildren and son in-law. SCS staff who worked with Ted, including **Tom Smith, Ron Hoppes** and myself, shared our own very fond memories of working with Ted. His family and all who knew him celebrated that they know Ted is now with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for his unshakable faith.

Illa and other family members were very appreciative of our SCS group who were able to be there with them at the memorial. Illa and Ted were married for 73 years!



SCS Staff able to be at Ted Gerbaz' Service, from the left: Walt Sykes, Jack George, Dan Toan, Carlos Velasquez, Bill Ward, Marilyn Hoppes, Dan Johnson, Tom Smith, and Ron Hoppes

Ed Denten retired SCS (1996) as Project Engineer, Gilroy CA. Ed's last position with SCS was Project Engineer for the Llagas Creek and Lower Silver Creek Watershed Projects in Santa Clara County. I was head of our Design Staff at the time and got to know Ed very well, an excellent Engineer and wonderful person to work with. After retiring from SCS in 1996 he went to work for Ducks Unlimited before retiring from that position at the end of 2001. At that time Ed and his wife **Emmy** moved to Oregon, buying property with some land.

Emmy just shared with me: "Ed and I are gearing up for our annual family reunion and work party the last 10 days in June. We will have about 30 friends and relatives camping on our property. We work, eat, play games, visit, hike, fish, and the kids love to paddle the boat around the pond. Nephew brings an outdoor shower, outdoor potty. His wife takes charge of all the cooking (three meals a day), and she does a stand-up job. We BBQ and eat lots of salads. Our deck is transformed into a smorgasbord, card room, video parlor, etc. It is a lot of fun. Best Wishes to all our retiree friends! "- Emmy

Susan Southard retired (2017) CA NRCS as Soil Scientist. "I retired in July 2017 after 40 years as a soil scientist with the National Cooperative Soil Survey. During my career I worked as either a state or USDA federal soil scientist, and the last 10 years were as a NRCS employee on loan to the National Park Service through an interagency agreement. Since retirement, I have had a couple opportunities to teach soils that I could not pass up. The first was to help teach *Soil Resources of California* which is fondly known by its former students as "105" or "205," depending on whether it's taken for or graduate credit. The class is one of the longest, continuously offered classes within the entire University of California system, having been taught since the 1930s. I helped teach this class with my husband **Randy** (also a Soil Science Professional!) the year before his retirement from UC Davis.

The class traveled throughout northern California and Nevada where students observed soils formed from many diversified soil parent material and climates. These included alluvial valley sediments, glacial tills of the Tahoe Basin, basalts of the Modoc Plateau, volcaniclastics of Lassen Volcanic National Park, uplifted marine terraces of the Mendocino Coast, and many other environments. What made this class unique was the fact that all but one student were female. Such a change from when I started mapping soils in Utah with SCS in 1977! Many of these students would be perfect NRCS employees.



The UC Davis 105/205 class before heading out for 18 days in the field, camping out the whole time. Randy and I are in the front row, right.

Students get a lot of experience, digging and describing soils and learning about the interrelationships of the five soil forming factors. Many of the soils observed during the class are the backbone of soil mapping concepts used by California NRCS soil scientists. Over the 18 days, nine soil orders were seen, and 5 soil moisture regimes and 5 soil temperature regimes. There was also a rare chance for Randy and I to be in a soil pit together near Fort Bragg, culminating individual 40-year careers in soil science!

The second teaching opportunity for me was this past winter when I was invited back to help teach a class at the University of Concepcion in Chile, again as a co-instructor with my husband. We had both taught the class before, but this time we combined that adventure with a mini-sabbatical from his faculty position at UC Davis. We spent nearly three months traveling in Chile, mostly in southern Patagonia. This travel included exploring soils, vegetation, and landforms.

Chile in my view is an "up-side-down California" with an extensive Central Valley, a Coast Range to the west and instead of the Sierra Nevada to the east of the valley, in Chile to the east lie the Andes. The geologic formations are similar. There's volcanism overlapping granitic batholiths, dry deserts at low latitudes, and tectonically active coastlines. Even the crops and agricultural management systems are similar. We spent a considerable amount of time in southern Patagonia, including trips to Terra del Fuego, Cape Horn, the Straits of Magellan, and the Beagle Channel.

Students were very responsive to learning about soils, and I was just amazed at the similarities of the soils I saw to ones I had seen in California!

The Chilean class curriculum is modeled after the California 105/205 class. **Harold** offered the WRB (World Reference Base) soil classification system used in parts of Europe while **Randy** offered the USDA Soil Taxonomy classification at each site.



Our Students "In the Classroom!"



Susan and Randy in a Soil Pit together!



Happy students on the last day of class with their standard USDA-NRCS reference tools, Keys to Soil Taxonomy and the Field Guide to Describing Soils



Chilean students having fun and learning! Susan in Chile, on the flank of a volcano much like our "Lassen."



One of many Glaciers we saw in Chile

Glaciers of southern Chile were awesome to see. We hiked around incredible pro-glacial lakes and carved valleys. I highly recommend a trip to Chile!" – Susan Southard

John Tiedemann retired (2018) as North Coast Team Engineer. I am enjoying (semi-) retirement, which for me is as full as any other stage of my life. Working part time (ACES) is great, doing the work I enjoy the most (surveying, planning, design, and construction). Recent examples of "good things" in my life include:

- Celebrated our younger daughter Emily's marriage to a young Redding man last Saturday (fully approved by dad and mom).
- Celebrating our 25th anniversary July 1 with a trip to Spain and Portugal.
- Accepted as an organic produce vendor at Redding Farmer's market this year (tree fruit).
- Playing regular events with "Neighborhood Swing trio" (clarinet, accordion, and mandolin or guitar).

Best wishes to all my Retiree friends! – John Tiedeman. Following is a link I found with more on John's fine career with SCS/NRCS: <http://www.tcrd.net/archive/almanac/v13n1/article03.htm> .

I will also add that John and I have enjoyed sharing our passion for music and any opportunities we have to play together whenever that opportunity arises!



John Tiedeman and His Neighborhood Swing Band playing for the Redding Sons and Daughters of Italy "Paesano Days!"

COLORADO

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For several years a small group of retired conservation service employees living in and about Fort Collins have met the first Tuesday of each month for breakfast to mull over the weighty issues of the day, plus several not in that category. Those convening in June included from left to right: **Owen Unangst, Bernie Shafer, Jack Carlson, Phil Smith, Chuck Hart, Wendall Oaks, and Steve Ekblad.**

IOWA

Mark Jensen, ARCSE Representative

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Rick Bednarek retired at the end of April. He had a retirement party on June 1st with over 100 people attending. Some of those attending included: **Governor Kim Reynolds** and retiree husband "First Dude" or perhaps "First Gentleman" **Kevin Reynolds**, **Glenn and Connie Esbeck**, **Richard Lensch**, **Bob Vobora**, **Barb and Randy Stewart**, **Dora Guffey**, **Dennis Schrot**, plus many others. Rick said that one of his major activities this summer has been watching his five-year-old granddaughter, **Jasmyn**, play T-ball.

Jim Phillips told me that after he retired, he spent a couple of months working really hard at items on his "list." Like most of us, he found that it is nearly impossible to get caught up with the items on "the list," so he started doing other things like swimming, golfing, and other exercising. Way to go Jim!

Ed Marshall retired as a Civil Engineering Technician in 1999. One of the many areas that Ed excelled in was surveying and the care and maintenance of survey equipment. He carried that interest into retirement. One of his hobbies is collecting surveying equipment like hand levels, survey instruments, and rods, as well as other SCS/NRCS type conservation field

equipment. Another favorite pastime of Ed's is hunting. Over the years he has gone big game hunting on six continents. I can't list all the types of game that he has hunted, but a couple of the notable ones include the big five in Africa and all types of bears. In his spare time, he continues to do work on his farm. In talking with Ed, it is obvious that he still maintains a great conservation ethic and appreciation for his career with SCS/NRCS.

I had a good visit with **Dick Hall** the other day. He told me that he is now fully retired from all of his post SCS/NRCS activities. After retiring from NRCS, he did some environmental work for the Pork Producers; performed dam safety inspections on contract for 15 plus years for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources; and two years ago he finished 42 years of officiating track meets.

Dick also told me that a group of retirees in northwest Iowa are continuing to meet for breakfast at HyVee on the third Wednesday of the month. Some of the regular attendees at the breakfast include **Judy Clause, Jeri Duccoman, Sheila and John Cox, Terri and Dave Sage, Guy Hempey, and Dick Hall**. They welcome others to the group, so if you would like to attend, give one of these "regulars" a call to find out the location and time!

We welcome a couple more members into our retiree family: **Jim Phillips**, GIS Specialist in Des Moines, and **Pam Koster**, Financial Specialist, in Des Moines.

Recently we have been saddened by the passing of two of our retiree family. **Marian Hall**, wife of **Dick Hall**, passed away on May 28th. Dick was an Engineer in the Sioux City Area Office for many years. **Merle Lawyer**, long time District Conservationist in Harlan, passed away on May 9th.

KANSAS

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Water, water, everywhere! The city of Salina spent most of the month of May surrounded by flood waters from two major rivers and several creeks. Now it is time to harvest what wheat survived, and again wet weather is delaying the farmers in getting into the fields.

Larry Miles (former Water Resources Planning Staff Leader) shared in our annual Kansas SCS/NRCS Retiree Newsletter that he took an eight-day raft trip down the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon last summer. There were 15 people on the raft including two guides. The trip was nearly 300 miles with about 100 rapids varying from 4 feet to 30 feet. In most places the rim of the canyon towered above the river at least 1,000 feet. The most spectacular part of the trip was the ever changing scenic views, canyons entering the big canyon, along with water falls, and lots of wildlife.

Karen Churchman (former State Conservationist's secretary) is recovering from a fall that resulted in a broken arm and a cracked pelvis. She is completing rehab and plans to move into her daughter's home the end of June.

After 35 years of service **David B. Jacobson** retired on May 3rd, as a Soil Conservation Technician in the Effingham Management Unit in Effingham, KS. **Erin D. Batman** retired on May 31, 2019, as a Supervisory District Conservationist in the Pratt Management Unit in Pratt, KS.

We were saddened to learn of the sudden death of **John E. Gardner** on June 5th. **John** was inspecting a dam in the Salt Creek Watershed when he realized he might be experiencing a heart attack and called for help. Although help arrived, he did not survive the attack. **John** retired December 31st, 2011, as a Civil Engineering Technician on the Hutchinson Area Office Technical Staff and worked in the Lincoln Management Unit in Lincoln, KS. After retirement he was employed by the Salt Creek Watershed District. His wife, **Patricia**, survives.

Our sympathies are also extended to **Jerry D. Longren** whose spouse, **Cathy**, passed away June 9th. **Jerry** retired as a Biological Science Technician in the Plant Materials Center in Manhattan, KS.

