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NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter for Retired SCS and NRCS Employees

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NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

Editor's Note: Doug Lawrence authored these "Notes."

Pocketbook Issues—On June 21st, 2018, the Senate Appropriations Committee unanimously advanced a fiscal-year 2019 spending bill that contains a 1.9% pay raise for civilian Federal employees. However, the House Appropriations Committee did not include a provision on Federal employee pay in its version of the general government spending bill, which effectively endorses the White House plan for a pay freeze released as part of **President Trump's** 2019 budget request.

Neither the House nor the Senate appropriators have included a provision to advance the Trump administration's proposed \$1 billion interagency workforce fund, supported by officials at the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Personnel Management as a way to fund pilot programs that institute "pay for performance."

As for the Federal retirees, the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for 2019 is trending up. The most recent Consumer Price Index (CPI) figure for May 2018 was 2.55% higher than the average CPI for the third quarter of 2017.

For CSRS employees, the COLA is determined by comparing the average CPI from the third quarter (July–September) of the current year (2018) to the average CPI from the third quarter of the previous year (2017). If the third quarter average CPI is higher in 2018 and 2017, then the percentage increase in the CPI is the COLA for 2019.

The Federal annuity portion of FERS retirement benefit also receives a COLA bump, but the formula is a little different than that used for CSRS retirees. If the increase in the CPI is 2% or less, the FERS COLA is equal to the CPI increase. If the CPI increase is more than 2% but no more than 3%, the COLA is 2%. If the CPI increase is more than 3%, the adjustment is 1% percent less than the CPI increase.

Farm Bill—The Farm Bill is heating up as the Senate prepares to take up the legislation before the July 4th recess. After disputes over immigration and nutrition assistance in May 2018 doomed passage of H.R. 2, "an act to provide for the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2023 and for other purposes," the House narrowly passed (213 to 211) the measure on June 21st. That same day, the Senate Agriculture Committee unanimously passed its version of the Farm Bill out of Committee.

Just hours after the House action, Senate Majority Leader McConnell announced a cloture vote for Monday, June 25th. That vote sailed through (89-3), setting the stage to move the Farm Bill forward in the Senate. Trade is a growing concern, and impetus for moving swiftly to renew the farm bill safety net, given the anxiety about U.S. trade policy. Differences between the House and Senate versions of the Farm Bill that relate to conservation include:

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

- **House:** Increases acreage cap by 1 million acres each year from 2019 to 2023 to reach 29 million acres. Limits rental rates to 80 percent of the established county rental rate.
- **Senate:** Increases the acreage cap to 25 million. Limits rental rates to 88.5 percent of estimated rate. Authorizes conservation reserve easements to permanently protect certain land.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- **House:** Increases funding from \$2 billion in 2019 to \$3 billion by 2023. Integrates certain elements from CSP (stewardship contracts, resource conserving crop rotations). Eliminates 60 percent livestock funding allocation and retains wildlife habitat allocation.
- **Senate:** Authorizes funding from \$1.473 billion in 2019 to \$1.595 billion in 2023. Reduces livestock funding allocation to 50 percent and retains wildlife habitat allocation. Directs coordination with CSP. Establishes a soil health demonstration project and provides \$15 million annually through 2023.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- **House:** Eliminates the program.
- **Senate:** Reduces annual enrollment to 8.797 million acres and retains \$18 per acre average rate. Directs coordination with EQIP.

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES
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Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

- **House:** Establishes funding at \$500 million annually. Exempts ACEP from the AGI limitation.
- **Senate:** Increases funding from \$400 million in 2019 to \$450 million by 2023. Allows certain eligible entities to use their own deed terms. Allows land under an ALE easement to be enrolled in CRP.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

- **House:** Adds CRP and PL566 to the covered programs. Authorizes \$250 million annually for 2019–2023. Ends the 7 percent set-aside from the covered programs. Retains State, National, and Critical Conservation Area funding pools and allocations.
- **Senate:** Adds CRP and PL566 to the covered programs. Authorizes \$200 million annually and retains 7 percent set-aside from CSP, EQIP, and ACEP. Eliminates National funding pool and divides funding at 40 percent for State and 60 percent for Critical Conservation Areas.