KENTUCKY

Billy Haslett

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Deena Wheby reported and provided the following photos. Although it rained on the Kentucky State Office's 35th Annual Spring Fling Cookout, almost 50 folks gathered for good food and fellowship in Lexington on May 30th. Grill Master and retired State Soil Scientist/MO Leader **Bill Craddock** manned the grill as he has for almost all of the 35 years. Assisting him was apprentice cook and retired GIS Specialist **Steve Crabtree**. From his lawn chair, current State Biologist **Casey Shrader** looked like he did a good job supervising. As far as we know, they didn't drop many burgers or hot dogs on the ground. The retirees enjoyed seeing their former workmates as well as meeting the current generation of NRCS State Office employees.

In addition to the fully retired, Phased Retiree **Doug Hines** attended and said he was enjoying the best of both worlds. In his phased retirement, Doug works half-time and is retired half-time (and gets two half-time checks.) In addition to continuing to provide services, phased retirees mentor and train less-experienced staff members to support the development of specific skills and knowledge that will sustain the agency's service delivery. Doug is a wetlands easement and realty specialist, and as far as the State Office is concerned, is one-of-a-kind. They are happy to have him stick around a little while longer to mentor and train those who follow him into the world of easements. Doug's father, **Beecher Hines**, worked for SCS from 1957 until his retirement in 1994. Beecher passed away in 2016. Doug has done a terrific job keeping up his father's legacy as a public servant.

Of interest to horse racing fans, **Steve Crabtree**'s horse "Signalman" ran in the Preakness (and almost the derby.)



Tom Butcher, Anthony Burns and Charlie Farmer



Paul Howell and Joe Davis



Doug Hines



Steve Crabtree, Jack Kuhn, Doug Hines



Admin- Connie McKinney, Richard Myers, Steve Christensen and Connie's Grandson, Gabe.



Glenn Kelly and Dick Quiggins

MAINE**John Simon, ARCSE Representative**Email: balnengr@tds.net

March 12th breakfast report: We had nine attendees: **Ellie and Joe Bertolaccini, Karen and Bruce Champeon, Chris Jones, Mary Thompson, Steven Davis, Art Taylor, and John Simon.**

Steve Davis left Presque Isle in the wee hours of the am to get here by 9am to enjoy breakfast with us. Now that is dedication! He said the snow up in Aroostook is awesome, but he is looking forward to spring!

Mary Thompson will be spending another year doing blueberry consulting and very much enjoying the work. She has a son living in Brewer and another son in Union, so that also keeps her busy.

Chris Jones informed me that he now has a granddaughter (I think her name is **Emma**). Congratulations Chris and **Janet!** Emma was born last November I believe. Chris and Janet plan on going out to Washington State in May to visit their new granddaughter "Emma." We wish them a safe and pleasant trip. Chris had a beautiful shot of little Emma on his cell phone to be viewed by everyone. She is such a beautiful baby!

Ellie Bertolaccini described the auto accident she experienced lately which totaled her car! Thankfully she was not hurt. The other car went through a red light and broadsided her car on the drivers side but in front of the drivers door thank God. All of us probably can remember close calls in our lifetime like this. **Noreen** always tells me to count to three AFTER a green light before crossing an intersection. We notice a lot of drivers in the Bangor area running red lights recently for any number of reasons. Scary.

I would be negligent if I did not mention a wonderful book I recently read. I love you all too much to not mention it. The book is "The Truth about Cancer" by Ty M. Bollinger. Published by Hay House, Inc. Whether you have cancer, have had cancer and in remission, or want to prevent cancer, the book is an excellent read.

April 9th breakfast report. Last Tuesday saw four smiling faces: **Judy and Charlie Boothby, Art Taylor, and John Simon.**

Charlie said he had a moose wander into his yard when he was outside, but all went well. The moose escaped Charlie's threats. **Judy** said the deer are nibbling on some of her favorite shrubs which is a bummer. Otherwise the two of them are doing well.

Art said he has several fawns and a doe visiting his bird feeder recently. He and Linda are enjoying the playfulness of the young one for sure.

I had a chance to visit **Larry Long** at the Bangor Veterans Nursing home. We had a nice visit. **Lois** was there having lunch with Larry. The Veterans home is a beautiful building although the floor plan is complicated and it is easy to get lost. You will have to ask directions.

Lois Long said that **John Ferwerda**'s cell phone # is the same as his old home phone 207-945-3829. He does not have a message service so I have not been able to speak to him or leave a message. The phone # for the Winterbury heights is 207-262-2374.

May 14th breakfast report. Attending were: **Karen and Bruce Champeon, Judy and Charlie Boothby, Art Taylor, and John Simon.**

Bruce showed all of us a video he made of a very large turkey sitting on his back porch railing and happily eating the contents of their bird feeder. It was quite a show. **Karen** said that when they played music that the turkey could hear, it dutifully kept its pecking in sync with the music! Karen did not say what type of music she and Bruce were playing for the turkey.

Roger Ashe sent me an email to say hi to everyone in attendance. He is in Gettysburg, PA for a visit and will see us next month.

Art Taylor told the story of "the Gorilla effect" that he and John experienced last week while out tracking down a USGS Benchmark on Mount Desert Island. To understand this term just google (the Gorilla effect) and you will see a video on Youtube that gives an example. Actually quite amusing.

Charlie said that this year he is buying the plants for his garden, not starting his own from seed, and hopes the deer stay away. Moose also.

If it ever warms up, I will mow my lawn but for now it is on slow growth, which is good.

June 11th summer lunch. Attending were: **Judy and Charlie Boothby, Ellie and Joe Bertolaccini, Kay and Ray Voyer, Chris Jones, Art Taylor, Paul Hersey, Gary Hedstrom, Roger Ashe, Tom Smith, and Noreen and John Simon.** We enjoyed sharing information and teasing each other as appropriate!

Kay Voyer is still doing substitute teaching in Old Town but is looking forward to the summer off. **Roger** enjoyed his May trip to Gettysburg, PA. When my family lived in Mechanicsburg we used to go to Gettysburg at least once a year. It is a fascinating place!

Paul is still working part time with NRCS and loving it. If I understood him correctly he said that **Peter Newkirk** retired from MDOT and now is part time with NRCS like Paul. Peter left NRCS quite a few years ago to work for MDOT, I think in their

environmental section. Tom has expanded his domain to Hancock County. NRCS has built a new office on Rt 1 south of Ellsworth. Nice spot and convenient.

Ellie told **Noreen** that she recently took a kayak out onto a local pond with her daughter, and the black flies followed them right out into the lake! They are mean and some hungry!

Chris showed us a picture of his new (only) 7 month? old granddaughter who he and **Janet** visited on the west coast in May. She is absolutely adorable! Congratulations to Janet and Chris. Their flight out to the west coast was long but worth it according to Chris.

Charlie is just starting to plant his garden but is getting asparagus already. They last many years before they need replanting I understand.

Art is all through his house, and even recently finished building new computer tables for **Linda** and himself.

Tom Smith was going to stop at his farm on the way back to Portland if the rain let up. Good seeing Tom as we spent many years working out of the Lewiston office together. Tom looks good and feeling well.

Earland H. Morrison (age 87) of Alfred, ME passed away on March 18th, 2019. Earland was the long time DC in York County, ME. Also John **Ferwerda** of Viezie/Bangor (age 94) passed away on May 21st, 2019. John was the State Soil Scientist for SCS in Maine for years. John's wife **Lola** is still at Winterbury Heights assisted living in Bangor.

Take care and God bless.

MASSACHUSETTS

Jim Weoloski, ARCSE Representative

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It's been a quiet few months for the Mass. retirees. Late Spring was cool and wet but today we turned on the A/C for the first time this season. This will increase our electricity usage and ensure that we continue to receive those letters from the electric company telling us that we use more electricity than our more conservative neighbors.

June 19th was the last day of work for **Darlene Monds**, Natural Resource Specialist and former RC&D Coordinator, officially retired after a period of easing into retirement and working part time. She finally decided that not working beat working any day.

Another person who saw the light in June was **Christine Clarke** who retired as State Conservationist in late June. Rumor has it that Chris is packing up and moving to Rhode Island soon. Unless I miscounted, I have worked with all of the Mass. State Conservationists except for **Dr. Beaumont**. With Chris Clarke's retirement and the appointment of a new STC, I will need to go back to work or let the record fall.

I note with sorrow the passing on June 3rd of **Vickie Zabawa** who worked for the Watershed staff in the Cottage Street days. Vickie went on to Farmers Home and Rural Development but kept in touch with SCS/NRCS friends. Vickie was a truly a nice person who had a kind word for everyone. She was 84.

Frank and Joanne Wilda are excited about their upcoming trip to Poland. Frank said they would visit Warsaw, Krawkow, Auswich, and Las Vegas.

I hadn't known Las Vegas was on a direct route to Poland.\

MICHIGAN

William Fude, ARCSE Representative

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Michigan UP Retirees Lunch. The SCS/NRCS Upper Peninsula retirees met at the Landmark Inn of Marquette on June 20th. **Bobbie Hartman** organized the lunch and was joined by: **Bernie and Diane Huetter; Loren and Erika Berndt; Walt and Phyllis Summers; Tom and Jane Immonen; Larry Carey; Selden Collins; Bruce Petersen; Dennis Robinson; Ken Wikgren; Randy Wilkinson; and Bill Fude** (honorary Yooper). Everyone shared what was going on in their lives and had a fine time.

MINNESOTA

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Summer Picnic: Minnesota retirees will be gathering July 10th for a picnic in Baxter. Several attendees will be camping out and staying on to enjoy the recreational opportunities in the area.

Minnesota "Iron Man:" Retirees **Kim Stefan, John Brach, and Scott Swanberg** continued a 13-year tradition of participating in the Minnesota "Iron Man." The three "events" consist of Sporting Clays, Lunch, and Golf. It was started by **Brett Coleman** who has since moved to the Corps of Engineers. Now it has become a fun NRCS vs. Corps competition each year.



Kim Stefan at one of the sporting clays stations



L to R: Scott Swanberg, John Brach and Kim Stefan show the objects they tried to hit.

MISSOURI

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Liz Cook: I've been retired now for 3 1/2 years, but just recently found out there was an organized NRCS retiree group. So, I have quite a bit to report. My husband and I (**Gene Gardner**, retiree of Missouri Department of Conservation) have focused on travel since my retirement. For our more "exotic" trips, we use the not-for-profit travel group called Road Scholar (formerly called Elderhostel). Most of their trips are only for ages 55+ and they keep the costs reasonable. Our retirement odyssey began in the Galapagos Islands in February 2016, a Road Scholar small group trip. Twelve participants stayed 12 days on a yacht, with a dedicated naturalist, a chef and wait staff on board. Each day included both land-based and snorkeling outings, and overnight we moved among the islands. It was a fabulous trip I didn't think we could top.