Watershed Rehabilitation

- **House:** Authorizes \$100 million annually.
- **Senate:** Authorizes appropriations of \$20 million annually.

Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program

- **House:** Authorizes \$50 million for fiscal years 2019-2023.
- **Senate:** Merges with the conservation innovation grant authority and provides \$25 million for fiscal years 2019–2023.

In addition, the Senate bill reduces the adjusted gross income limit from \$900,000 to \$700,000 and could go farther if proposed recommendations for restricting the number of payment recipients per farm are successful.

Conservation Spending—Overall, total spending for Conservation relative to the baseline does not change dramatically under either bill. According to the Congressional Budget Office, enacting H.R. 2 provisions would result in a net reduction in spending of \$0.8 billion over the 2019-2028 period, while enacting S. 3042 provisions would result in no net change in spending.

Significant spending changes in H.R. 2 include:

- Increasing annual funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program from \$1.8 billion per year under current law to \$3.0 billion per year by 2023, for a total increase in spending of \$7.7 billion over the 10-year period;
- Increasing annual funding for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program for a total increase in spending of \$3.5 billion over the 2019-2028 period;
- Increasing funding for small watershed rehabilitation by \$0.1 billion per year for the 2019-2023 period and by \$0.1 billion for the Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program along with other provisions for a total cost of \$0.6 billion over the 2019-2028 period; and
- Repealing the Conservation Stewardship Program beginning 2019, which would reduce spending by \$12.6 billion over the 2019-2028 period.

Significant spending changes in S. 3042 include:

- Increasing the Conservation Reserve Program acreage to 25 million and reducing rental rates to 88.5 percent of the county average, which would result in no net change in spending.
- Creating a new Conservation Reserve Easement Program, which would allow expiring CRP contracts entered into after 2019 to enroll as permanent easements, at an estimated cost of \$1.8 billion for the first 10-year period beginning in 2029.
- Reducing annual eligible acreage enrollment in the Conservation Stewardship Program to 8.797 million acres, which CBO estimates would reduce spending by \$1 billion over the 2019-2028 period.
- Reducing annual funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, resulting in an estimated decrease in spending of \$1.5 billion over the 10-year period; and
- Increasing annual funding for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program and Regional Conservation Partnership Program, leading to an estimated increase in spending of \$2.5 billion over the 2019-2028 period.

According to AgriPulse, the most important thing to know about the bipartisan Senate farm bill is how much it doesn't change from current law, which means a lot to work out with the House going forward. While there are differences in the Conservation Title, these are unlikely to be the hot button issues for the Conference Committee. The biggest hurdle for the Conference Committee will be finding a compromise between the widely divergent views on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility requirements.

Government-Wide Reorganization— The Trump administration released on Thursday June 21st, 2018 a blueprint for a massive overhaul of the federal bureaucracy. "This effort, along with the recent executive orders on federal unions, are the biggest pieces so far of our plan to drain the swamp," said Office of Management and Budget Director **Mick Mulvaney** in a statement. "The federal government is bloated, opaque, bureaucratic and inefficient."

The proposal contains many far reaching recommendations, including:

- Privatizing the Postal Service.
- Merging the Education and Labor departments.
- Reorganizing safety-net programs into a Department of Health and Public Welfare.
- Creating a government-wide public-private partnership office to improve services to citizens, and stewardship of public resources.
- Relocating more staff and offices outside the National Capital Region.
- Dramatically shrinking the Office of Personnel Management.
- Revamping the Army Corps of Engineers.

Robert Shea, who worked in the **George W. Bush** Office of Management and Budget, said the Trump proposals "that require congressional action will be really difficult to accomplish before the end of this Congress, and likely will be made even more difficult after the mid-term elections. Those requiring only administrative action will be easier, though Congress has signaled that no such moves should be made without its approval."

Also skeptical is **Max Stier**, president and CEO of the nonprofit Partnership for Public Service, which studies reorganization of government. Stier said that “No one can reasonably dispute that our government needs reform, but structural reorganizations are rarely the most effective way to improve service to our citizens.”

The plan would shift Department of Agriculture programs to different government agencies, dramatically shrinking the size and scope of the department. The plan would move nutrition programs to the Department of Health and Human Services, shift some USDA housing programs to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and consolidate the government’s food safety oversight into a new Federal Food Safety Agency in USDA. The shift would allow FDA to focus on “drugs, devices, biologics, tobacco, dietary supplements, and cosmetics” after shifting about 5,000 FDA employees and \$1.3 billion from FDA to the new USDA agency.

Trade—As you know, the US is at the edge of a trade war with China. Predictably, China is threatening to retaliate once again against rising U.S. tariffs, but it has run out of U.S. exports to tax. US Agriculture has been particularly hit hard because China is already slated to start charging a 25 percent tariff on U.S. soybeans, wheat, and corn on July 6th, but additional retaliation could reach wider, hitting U.S. companies in China, like food and feed giant Cargill.

China is intent on matching the U.S. in the expanding trade war, and the U.S. agriculture and food sectors could be in store for more pain than just the 25 percent tariff the Chinese are threatening to put on soybeans, wheat, and corn. To retaliate against the new threat of \$200 billion in U.S. tariffs, China would have no choice but to retaliate again by “combining quantitative and qualitative” sanctions on the U.S., according to a spokesperson for the Chinese Ministry of Commerce. And that would likely mean going after U.S. companies operating in China.

One U.S. company with a lot to lose is Cargill. The agricultural giant has 50 business locations and more than 10,000 employees in China. An “all-out trade war” is something the company says it hopes to avoid. “The impact of trade conflict between the world’s two largest economies will lead to serious consequences for economic growth and job creation and hurt those that are most vulnerable across the globe,” said the Cargill Vice President for Global Corporate Affairs.

If China does follow through with the “qualitative” type of retaliation it’s threatening against U.S. businesses abroad, the U.S. will be swift to levy the additional tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese products, White House trade advisor **Peter Navarro** told reporters.

“No one in China will be hurt if the retaliatory U.S. wheat tariff is implemented,” the U.S. Wheat Associates and National Association of Wheat Growers said in a statement. “China has huge amounts of stored wheat, and they can purchase what they need from Australia, Canada, or even Kazakhstan.”

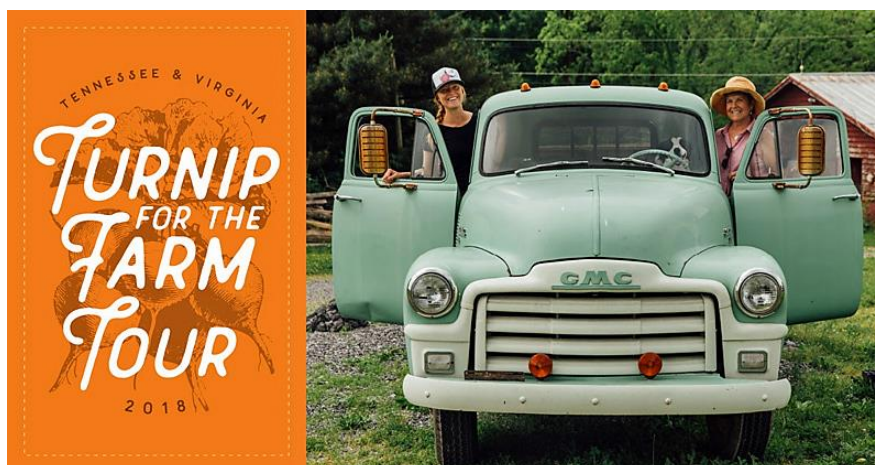
People on the Potomac—USDA Secretary **Sonny Perdue** will soon have a new chief of staff, **Ray Starling**, who’s been working at the White House as an agricultural adviser to **President Trump**. Effective June 1st, Starling replaced **Heidi Green**, who’s heading home to Georgia after helping fellow Georgian Perdue during his first year in office. Starling, a lawyer who grew up on a farm in southeast North Carolina, has been on the staff of the National Economic Council since Trump took office.