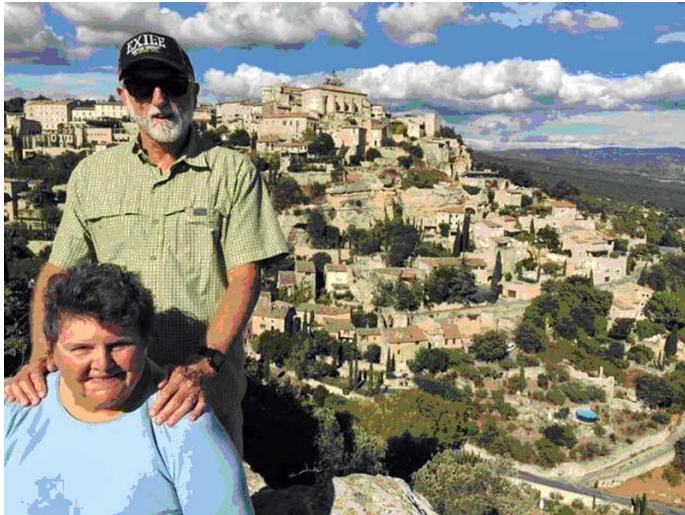
Later that year we went to France for three weeks. We saw and tasted many spectacular things. A couple of my favorite locations are shown below. Mont Saint-Michel, an 8th century monastery, is an island when the tide is in, and you can walk to it when the tide is out!



Blue-footed Booby



Gene Gardner and Liz Cook Snorkeling in the Galapagos Islands



Gene and Liz – Gordes of Avignon, France



Mont Saint-Michel, France

Road Scholar again, in August 2018, we did a Photo Safari to Kenya and Tanzania in Africa. What a spectacular trip! We saw amazing landscapes such as Ngorongoro Crater, Mount Kilimanjaro, the Masai Mara, Amboseli, the Serengeti, Lake Victoria and more. Again, we had a 24-7 guide who was so knowledgeable. We were fortunate to see all “the big five” animals: elephant, lion, rhinoceros, leopard and cape buffalo, and of course dozens of other species. We also enjoyed the cultural opportunities to visit an elementary school, a Masai village, and a tea plantation. Another highlight was a hot-air balloon ride over the Rift Valley during the mass wildebeest migration.



Wildebeest Migration from Balloons



The King

Most recently, we just returned from spending May 2019 in Spain. Spain had not been high on my bucket list until I started reading about the sights, food and fascinating history. We especially enjoyed learning about tapas bars (or pintxos in the Basque country). You basically bar hop and eat many bite-sized delights.



Alhambra at night



Scenery from Ronda, Andalusia, Spain

The bars compete to have the most imaginative and tasty tapas. It is quite the thing to do. But the "wow" of the trip was Alhambra in Granada, Spain. It was built on the remains of a Roman fortress about AD 890, turned mosque in the 1200s during the Islamic rule of the region, and in 1492, with the **Christian Reconquista**, it became the Royal Court of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella. It is a wonder of architectural styles and eras.

Bill Pauls: Summertime at the Lake of the Ozarks!! Great times: Mowin', Fishin', boatin', beerin', volunteerin', runnin', relaxin', rock diggin', tv watchin' (favorites; Bull, NCIS, Pawn Stars, Countin' Cars, Fox News, Old Movies, American Picin'), travelin', gardenin', God fearin'...Life is great! Ya'all come on down now, ya hear!

Dennis Shirk: Howdy folks. We, like most areas it's rain, rain, and rain. The pastures look very nice and so does the hay, but it's very difficult to get the hay baled and in the dry. Our yearly trip this year is to follow the "Trail of Tears" pathway, except we are going to take it backwards. I am still blessed to have my parents (91 and 89), so we will visit them before we go to Oklahoma on our journey. Not sure when we will begin, however. Otherwise, we are fairly healthy for 70s people. Have a great summer. See ya down the trail.

Alton Taylor: Well, let's see, have not missed a meal, have not grown any new hair so my upper image is getting brighter. Been over a year since I had a new Great Grand Child. Has been three months since I was in AZ so **Gail** (daughter) will be here the last of July. Navy grandson and wife will be here the middle of July. Grandson **Matthew** and I will be in MO the week of the 4th of July, and Grand Daughter **Kaliegh** (with dog) will come back to Texas with us (her two brothers with her birthday are too involved in ball games to come now). I should have time in August for everything else. Have an enjoyable summer, and remember there are some of us old enough that we have to be careful about falling!

Stuart Lawson: I belong to the Gravity, IA, Post 578 American Legion Club. We had lost so many members that the Bedford, IA American Legion did my dad's military services at the Gravity cemetery in 2007. Since they first organized, the 1903 Springfield was the weapon used for Memorial Day and military funeral 21 gun salutes. The 1903 Springfield is notorious for jamming half way through the ceremony. Each one had to be loaded properly to avoid jamming. One of the seven in the rifle squad would pretend to shoot so there would be at least one shot in the last volley. Our new commander has worked for years to obtain M-1 Garand's. The M-1 is semi-automatic and does not jam. This past Memorial Day we had brand new M-1 Garand's and our commander issued each of us white gloves. Our uniform of the day is the Legion cap, white shirt, legion tie, and dark blue slacks. We all looked pretty spiffy on Memorial Day with our brand new M-1's and white gloves. If you remember **Bill Riggs**, I went to his graveside service north of Carbon, IA, and their American Legion wore white gloves and I was impressed by that. Now we have white gloves and M-1's! Our commander put in a lot of hard work and perseverance to increase membership of a fledgling club and now we have enough members for military funerals and Memorial Day services. Our commander was an Army Ranger in Vietnam and led a squad into Cambodia to get Ho Chi Minh. They didn't find Ho but he still has a black ops envelope in his file, so the FBI and Secret Service occasionally call on him for security details. He helped with security at the Union Station in St. Louis in 2004 when **John Kerry** was campaigning for President. I was the Team Leader for Putnam, Sullivan and Linn counties at that time and we were notified that the old federal building in St. Louis had cubicles, office chairs, and assorted office furniture, so we had to go through security to get into the building to start taking apart the cubicles. The next morning I rented a U-Haul truck to take everything back to our FOSA and I drove a huge U-Haul truck right past Union Station to get to the old federal building. I figured I could get shot at any moment, but the biggest challenge was going through security again to gain entrance to a building full of used furniture! It has never occurred to me till now that no one seemed to give a damn about John Kerry.

Steve Wooden: Just to let you know I'm still alive. My wife, Debbie and I moved back to the "Home Farm" at Lexington, MO where we farm with my brother and son (who lives up the road about a mile). We farm about 2,000 acres of corn, soybeans, wheat, and cereal rye seed. We no-till 100% and have cover crops on about 50% of all crop acres each year. We now have two grandsons, who are 3 and 5 years old. Their mother (our daughter) and her husband live in Blue Springs, MO. Our

youngest daughter lives on one of our farms at Alma, MO, so all of our kids are within a 30 minute drive. Retirement couldn't be much better.

Mike Blaine: The summer is going by extremely quickly for us. We just spent three days at Fort Leonard Wood to watch grandson **Ben Morris** of WV graduate from MP school. It was a fun time, and we got to see a lot of the fort and the museums and public displays. It was all very interesting. My doctor has put me on limited duty until after I have a hernia repaired sometime in July. I had a lot of repair work at the farm planned for the summer. DRAT! Oh well, I will do a lot of that work in the fall when it will be cooler anyway! Vacation this year will be to the Outer Banks of NC. We've never been there before and are looking forward to it. Best wishes to all.

MONTANA

Dick Gooby, ARCSE Representative

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Montana Big Sky Report

Gooby Ranch Report: With all the snow that drifted over the fences last winter when the snow started to melt during the day and crusted at night, it tore down a lot of our fences. At least the snow melted before we started calving. **Mary Ann** had to tie a lot of baling twines for temporary fence to keep the cows in the calving field.

Calving went good this year. Mary Ann checked the cows every two hours for over a month while the cows were calving. That worked well. She only had to pull two calves. Mary Ann likes to have the calf nursing five minutes after it hits the ground. If the calf doesn't nurse right away, Mary Ann milks the cow and bottle feeds the calf so it gets the colostrum milk.

Since Mary Ann is up every two hours, she is able to bring me coffee and snacks while I'm watching my favorite TV programs. That works really well. Of course, now that calving session is over, I have to get my own coffee most of the time. During Mary Ann's spare time she is busy repairing the fences

When spring finally came, the cliff swallows found their way back last week. They are busy building new mud houses. The mosquitos aren't happy, but Mary Ann and I are.

The snow finally melted enough in the mountains, and weather got nice enough so we could head to the hills for Mary Ann to train the horses. But first Mary Ann had to shoe them. The reason Mary Ann shoes the horses instead of me is that since she is shorter she doesn't have to bend over as far to hold the horses' foot up while she nails on the shoe.

I ride our well-trained horse, and Mary Ann rides the one she is training. By having my horse there, the one Mary Ann is riding isn't nearly as scared as it would be if my horse wasn't there. That makes her training a lot easier. It works well. Mary Ann saddles my horse and gets everything ready, then I can get on the horse and all I have to do is hang on while the horse does all the walking, and I can see the great country we are riding in. Mary Ann makes a super lunch that we take along, and when it's lunch time we have a picnic. The spring flowers are gorgeous. It's serene and quiet except we hear a bird chirp once in a while. We can look at the deer and antelope play. It is really beautiful with the rocks, trees, sagebrush and the valley way down below.

I better not tell you how branding went.

Joyce Swartzendruber Report: Jim and I traveled to Europe this spring to strike some items off the bucket list. I got to (1) see the tulips blooming in the Netherlands, (2) study the drainage system that keeps the country dry, (3) find the original Swartzendruber farm near Fankhaus, Switzerland, and (4) meet the cousins from my mom's family in the lower Alsace region of France. Of course we also saw many works of art in many museums and stayed in the Alps for several days. I also connected with a new "23 and me" cousin. However, we learned that these DNA tests are not legal in France, and he had to mail it in a plain brown wrapper to get the test sent in.



Jim and Joyce Swartzendruber in Strasbourg, France

The maternal cousins are all dairy farmers, and we enjoyed our stay with them near Altkirch, France. The landscape reminded me of Iowa. Perhaps that's why those who emigrated moved to that part of America.

At the Swartzendruber farm the present owner didn't speak English, but my rudimentary German helped establish that he was a **Lehrer** and I was a Swartzendruber. From my research I have determined that all of the Swartzendruber, Swartzentrubers, and Swartzengrubers originated in this area in the 1500s, long before those names were given. **Hans** from Trub was one of the three brothers who farmed there. Since Schwarz means black in German, there had to be a reason. I discovered there was a charcoal industry in that region in the 1500s, and I've decided that they were probably given the name because they were producing charcoal near the town of Trub. Schwarzen Trub.

Back in Bozeman for the summer, I'll be giving dinosaur and Genghis Khan tours at Museum of the Rockies.



The Swarzentrub farm in Fankhaus, Switzerland



The Swarzentrub farm in Fankhaus Switzerland



Alsace region of France



My 2nd cousin and his daughter.

NORTH CAROLINA

Jim Canterbury, ARCSE Representative

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On May 9th, thirty-four 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.



Senior Conservationist and WWII Veteran Lawrence Matheson (95) was recognized as the oldest Senior Conservationist attending the NC Retirees picnic on May 9th.

Attending the picnic were Jim and Becki Canterbury, Kent Clary, Tommy Cutts, Ray and Debra Dorsett, Frank Evans, Coy Garrett, Charlie and Mary Kris Godley. Also attending were Bill Harrell, Harold Lile, Boyce Harvey, Howard Hobson, John Kelly, Joe Kenyon, Roger and Rebecca Leab, Warren Mincey, Phyllis Pate, Lawrence Matheson, Janice Lilenthal, Cecil Settle, Horace Smith, Lane and Merry Price, Dora Richardson, Mike and Kay Sugg, Howard Tew, Joshua Tew, Pat Tyndall, A. B. Whitley, and Wilson Spencer.



NEBRASKA

Norm Kempf, Jim Culver, ARCSE Representatives

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Norm Helzer, our Chairperson and Norman Kempf, Midwest Regional Vice-President enjoying some good discussion on current issues.



Donna Dornbusch showing one of the pencil drawings in an excellent booklet of drawings and discussion of each drawing done by Rush Schultz for all of his children.



Excellent general changing of stories prior to meeting. Left side – Norm Helzer, Norman Kempf, Russ Schultz, Bob Engel, Dana Snyder. Right side – Donna Dornbusch, Chris Chapman, Paul Bartlett, Gus Dornbusch and Gary Muckel.

NEW YORK

Nancy Lee, ARCSE Representative

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News from **Kevin Reynolds** on a recent trip to Holland Patent, NY: **Ernie and Alice Putnam** are still active, walking every morning, selling blueberries, sweet corn and mums in season.

We are in the middle of black fly season up here, one of the many attractions of the Adirondacks. I wonder what these danged bugs eat when they can't get their daily meal of Reynolds?

Retirees' Picnic—July 19 at Dorchester Park in Whitney Point, NY. The fire to BBQ will start at 11am, and the lunch at about noon. Bring your own meat to grill, plates, silverware, and a dish to pass. Hope to see you there!

We offer our condolences to **Steve Antes**, Soil Scientist in Belmont, on the passing of his father.

OHIO

Jon Gerken, ARCSE Representative

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Scott Jerome, Planning Engineer on the State Office Engineering staff has announced his retirement effective May 31st after 39 years of service. He started his career as a student trainee in the summer of 1980 at the Medina Area Office. He served three more summers as an intern at the Van Wert Project Office, Defiance Field Office and the Coshocton Area Office. After graduating from the University of Akron with a degree in Civil Engineer, he started full-time as a Field Engineer in the Coshocton Area Office in January, 1985. In 1992, he was selected as a Design Engineer on the State Office staff and then two

years later in 1994 was selected for his current position as Planning Engineer. Scott has played a vital role in the state's PL-566 program, completing the design on the Short Creek and Southgate Dike projects in Eastern Ohio. He took the lead on the dam rehabilitation program in the state and saw the completion of seven projects through the Pilot program and then another one following. Then completing many more assessment reports for high hazard classified dams. Scott also worked on the Shadyside EWP project in 1990 and continued his involvement through the years across the state and most recently serving as EWP Program Manager. Outside of PL-566 and EWP, Scott even found time to help with the design and plan reviews of WRP wetland restoration projects.



Scott Jerome



Scott plans to first spend this summer following his retirement decompressing, giving his garden more attention and getting caught up on some home projects. After that he plans to get back into hiking and biking, visiting National Parks and working on that bucket list.

OKLAHOMA

Randy Freeland, ARCSE Representative

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The Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees met at the Golden Corral Buffet Restaurant in Oklahoma City, OK on April 26th, 2019. Twenty six people were in attendance. They were: **Don Bartolina, Lester Brockman, Larry Caldwell, Steve Clark, Duane Crider, Brad Elder, Wayne Fjeseth, Randy Freeland, Harry Fritzler, Sandra and Terry Hough, Winnie Jaques, Larry Jarrell, Otho Lamar and Bobbie Steenbergen, Jim McCampbell, Gary O'Neill, John and Joy Pewthers, Eddie and Linda Rathbun, Stan and Fredia Rice, Michael Sheik, Chris Shepherd, and Ed Stinchcomb.**

President **Chris Shepherd** called the meeting to order. **Chris** asked if anyone knew of retirees needing prayers. **Nick Lambeth** had to have a partial amputation of his left leg recently due to healing issues; **Dan Runnels** had a heart attack resulting in a stint but is doing fine; and **Gayle Fortney** is having a pace maker implanted today. **Chris Shepherd** provided the blessing for the meal, and everyone enjoyed the buffet meal.



Gary O'Neill, Randy Freeland, and Lester Brockman

State Conservationist, **Gary O'Neill**, was in attendance and provided an update on activities within NRCS. He has been the State Conservationist since 2013 and hopes to remain in Oklahoma (which is his home) until retirement.

Oklahoma recently underwent a restructure because of a staff ceiling of 241 employees. Currently there are only 221 employees. Funding is available for more employees but limited due to the ceiling. Each county has an NRCS presence. The 77 DCs were reduced to 21 DCs, with the other DCs being converted to Resource Conservationists. Those 21 DCs supervise 2 to 6 counties. 19 of the DCs came from within Oklahoma with only 2 from out of state but with previous Oklahoma ties. Six zones went to 3 with 7 DCs in each. Each zone has an Assistant for Field Operations. Oklahoma is currently the only State approved for this reorganization. Other states are looking to reorganize similar to Oklahoma.

Administrative staffs from NRCS and FSA have been combined. **Matt Lohr** is the new Chief. **Kevin Norton**, State Conservationist in Louisiana and formerly Assistant State Conservationist for Programs in Oklahoma, is on detail to Washington DC as the Acting Associate Chief since 12/3/18. That detail is expected to be made permanent. The New Farm Bill contains funding for watershed construction as well as rehabilitation. Oklahoma has 2,107 existing structures with one new one to be constructed. There are 84 conservation districts and 77 counties. Tribes have established three conservation districts. NRCS and the Oklahoma Conservation Commission are working to hire secretaries and technicians who will be full time state employees with benefits. NRCS will be providing funding to OCC to assist in paying the employees. Next week is the National Land Judging contest in Oklahoma.



Steve Clark, Larry Jarrell, and Ed Stinchcomb



Michael Sheik and Jim McCampbell

First time attendees introduced themselves: **Larry Jarrell** retired as a Resource Engineer from the Clinton Technical Office in January 2019 with 42 years' service. He is trying to finish projects at home and church he started before retiring. Also helps his kids with odd jobs and keeps his grandkids. **Steve Clark** retired as a Resource Specialist from the Claremore Technical Office at the end of 2015 with 35 years' service. He and his wife own and manage apartments in Muskogee where he does a lot of handyman work. **Michael Sheik** retired as the District Conservationist at Enid in August 2018 with 34 years' service. He operates a livestock farm, runs a welding business, and travels some with his wife. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves and their spouse or guest in attendance.

Randy Freeland passed around forms for retirees to provide their retirement activities (i.e., volunteer work, travel, part-time work, activities, etc.) This information is used for the Oklahoma Retired SCS/NRCS Employees Association newsletter along with the minutes of the meeting. Many retirees have expressed their appreciation for the information presented on the website www.joepad.com. When they are not able to attend the meetings, the website provides pictures, list of attendees, etc. **Joe**

Freeland, retired Construction Engineer, has been very gracious to keep the website updated after each meeting. Thank you Joe!

We heard from a few who could not attend our meeting for various reasons. **Mark Maples** is a school board member for Bearden Public Schools and had to do some continuing education classes to continue as a school board member. He also serves as the Vice Chairman for the Okfuskee County Rural Water #2 Board of Directors, Vice President with the Twin Rivers Prescribed Burn Association, and Captain with the Bearden Volunteer Fire Department. At this time he is catching up with the honey-do jobs around the house, helping his parents by driving them to their doctor appointments, and looking forward to a lot of fishing in the near future. Retirement is grand although he does miss the staff and visiting with clients/friends made throughout the years. He said many still call and ask questions related to their farming operations. And **Steve Chessmore** had some family obligations. That's OK, **Steve**, we elected you Vice-President anyway. Ha!



Linda and Eddie Rathbun



Larry Caldwell, Wayne Fjeseth, and Duane Crider

The OK editor got a nice note from **Mary Podoll**, State Conservationist from North Dakota. She had seen a recent photo of some of the retired State SCS Staff in Oklahoma. She said, "Tell them I said hello-and look what they created. There are at least 6 State Conservationists who started or spent time in Oklahoma!" Many remember you, **Mary**, and we welcome you to our meetings anytime.

Sandra Hough read a list of recent retirees: **Joe Freeland**, Construction Engineer, Pauls Valley WO, 9/1/18, 38 yrs service, retired from the National Design, Construction & Soil Mechanics Center in Fort Worth, TX; **Mark Maples**, DC, Okemah, 1/3/19, 37+ yrs service; **Dwight Guy**, Shawnee, 40 yrs service; **Larry Jarrell**, Engineer, Clinton TSO, 1/3/19, 42 yrs service; **Jacob Worley**, Muskogee, 1/1/19; **Larry Coppock**, Engineer, Perry TSO; and **Gary Utley**, Hydrologist, Stillwater SO, 3/3/19, 38+ yrs service.

Sandra also read a list of retiree deaths since October 2018. They were: **Ed Gelnar**, 82, retired Soil Conservation Technician, Mangum, 11/22/18, retired 30+ yrs ago; **Larry Farris**, 66, Okemah, 11/18/18, 20 yrs service; **Dave Petefish**, 67, retired Texas State Geologist, 12/8/18, 32 yrs service, worked in Okmulgee WSO in 1984; **Russell Wilson**, 86, retired Soil Conservation Technician, Coalgate, 12/19/18, 30 yrs service; **Leroy Hudson**, 86 retired Harmon Co. Conservation District Director, Hollis, 1/6/19, served on district board for 30 yrs, also a former OACD President; **Loran Zweiacker**, 71, retired DC, Pawnee, 1/21/19, 37 yrs service, retired 12/31/09; **Al Conradi**, 85, Baxter, TN, 4/16/19, served as Soil Scientist and was the DC in Oklahoma City before transferring to Tennessee as AC. The group paused for a moment of silence in their memory.

Larry Caldwell serves on the board of the Oklahoma Conservation Historical Society (OCHS) and provided those in attendance with a copy of their annual report as of February 2019. The purpose of this group is to collect, preserve, and share Oklahoma's rich conservation history with Oklahomans. The Oklahoma State University Oral History Staff completed 24 interviews with Oklahoma conservationists both audio and video recordings in 2018. This collection may be viewed at the website (<https://library.okstate.edu/oralhistory/digital/>).

Duane Crider reported that his daughter and 13-year-old grandson will be running the half marathon and 17-year-old grandson the full marathon Sunday in the Oklahoma National Memorial Run to Remember in downtown Oklahoma City. **Duane** is a spectator this year having participated in previous runs. **Terry and Sandra Hough** were married for 50 years this past August. They recently spent five weeks in Piedmont, MO at Beaver Springs Campgrounds owned by their youngest daughter and her family. **Chris Shepherd** goes fishing once a week and plays dominoes twice a week. Now that is retirement!

Hobby farmer, **Lester Brockman**, lives in Kay County, travels to see kids and grandkids, and said he does "Whatever I want to do"! **Don Bartolina** traveled to Italy last summer and says he is privileged to coordinate the National Land and Range Judging Contest with assistance from lots of SCS/NRCS employees and retirees. They bring in about 700 contestants from 35 states.

Stan and Fredia Rice enjoy their 3 and 1/2 year old great granddaughter and attend lots of grandkids' activities. They are going to Alaska in late July for **Stan's** Air Force Reunion. They volunteer at church, rodeo club, clothes closet, and land judging. We were so happy to see **Winnie Jaques** at our meeting. She works for the Stephens County Election Board and travels to visit grandchildren.

Sandra Hough had visited by phone with **J. R. Flores**, former AC in Oklahoma who is currently the State Conservationist in Missouri. He had tried to arrange his schedule to be at this meeting, but it didn't work out. He said he is the longest serving State Conservationist in the nation with 15 years.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Friday, October 25th, 2019**, at the Golden Corral on MacArthur Boulevard in Oklahoma City. The Golden Corral opens at 10am so there is extra time for visiting before the meeting starts at 11:30am.



Don Bartolina and Winnie Jaques



Chris Shepherd and Brad Elder

OREGON

Don Stettler, ARCSE Representative

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The summer quarter Oregon retiree lunch will be held on Wednesday July 24th at the Peppermill Restaurant in Aloha. Watch for an email for details.



PENNSYLVANIA

Bill Bowers, ARCSE Representative

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Summer is upon us! The grass is growing, the garden producing, the flowers blooming, young folks are playing sports, and the beach calls.

John Akers has become a Senior Conservationist and was recognized in the March/April edition of the ARCSE newsletter. Congratulations, John! I hear there are several more who have submitted their information, so be on the lookout for more Pennsylvania folks gaining this status. If you have reached the age of 83, you are eligible to become a Senior Conservationist. Check out this website: <http://www.arcse.org/qFormSenior.htm>

September 15 and 16 should be marked on your calendar for our annual meeting. We will gather Sunday evening at Fenicci's in Hershey for a great meal with great company and conversation. Everyone will pay their own. Rooms are available for those staying overnight at the Days Inn in Hershey for \$116.54 including tax.

Monday morning, September 16th we will meet at Hoss's in Hummelstown. Bagels, coffee, tea and water will be provided. Please bring your favorite homemade jams and jellies! We will have **Dean Rust**, President of the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania to present "The Ecology and Management of the Eastern Bluebird." Bring your birding experiences to share with the group! In the afternoon we will tour the AACM Museum where, in addition to their regular display of antique vehicles, there will be a special display of 40 Studebakers. Anybody remember them? Have one? <https://www.aacmuseum.org/>. Even if you can't make it to the meeting on Monday, please join us for dinner on Sunday evening.

Hope to see you in Hershey and Hummelstown in September! Bill

Ed Brzostek says "Conservation work never ends. I continue to do conservation projects in my dreams. **Hosea Latshaw** and **Frank Harvatine** are often included in these dreams. Too bad Pennsylvania couldn't report all the miles of terraces and animal waste holding facilities that continue to be built in my dreams. It was a real pleasure having such great conservation role models as Frank and Hosea. They were not afraid to take the extra effort to help both farmers and employees with

conservation. As an employee who ended up working at the National Office, looking back at my career, I can say that no other employee inspired me more than Frank Harvatine. Thank you Frank!

John and Ann Akers would like to announce that their daughter **Janice** and her husband **Isaiah** are the proud parents of an 8 1/2 pound boy, born on May 24th. His name is **Archer Carson Marauta** and they live in Fernley, NV. Isaiah is stationed at the Fallon Navy base where they train navy pilots to land and take off on make-believe ships.

"I have been on the Southern Alleghenies Committee that has ownership of the old PA turnpike that was closed and re-routed over Sidling Hill and Rays Hill mountains. It is an eight-mile stretch from Breezewood down to the old Sidling Hill rest stop. This has been turned over to a Bedford-Fulton County Authority. In time it will be open for public use and should be exciting to walk or ride a bike through the old tunnels.

We are planning to go to Sight and Sound Theater near Lancaster in July to see "Jesus" with our Church Youth group. This will be on a charter bus, so should be a fun trip.

We visited with my daughter **Julie** and her husband **Bob** who live south of New Cumberland the last Saturday of May and got to visit with our eight great grandchildren. It was fun, but hard to remember all their names while they were playing and chasing each other around the yard. Four of them live in Michigan, and the other four live in Lynchburg, VA.

Hope all survived the winter okay and hope you have a great summer."

Bill Bowers reports that he and **Mary Ann** had a special visitor to their deck on June 2nd. "We kept a small bird feeder up on a sliding glass window because several special birds (like rose-breasted grosbeaks, red bellied woodpeckers, cardinals, downy woodpeckers) had been using it. During a rain storm about 9:30pm, we heard a thump. Mary Ann investigated by turning on the outside lights to find a black bear lying beside the grill licking the seed from the feeder. When finished, he got up and walked across the deck, down the steps without bothering the flower pots on each side of the steps. No sign of him/her since, and hopefully he has gone over the mountain to Perry County for the summer!

Bill got great news the end of May when a PET scan showed NO cancer anywhere in his body! Some of you know the word "unremarkable" is music to a cancer patient's ears. Well, Bill is unremarkable! A big thank you for all your support over the past several years. It really means a lot to have friends and family encouraging and supporting us. Thank you!

Don Lindsey says: "We are still enjoying life, although it seems to be going warp speed all the time.

One sad part right now is that our great grandson, **Cade Maverick Lindsey**, of Anchorage, AK, who was 1 year old in May, has been diagnosed with SMA Type 1. (Spinal Muscular Atrophy). He is being treated, but often children do not survive to adulthood. We appreciate prayers and positive thoughts.

This past week was Siblings Week for Don. There are five of us and from as far away as Minnesota and South Carolina, ages from 67 to almost 87! We had a fantastic time.

Our Grandson, **Quinn Holland**, will be returning later in June from a year of teaching math and science on American Samoa.

We celebrated our 65th anniversary in May. And our 7th great grandchild was born in Virginia last November. Since the other 6 are in Alaska, we are happy to have little Melody Rose where we can see her fairly often."

Alan and Judy Wood recently completed their 4½ month 'round-the-world cruise. Besides exciting excursions at the 45 ports, there was great food and wonderful entertainment. It was hard getting back to preparing our own meals and cleaning the house!

Carl DuPoldt sent a reminder that the Soil & Water Conservation Society is holding its annual meeting in Pittsburgh July 28-31. <https://www.swcs.org/events/conferences/2019-annual-conference>

Tim and Gina Murphy spent a few days in Shenandoah National Park to celebrate their wedding anniversary. "We happened to get there right after the annual wildflower festival, but the bloom was not over! Got to see a variety of wildflowers, as well as some beautiful waterfalls that benefited from the recent rains."

Rosie Updegraff says she and daughter Tracy went to New York City for Rosie's birthday. "We toured the newly developed Hudson Yards area at 10th Avenue and West 34th street that just opened in March. The area was developed at a cost of \$25 billion, yes, billion with a B. One of the main attractions is the Vessel, a \$200 million structure. It has 154 interconnecting flights of stairs with 2,500 steps. You can walk up or take the elevator. Yes, I took the elevator. It is free, but you must have a ticket with a time to enter. You engineers would love it! The other big attraction is the Spanish Mercado, a huge food hall developed by **Chef Jose' Andres**. He goes all over the world when disasters strike and cooks for thousands. The last time he did this was for the Federal workers during the shutdown."

Terri Ruch, a Penn State agricultural engineering alumna and daughter of **Lloyd and Shirley Thomas**, was recently named one of 12 recipients of the 2019 Outstanding Engineering Alumni Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Penn State College of Engineering and recognizes graduates who have reached exceptional levels of professional achievement.

Terri started her NRCS career working in three offices in Ohio. From there, she worked in Clarion, PA; Albany, NY; and Raleigh, NC. She then progressed into engineering management by serving as the state conservation engineer for North Carolina before assuming her current role as National Energy Engineer in Washington.

"Not only did my dad receive the award back in 1991, but it ends up that I'm also working at the same agency where he spent his career," Ruch said. "I guess you could say he has really inspired me."

Changing Agriculture

On a cold day in February, **Bill and Mary Ann Bowers, Gary and Ann Smith, Tim & Gina Murphy, and Rose Marie Updegraff** visited the Commonwealth Charter Academy's (CCA) Ag Works. We were joined by **Noel Soto** from the NRCS State Office and **Dayanna Estades**, DC in Dauphin County. CCA is the owner and occupant of the former PSECU building that housed the NRCS State Office for about 25 years.

Ag Works is a hydroponic and aquaponic operation located in the second floor atrium of the building. It is a very controlled growing environment with special lighting and computer controls. The high school students raise and sell produce to local restaurants. They also raise fish, which at the time of our visit had not yet been harvested, although many looked like they were ready for market.

It was interesting to see that although USDA no longer is in the building, there is still a link to the future of agriculture.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Grady Adkins, ARCSE Representative

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Fred Plyler was named the Lancaster County, SC Firefighter of the Year for 2018. He was a volunteer firefighter for more than 40 years. Fred was a NRCS Technician based officially in Lancaster, York, and Chesterfield Counties, SC, but worked state-wide wherever a good technician was needed. Fred retired from the Chesterfield Field Office in 2005.



Fred Plyler

TEXAS (NORTH)

Arnold King, ARCSE Representative

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The North Texas chapter met during May for their last meeting until September 20th. Also during May, the regular Texas retiree group of fishermen met at Toledo Bend Reservoir for their annual fishing trip that started many years ago. The Texas group has traditionally met with a group of Louisiana NRCSers for a fun-filled weekend including a fish fry.

I am looking forward to the annual ARCSE board meeting to be held in Pittsburgh in conjunction with the SWCS annual meeting. As much as we regret losing **Ron Marlow** as secretary-treasurer, we look forward to welcoming two new dedicated members covered in Dana's report. And I am delighted to report that **Bill Kuenstler** will replace me as a vice president covering the South states.

VIRGINIA

Ken Carter, ARCSE Representative

Email: duckheadone@gmail.com

The retirees of Virginia would like to welcome **Barry Harris** to our group. Barry's last day with NRCS was on Wednesday June 19th. Barry served in several Soil Conservationist position across Virginia, as well as District Conservationist in the northern VA (DC) area. In addition, Barry served as the Virginia Liaison to Virginia State University in Ettrick for a number of years and as a Soil Conservationist in the State Office for the last 12 years. Barry retires with 39 years of service.

Welcome to the good life, Barry.

WASHINGTON

Ken Kaul, ARCSE Representative

Email: kenkaul@msn.com

Attendees at our monthly noon meeting at the Timber Creek Grill and Buffet were **Larry Edmonds, Stefan Fechter, Chet Jans, Ken Kaul, Harry Riehle, Ralph Schmidt, Paul Taylor and Carl Vennes**. We are happy to see the Snow Birds back.

Ralph Schmidt has been out of commission for a while after foot surgery. **Ken and Tina Kaul** attended graduation ceremonies on May 18th, 2019 at Baylor University for their daughter-in-law, **Corina R. Kaul**, at Baylor University in Waco, TX. Corina was awarded her Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Psychology. Her Dissertation: "Using Structural Equation Modeling to Examine the Relationship Between Environmental Characteristics, Intrapersonal Characteristics, and Adult Numeracy Achievement." It was a fun event and party. The road trip was great except for four to five inches of snow and the blizzard between Wichita, KS and Denver, CO.



Ken and Tina Kaul with Corina R. Kaul, PhD. Baylor University May 18, 2019.

WASHINGTON, DC, NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

John Peterson, ARCSE Representative

Email: jwpeterson@cox.net

This is a special recognition and appreciation for our loyal and dedicated retiree John Peterson for over twenty-five years of service as ARCSE Representative for the Washington, DC, National Capital Area. His vigorous and sincere communication and leadership has been and will continue to be of great value and a beacon to the future for the Association and retirees nationwide.



John Peterson



"I have been delighted to have had the opportunity to stay in touch with so many dear SCS/NRCS colleagues over the years through my playing this role. And under Jerry's leadership our ARCSE newsletter is the best it has ever been. And so many more people have helped keep us afloat, Neil Bogner and Ron Marlow with all the membership records and money, and those many people who have served as ARCSE president's, officers and state representatives. I know I have missed many names deserving of mention. I hope ARCSE remains vibrant for many more years. It has meant so much to many of us retirees. Thanks for the privilege."—John Peterson.

John Peterson was selected as the 2019 recipient of the SWCS Chair's Leadership Award. The SWCS Chair's Leadership Award is given at the discretion of the SWCS Board of Directors Chair in recognition of exemplary assistance in helping to carry out the goals and objectives of SWCS. The 74th SWCS International Annual Conference will take place on July 28-31, 2019, at the Wyndham Grand in Pittsburgh, PA. Awards will be presented at the 2019 Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, July 30 at 12pm. **John and Blanche will attend.**

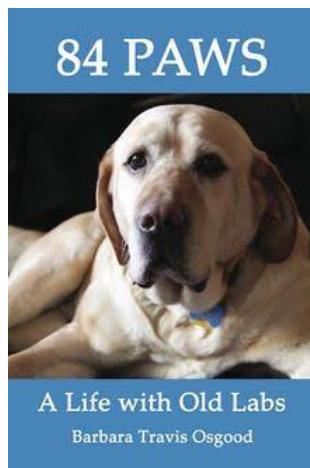
The National Capital Area Retirees held their Spring Luncheon at the Ft. Myer Officers Club on May 2nd. **Barbara Osgood** makes the reservations, and **Diana Morse** handles the finances. It is always much fun with excellent food. Those attending were **Diana Morse, Barbara Osgood, Paul Benedict, Roger Cronshay, Bill Irwin, John and Blanche Peterson, Bill Boyer, Marc and Kendrick Safley, Lee Shields, Melvin Womack, Carl and Janet Bouchard, Wayne Maresch, Theresa Gwiazda (Wayne's daughter – welcome Theresa), Ron and Ann Marlow**. As we did not have an NRCS HQ speaker, we went around the room and reminisced a bit. That is always fun. Our fall luncheon will be Oct 3rd, likely in the same place. Our attendance at these luncheons has fallen off recently, and we have to make advance reservations for a certain number. Your ARCSE Representative would hate to see these Spring and Fall Luncheons discontinued for lack of interest. They have gone on for many years. This is a discussion we are having though, sadly.



Bob Kohnke recently fell and cracked some ribs. After a stay in Inova Fairfax Hospital, he did some rehabilitation for over a week at the Greenspring, Springfield's premier continuing care retirement community. He was released on May 24th and will spend a week at home getting his sea legs before going out in public. Bob has enjoyed being visited by many SCS/NRCS and Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District (NVSWCD) friends.

After many years of writing research papers and policy statements, **Barbara Osgood** has written a book. It is a memoir of her struggles with bipolar disorder, and the twenty-one old Labs that have lived with her and made her life whole. Barbara is donating a portion of the proceeds from the book to her rescue, Lab Rescue LRCP, a group that rescues 1,000 Labs a year from the Mid-Atlantic Region. Barbara also adds that, if you would like an autographed copy, you can order the book from her, and she will mail it to you. Her contact information is: **Barbara T. Osgood**, Ph.D., Environmental Sociologist, 13109 Sparrow Tail Lane, Fairfax, VA 22033, (H) 703-502-1018, (C) 703-850-3663.

From **Barbara Osgood**: I am proud and excited to announce that my book, 84 Paws: A Life with Old Labs, is now available on Amazon. Please go to my web site, at <http://www.84paws.com>, where you will find a link to Amazon as well as more information about the book.



Barbara Osgood's new book and labs

WEST VIRGINIA

Peg Reese, ARCSE Representative

Email: pegreesewv@gmail.com

Ron Gilkeson gave the following health update in May: "First the bad news. **Velda**'s condition slowly deteriorates. Nothing new since the toe infection and surgery until last night. She fell and badly bruised her lower right leg. Looked bad enough we went to the ER this morning. A similar contusion in 2003 took 18 months to heal. Hoping that won't happen again, but it is likely knowing her history.

Now the good news. I had been taking chemo for my cancer since last August. Last full treatment was early November and was scheduled for a maintenance treatment in January. That day I had a severe reaction to the drug they were using, so the infusion was halted and I was instructed to come back in March for treatment with a different drug. That day the oncologist said the blood work was good enough we could delay another two months. Went back in early May and the blood work showed that the response to treatment had been so good the doctor thinks further treatment may not be needed for as much as several years. I feel better, have more energy, and have gained all the lost weight back (about 15 pounds). Good to have something positive to report for a change.

Hope you all are well and have a nice summer. Would appreciate hearing from you folks also."

Alan Staddon was "fishing in Ontario, Canada with **Terry Densmore, Dee Weston's** Brother, from June 18 thru 21. Terry and Alan fished four different lakes during this trip and caught several nice Largemouth Bass and a few Northern Pike."



Alan Staddon with Canadian Largemouth Bass

NEW SENIOR CONSERVATIONISTS

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

Burns Ed Smith	Columbia, MO
James Wiley Scott	Mohomet, IL
Frank E. Resides	West Chester, PA
Ronald G. Mitchell	Bourbonnais, IL
Jesse R. Stevens	Clayton, NC

SENIOR CONSERVATIONIST CHRONICLE

by Marc Safley, Chronicler, Senior Conservationist

Senior Conservationist

Senior Conservationist Frank E. Resides

Senior Conservationist Frank E. Resides was born November 27, 1935, and grew up in College Township, Centre County, PA. College Township is a township in Centre County, Pennsylvania, United States. It is part of the State College (PA) Metropolitan Statistical Area. His family owned about 10 acres which was farmed by a neighbor. Frank attended local schools and graduated from State College High School in 1953. While in high school he participated in FFA. His projects were five Duroc-Yorkshire brood sows from which he sold feeder pigs; he also raised a Black Angus steer. Frank was Chancellor of his FFA Chapter during his senior year. After high school, Frank attended Williamsport Technical Institute (now Penn College) for a few months; his intent there was to become an electrician. Frank was drafted into the U.S. Marine Corps where he served as an Electronics Technician MOS 6621 in Korea, Japan, Okinawa and the Philippines. His unit made an amphibious landing on Iwo Jima in 1956 and spent two weeks there. He was discharged at Willow Grove Naval Air Station on October, 6, 1957. Frank was honorably discharged from the United States Marine Corps after serving from October 1954 to October 1957. After military service he worked on the Myers Dairy farms, east of State College, until entering Penn State in the fall of 1958.

Frank began his career with the Soil Conservation Service on June 8, 1959, as a Student Trainee at Somerset County, PA. During the summers of 1960 and 1961 he served again as Student Trainee in Juniata and York Counties. Frank remembers that back then during his third summer, "If you got dropped off at a farm in the morning to assist with construction of a diversion or farm pond and something unforeseen happened (like the bulldozer breaking down about 10am) you were there until the pre-arranged pick-up time which might be late afternoon ."Yes, it was a wonderful world with *no* cell phones, *no* e-mail, *no* voice mail, and *no* GPS!"

Frank and his wife Jane were married on March 17, 1962. He graduated that June with a degree in Agricultural Economics & Rural Sociology and was assigned as a Soil Conservationist to Tioga County, PA. Later that year he relocated to the Dauphin County field office and early in 1963 he was assigned as an Economist on the River Basin and Watershed Planning Staff in Harrisburg. In January of 1966 he transferred to College Park, MD, as the Economist on the Watershed Planning Staff. Maryland had a number of upland watersheds in central and western parts of the state and several flood prevention and drainage projects on the Eastern Shore. In September of 1969 Frank was transferred to Amherst, MA, as the Economist on the RB&WS Planning Staff. He was promoted to Staff Leader there in 1972. His primary responsibilities included directing the staff and coordinating planning activities with agencies of the Commonwealth and with other federal agencies.

In September 1983 he was transferred to the Northeast National Technical Center (NTC) in Chester, PA, as the Water Resources Planning Specialist with responsibilities to review watershed and RC&D plans and to assist the states with their planning activities.

When the NTC closed in December of 1995, Frank accepted a position in the Conservation Operations Division in NHQ. There, he spent some of his time on a team developing guidelines for the Conservation Farm Option of the 1996 Farm Bill, working on the publication Geography of Hope, and in answering requests to USDA for various kinds of information.

He retired on December 3, of 1997 with over 41 years of federal service. Frank has enjoyed hunting, fishing and target shooting. He and Jane made an annual fishing trip to Ontario for many years and he hunted in Newfoundland, Colorado, Wyoming, and the Nunavik Territory in northern Quebec.

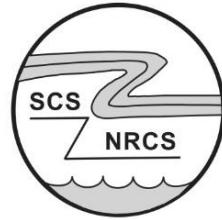
A beekeeper for 39 years, Frank sold his bees and all his apiary equipment in October 2018. While living in Maryland, Frank and Jane, with limited help from family and friends, built a log cabin in northern Pennsylvania. They felled the pine trees with a two-person cross cut saw, peeled the bark, and Frank notched all the logs with his favorite single bitted axe. The cabin, named *Camp Pioneer*, is still enjoyed by all who go there.

Frank considers himself fortunate to have had a successful and gratifying career; and, he appreciates the good people with whom he worked. He maintains the Northeast NTC Directory with contact information of personnel who were employed there. He has arranged for members of this group to meet for lunch or dinner twice a year since the office closed over 23 years ago.

My thanks to Frank for providing the text (that only required a light edit) and the accompanying photograph. Marc Safley, Chronicler.



DEADLINE FOR
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2019
NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS IS
AUGUST 25TH, 2019



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

Bradford 2019 Robert "Bob" Jordan Bradford (82) of Louisville, Kentucky passed away unexpectedly on June 6, 2019. He had just returned in May from a long-planned visit to Normandy, France. Ironically, he passed on the 75th anniversary of D-Day. Living almost his entire life in Kentucky, his love of the Bluegrass state was at the heart of everything he did, from serving its farmers during his long career with the USDA Soil Conservation Service, to staunchly rooting for his beloved UK Wildcats. Bob was born in Flemingsburg, Kentucky to **Minnie Reeves Bradford** and **Hollis Aiken Bradford**. He received his degree in Agriculture from the University of Kentucky where he was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity and the National Award-Winning Cattle Judging Team. In 1963, he began his Soil Conservation Service career. Bob spent most of his career as the District Conservationist in Shelbyville, KY, and was also a Resource Conservationist with the Cynthiana, Kentucky Area Office. He retired in 1994. After retirement, Bob relocated to Louisville. He is survived by his loving and devoted partner **Pamela Capuder**, and his children Lt. Col. (Ret) **Christopher (Kit) Bradford (Susan)**, St. Matthews, Kentucky; **Robin Bradford Carlton**, Fisherville, Kentucky; **Holli Bradford Christman (Erik)**, Greenwood Village, Colorado; and six grandchildren. A celebration of life was held June 12, 2019, at Ratterman Funeral Home, in East Louisville, Kentucky. Contributions can be made in Bob's memory to the American Diabetes Association or the Crusade for Children.

Cole 2019 Everett Lee Cole (85) of Stillwater, Oklahoma passed away on April 29, 2019. Everett was a soil scientist and retired from the USDA Soil Conservation Service Oklahoma State Office in 1990 after 35 years of service. Everett was always

active in the annual National Land and Range Judging Contest. Everett is the father in law of Gerry Cole who currently works in Financial Management at the State Office. He was a long-time member of the First Baptist Church where he served as a deacon. He enjoyed farming and ranching all his life. He loved being with family and friends. He is survived by his wife Helen.

- Conradi** **2019** **Arlin "Al" J Conradi** (85) of Baxter, Tennessee passed away April 16, 2019 at Cookeville Regional Medical Center surrounded by his family and friends. Al was born August 9, 1933, in Homestead, Oklahoma to the late **Carl and Martha (Winter) Conradi**. He started his career with the USDA Soil Conservation Service as a Soil Scientist in Oklahoma. He later became the District Conservationist in Oklahoma City and then was promoted to Area Conservationist in Cookeville, Tennessee where he worked until his retirement. Al is survived by his wife **Pat Conradi**, his daughter **Sally (Nelson) Minton**, son **Roger (Angela) Conradi**, and four grandchildren. A Celebration of Life service was held April 25, 2019 at the Outreach Center of Trinity Assembly of Algood, Tennessee.
- Dingle** **2019** **Stanley O. Dingle** (81) of Verona, Wisconsin passed away suddenly after suffering a heart attack on May 31, 2019. Stan graduated in 1961 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with degrees in Civil Engineering and Agricultural Engineering and began a job with the USDA Soil Conservation Service in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. On June 24, 1961, he married his high school sweetheart and love of his life, **Marlene Anderson**. Instead of waiting for the draft, he joined the 32nd Red Arrow Division National Guard Unit in Eau Claire, only to be called to active duty during the Berlin Crisis that October. He was discharged from active duty in August 1962 and returned to Eau Claire to continue work with the SCS. In 1969, he was honorably discharged from the National Guard after serving an eight-year enlistment. In 1976, Stanley was transferred to the SCS State Office in Madison, as a design engineer. He retired in 1994. Stan is survived by his wife, Marlene; four sons, **Richard (Jodi) Dingle**, of Cedarburg, Wisconsin, **Mark (Jody) Dingle** of Verona, **Steve Dingle** of Madison, Wisconsin, and **John (Carrie) Dingle** also of Madison; and nine grandchildren.
- Evans** **2019** **Harry Scales Evans** (65) of Eubank, Kentucky passed away suddenly on May 6th, 2019. Harry was a Soil Scientist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service for many years. He held positions as field soil scientist and project leader. Harry retired at the end of 2012. After retirement he devoted much of his time to the Pulaski County Humane Society. Harry was also very involved with "Love on A Leash" visiting various Hospitals, Schools, Nursing Homes, and other facilities with his close companion Hatty. He was proceeded in death by his parents, **Grace and Adolf Evans**. He is survived by his wife **Cathy Evans** of Eubank, Kentucky and two brothers who live in Maryland, **John (Jennifer) Evans** and **Joe (Dorothy) Evans**. Harry has numerous nieces and nephews who loved him dearly. Donations are requested to the Pulaski County Humane Society.
- Ferwerda** **2019** Honorary Member **John A. Ferwerda** (94) of Bangor, Maine passed away May 21, 2019, at a Bangor hospital. He was born May 18, 1925 in Whitensville, Massachusetts, the son of **Martin and Annie (Hockstra) Ferwerda**. John married his beloved wife, **Lola (Youngsma) Ferwerda** on September 11, 1947. John was a Navy Veteran of WWII and an Army Veteran of the Korean War. He received a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Science from the University of Vermont, Class of 1950. He then attended Cornell University and received his Master's Degree in Soil Science in 1963. He spent his career working for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service. He retired in 1983 as the Main State Soil Scientist. John was always active in his local church community. He was an avid gardener and loved the outdoors. He raised African violets, love to hike, bike, and walk to the Penobscot River in Veazie. In his later years, he taught his great-grandchildren the love of gardening, bird watching, and rock collecting. In addition to his parents, John was predeceased by his five siblings, and a granddaughter, **Jessica Mildner**. He is survived by his wife of 72 years, **Lola Ferwerda**; a son, **Martin Ferwerda**; daughters, **Loralie Mildner**, **Jean McLeod**, and **Judy Kelly**; 7 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren. Interment with military honors was held in Fairview Cemetery in Veazie, Maine.
- Gardner** **2019** **John E. Gardner** (71) of Lincoln, Kansas passed away on June 5, 2019. John was inspecting a dam in the Salt Creek Watershed when he realized he might be experiencing a heart attack and called for help. Although help arrived, he did not survive the attack. John retired December 31, 2011, as a Civil Engineering Technician on the Hutchinson Area Office Technical Staff and worked in the Lincoln Management Unit in Lincoln, Kansas. After retirement he was employed by the Salt Creek Watershed District. He is survived by his wife **Patricia (Dunlap) Gardner**, sons **Ian Gardner (Lindsay)**, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and **Jake Gardner (Kati)**, of Lincoln, Kansas; daughter, **Cameo Ibsen**, of Kansas City, Missouri; and seven grandchildren.
- Gerbaz** **2019** Honorary Member **Olice (Ted) Theodore Gerbaz** (93) of Orangevale, California passed away on Monday May 27, 2019. Olice was born February 10, 1926 in Woody Creek, Colorado to **Olice Achilles Gerbaz** and **Lena Cassie (Albany)**. He was a veteran of the US Air Force. He married **Ila Marie Brooks** in Glenwood Springs, Colorado on August 28, 1946 and remained married to her for 73 years. He graduated from the University of Colorado as a Civil Engineer. His career with the USDA Soil Conservation Service started in Colorado where he worked in Fowler, Rocky Ford and Lamar. In 1961 he transferred to Sacramento, California. He retired in 1988 as the California State Soil Conservation Engineer. After retirement, he moved to Orangevale, California where he became an Associate Pastor of the Methodist Church, now Pathway Fellowship. Ted's survivors include his wife Ila; two daughters **Janice Goodyear (Mike)**, of Orangevale and **Pamela James (Robin)** of Laurel, Delaware; 5 grandchildren; and 17 great grandchildren.
- Hall** **2019** **Marian Jane "Babe" Hall** (82) of Sioux City, Iowa passed away unexpectedly May 28, 2019, at a local hospital. Marian was the wife of ARCSE member and Senior Conservationist **Richard Hall**. Marian and Richard were united in marriage on July 16, 1955. Marian's work career included Fremont County Savings Bank, an Avon representative, Apple Tree Day Care, and a food demonstrator for Sunshine Foods. She was an active member of Holy Cross Parish-St. Michael Catholic Church. She volunteered at the cancer center and the Siouland Soup Kitchen. She had a special place in her heart for the lonely. In addition to her husband Richard, her survivors include son, **Jeff (Mary) Hall** of Columbus, Nebraska; daughters, **Janet (Jay) Freng** of Kenosha, Wisconsin, **Theresa (Robert) Schoonover** of McLoud, Oklahoma, **Mindy (Don) Oberle** of Sioux City, Iowa and **Jenny (Mike) Jelken** of McCook Lake, South Dakota; 17 grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren.
- Howell** **2019** **Louis Arnold Howell** (85) of Watkinsville, Georgia, husband of **Jeanette Rathburn Howell**, passed away June 26, 2019. He was born in Iron City, Georgia. He served in the U.S. Navy. Louis was a graduate of the University of Georgia

in 1959 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Engineering. He worked with the USDA Soil Conservation Service as a Civil Engineer. Survivors in addition to his wife include two children: **Beth Howell Loyd** of Bainbridge, Georgia and **Bill Howell** of Fayetteville, Arkansas; two siblings: **Don Howell** and **Sandra Howell** and one granddaughter, **Laurie Loyd**. In lieu of flowers memorial may be made to the American Cancer Society.

- Hudson** **2019** Conservation partner **Lee Roy Hudson** (86) of Hollis, Oklahoma passed away January 6, 2019 at the North Heart Hospital in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He leaves behind his wife of 66 years **Sylvia (Byrd) Hudson**. Lee Roy served on the Harmon County Conservation District Board for 30 years, serving as both member and chairman. While on the local board, Lee Roy was elected president of the Oklahoma State Conservation Commission. Mr. Hudson went on to serve as chairman of the South Central Region of the National Association of Conservation Districts.
- Lawyer** **2019** Member **Courtney Merle Lawyer** (84) of Harlan, Iowa passed away May 9, 2019 at Myrtue Medical Center in Harlan. Courtney Merle Lawyer was the son of **Courtney Hulbert** and **Leona Christine (Benjegerdes) Lawyer**. He was born on September 12, 1934, in Mason City, Iowa. He grew up on a farm located west of Manly, Worth County, Iowa. He attended Iowa State College and graduated with a degree in Agronomy in 1956. Upon graduation, Merle received a commission in the United States Army as a Second Lieutenant, and served two years at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and Fort Ord, California. He transferred to the US Army Reserves, and retired in 1983. Following active duty, Merle began a career as a Soil Conservationist with the USDA Soil Conservation Service. He worked in LeMars, Anthon, and Harlan, Iowa where he was the district conservationists for several years. He retired in April 1994. Merle married **Marcella Katherine (Knapp)** on July 30, 1961, in Le Mars, Iowa; this marriage ended in divorce. On January 9, 1981, he married **Betty Lou (Trent) Cook**. Betty died in 2006 after a long illness. Finally, Merle and **Cleopha Krantz Garrison** were married on July 11, 2009. Merle was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Harlan, Iowa. He enjoyed membership in the Harlan and Harlan Golden Key Kiwanis Clubs, and served as president of both clubs. A member of the Eastern Star, Merle was also a 50-year Mason (Parian Masonic Lodge 321 AF&AM), and served as Master in Harlan for a year. He was also a member of the Shelby County Historical Society and had served on its board and as president of the board. Merle enjoyed family genealogy, history, and travel. He is survived by his wife, Cleo Lawyer of Harlan, Iowa; one daughter, **Charisse (Marc) Lawrence** of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; two sons, **Courtney (Beth) Lawyer** of Glendale, Arizona, and **Brad (Stacey) Lawyer** of Portsmouth, Iowa; six step-sons, **Jerry Cook** and **Jeff Cook**, both of Council Bluffs, Iowa, **Dr. Dan (Anne) Cook** of Richmond Heights, Missouri, **Tony Cook** of Denver, Colorado, **Dan (Jayne) Garrison** of Harlan, Iowa, and **Jeff Garrison** of Irwin, Iowa; one step-daughter, **Julie (Troy) Petry** of Council Bluffs, Iowa; one brother, **David (Caryl) Lawyer** of Manly, Iowa; and many grandchildren, step-grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. The funeral service was held on May 14, 2019, at the First United Methodist Church in Harlan, Iowa.
- Longren** **2019** **Cathy A Longren** (67) of Manhattan, Kansas passed away June 9, 2019. She was the wife of **Jerry D. Longren**, retired Biological Science Technician at the Plant Materials Center in Manhattan, Kansas. She was a legal secretary who worked at Kansas State University and was also a pilot.
- Madison** **2019** Conservation partner **Frederick W. Madison Jr.** (82) passed away June 3, 2019 at St. Mary's Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin. He was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to the late **Frederick W. and Geraldine (Conover) Madison, Sr.** After graduating from Milwaukee Country Day School in 1955, Fred attended Harvard University, transferred to the University of Wisconsin-Madison, earning his Master of Science in soils and PhD. Upon completion of his graduate studies he was hired as a recruiter for the Peace Corps by its founder and first director, **Sargent Shriver**. He then served as a legislative assistant for **Senator Gaylord Nelson**. During his tenure in that office he authored the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act that celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2018. Next in his career was his appointment by **President Lyndon Johnson** to the Upper Great Lakes Regional Commission. Following his reappointment by **President Richard Nixon** in 1972, He returned to Wisconsin in 1973 to join the faculty at University of Wisconsin-Madison with a joint appointment to the Soils Department and the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, retiring in 2011. The University of Wisconsin honored him with the Wisconsin Idea Award-- given to a person who embodies the notion that education should influence people's lives beyond the boundaries of the classroom. Fred was a leader in the sustainable agriculture movement, serving on the federal regional Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SARE) for several terms. In 2001 Fred co-founded the University of Wisconsin-Extension Discovery Farms, an outreach and research project led by Wisconsin's farmers with a focus on the relationship between agriculture and water quality. Fred's is survived by his wife, **Tracy (Anderson)**; his son, **David** of Minneapolis, Minnesota; two daughters, **Jessica** of Seattle, Washington., and **Ashley** and her son, **Owen**, of Portland, Oregon. A memorial service will be held Saturday, August 17th, 2019 beginning at 11:00 am at Park Hall, at 307 Polk St., Sauk City, Wisconsin. Fred's family is grateful to the nurses, doctors and all the other health care professionals at St. Mary's Hospital in Madison. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to the Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness (<https://www.friends-bwca.org/get-involved>).
- Mathis** **2019** Member and Senior Conservationist **Marion T. Mathis** (85) of Mansfield, Arkansas passed away June 6, 2019, in nearby Waldron, Arkansas. He was born in Yell County Arkansas in 1934. He graduated from Hartford High School in Hartford, Arkansas, where he was voted outstanding senior by the faculty, president of his Future Farmers of America, vice president of his class and an all-state basketball player. Marion attended Arkansas Tech University for two years, earning an Associate of Science Degree in Agriculture. He then went to the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and received a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army Reserve. After completing his active duty in the reserve, he married his college sweetheart, **Treva Martin**. He returned to the University of Arkansas and earned a Master's Degree in Agriculture Education. After graduation, Marion spent five years in agriculture chemical sales in Arizona and the southwest. He started his career with the USDA Soil Conservation Service in 1966 as an economist on the Watershed Planning Party in Little Rock, Arkansas. He soon transferred to the field, serving as a soil conservationist in Danville and Russellville, Arkansas. Later, he served as district conservationist in three Arkansas towns: Clinton from 1974-84, McGhee from 1984-87 and in Clarksville from 1987-90. He then served as area resource conservationist in Hope, Arkansas from 1990 until his retirement in April of 1994. Marion and Treva then moved back to the Mansfield-Hartford area, where they grew up. After a year and a half of retirement, Marion decided he needed to do something to keep him busy. He signed on to the City of Mansfield as economic development coordinator for one year in September of 1995. He served as president of the Mansfield Economic Development Corporation (non-profit) and as executive secretary of the Sebascott Economic Development Council. In that capacity, he wrote a number of grants for

the improvement of the area. The one-year contract with the city turned into 18 years, as he retired again in 2013. Marion and Treva enjoyed traveling and visited all 50 states and about 20 foreign countries. Marion and Treva were married for 59 years and had two children. Their son, **Stanley Mathis** is a retired engineer from Natural Resources Conservation Service. Marion's survivors include his wife Treva, his son Stanley (**Katie**), his daughter, **Cynthia Mathis**, and grandchildren **Sara** and **Joe**. Marion and Treva have been members of Gideons International for 32 years and members of First Baptist Church in Mansfield, A funeral service was held June 10, 2019, at Mansfield First Baptist Church with Dr. Tom Harris and the Rev. Phillip Slaughter officiating. Burial was at Coop Prairie Cemetery

- Morrison 2019** **Earland (Earl) Morrison** (87) of Alfred, Maine passed away March 18, 2019 surrounded by his loving family. Earl was born in New Gloucester, Maine on November 27, 1931. Earl served his country in the US Air Force, primarily in Yuma, Arizona, during the Korean War. Upon honorable discharge, he attended the University of Maine, Orono earning a degree in Animal & Dairy Science. It was at Orono, via his fraternity brother **Richard Barker**, that he met the love of his life **Elizabeth (Betty)**. Earl proposed to Betty on her 27th birthday and they were married on August 1, 1959. After dairy farming with his brother **Arnold**, Earl was employed by the USDA Soil Conservation Service and in 1966 Betty and Earl moved to Alfred. Earl served his community in many ways. He was a Deacon of the Alfred Parish Church for many years and member of many other organizations. Earl served as a captain in the Alfred Fire Department and was a Selectman for the town of Alfred for 20 years. Betty passed away in 2014. Earl is survived by his three sons, **Paul Morrison (Ellen)** of Alfred; **Stephen Morrison (Christine)** of Lisbon, New Hampshire; and **Philip Morrison (Julia)** of Tyringham, Massachusetts; and six grandchildren. A Funeral Service was held on March 23, 2018 at Curtis Lake Christian Church, 38 Westview Drive, in Sanford, Maine
- Raynor 2019** **Roy Raynor, Sr.** (83) of Garner, North Carolina passed away on May 13, 2019. Roy was married to **Clara Raynor** who was the Personnel Officer for many years in the USDA Soil Conservation Service North Carolina State Office before retiring in 1993. Before retirement, Roy sold heavy construction equipment. In addition to his wife Clara, Roy is survived by four children, **Dr. R. Max Raynor, Jr. (Teresa)**, **April R. Byrd (Dr. Alan Byrd)**, **Dr. Eric Raynor (Susan)** and **Dee R. Whittington (Neal)**; ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by son **Jeffrey P. Raynor**.
- Simmons 2019** Lifetime member **Michael Stanley Simmons** (85) of Santa Barbara, California passed away on June 13, 2019, surrounded by his loving family. Michael was born in Fresno, California and graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 1958 with a degree in Engineering. Following his education, he maintained a career in USDA-Soil Conservation Service for over 30 years. During this time, Michael was greatly involved in the growth of the Santa Barbara Zoo. Since retiring in 1993, he sustained his passions for the environment, cherished moments with his family, and admired the 49ers. He also had an engineering consulting service until 2017. Michael will be lovingly remembered by his wife, **Janice Simmons**, of 63 years. Michael is survived by his four children: **Michele Galletly** and her husband **David**, **Joyce Simmons-Fuss** and her husband **Greg**, **Katherine Bacon** and her husband **David**, and **Michael Simmons Jr.** Michael will be fondly remembered by his seven grandchildren: **Bryan**, **Jason**, **Robert**, **Lauren**, **Daniel**, **Christy**, and **Courtney**. He will also be forever remembered by his extended family and dear friends. A celebration of life memorial service was to be held June 28, 2019 at 11:00 am at St. Mark United Methodist Church, 3942 La Colina Rd., Santa Barbara, California.
- Tennant 2019** **Robert S. Tennant** (92) of Winston-Salem, North Carolina passed away May 14, 2019. Bob worked for the USDA Soil Conservation Service. He retired as District Conservationist for the Hillsborough Field Office and moved to Winston Salem several years ago. Bob was a WWII veteran having served in the Coast Guard. He was preceded in death by his wife **Phyllis Gail Schaile Tennant**, who passed away just three months ago. He is survived by his son and daughter and their families.



The Grand Tetons