Senior White House Advisor **Sam Clovis**, who had been working with NRCS, resigned and is moving back to Sioux City, Iowa. Clovis had unsuccessfully run for the US Senate before he joined **President Donald Trump’s** campaign and then USDA. Clovis, a former radio show host, was nominated to be USDA’s undersecretary for Research, Economics and Education, but heavy opposition in the Senate prompted him to withdraw his name for consideration before the Senate Agriculture Committee could hold a confirmation hearing.

And **Leonard Jordan** is in his 17th month as the Acting NRCS Chief.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dana York



Dana York's 1954 dump truck with Dana (right) and her farming partner (left) as the promo for the farm tour.

Promoting Agriculture- One Person at a Time

This weekend my farm was part of a farm tour in Upper East Tennessee. Being that this was our first year in organic vegetable and cut flower production, I was a little nervous, but by Saturday we had our three acres of vegetables and flowers all trimmed

and looking great. This year we will plant about 90 species in 75 beds that are four feet wide by 100 feet long. We were pleased that over a 100 different people came to see what an organic farm looks like and learn more about why we would work this hard (hand picking bugs and weeds has it's challenges) to produce beautiful veggies and flowers.

More interesting were the number of people who had never seen what they eat, actually growing in the field! Being that we live in a pretty rural area, you would think that many of these folks had a parent or grandparent who were farmers, but in most cases they did not. It just goes to show you that we can't take for granted that everyone knows what agriculture does for the everyday consumer. Each of us needs to help them continue to learn more about the farmers that work so hard so they can have an abundance of farm products to choose from. Also, we as past SCS/NRCS employees should be proud of what we have done to help farmers to be more productive and sustainable!

Hope to see you at our next organizational meeting at SWCS, Monday, July 30th, in New Mexico! I'd love to hear what you are doing for work or fun!

A BIT OF HISTORY

Douglas Helms, Historian

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Honor and Recognition

This particular history item does not pertain to the history of SCS or soil conservation, but it does address a matter of history which you might find interesting. Whom do we honor historically and how do we preserve that recognition? A recent episode on the documentary **Civilizations** took me back to the time when I worked in the National Archives Building at 7th Street and Pennsylvania Ave., NW, from October 1973 through 1980.

Simon Schama explained that the medieval designers and builders of cathedrals were seldom remembered individually. This changed with the Renaissance and especially with Michelangelo. He rewarded artisans and reassured them that their contributions were essential.

An incident at the Archives reminded me of this categorization of the artist/architect, known by name, or the larger group of unnamed artisans. My main charge was helping researchers with Department of Agriculture records, but my responsibilities included records of the Public Buildings Service and its predecessors that had supervisory construction and acquisition of federal buildings.

One day when I was at my desk deep in the stacks, the telephone rang, and I heard a young woman's voice, whose inflection, cadence, and accent I recognized. She was a fellow Tar Heel from Mt. Airy, NC, and she was calling from the front desk of the Archives. I certainly wanted to help her. She explained that one of her relatives had carved ornamentation in Mount Airy granite used in Federal buildings. Perhaps the most recognizable use of Mount Airy granite was in the Arlington Memorial Bridge. The granite corporation in Mount Airy had recruited stone carvers largely from Italy and Scotland.



Arlington Memorial Bridge Under Construction (from Library of Congress web site)

She had searched in vain for engravings that recognized the stone carvers. Furthermore, she wanted to know if the National Archives preserved records of their work. It was a question I could not answer immediately. Even research in the records available to me might go unrewarded.

She tearfully told me that these skilled artisans deserved honoring just as we remembered artists and architects. Then and now, I agree. **Amy Snyder**, Curator of Collections at the Mount Airy Museum of Regional History, has answered part of this question. Photographs donated to the museum by the North Carolina Granite Corporation documented that **Albert Beer** of Mount Airy carved the bison head on the bridge keystone. We cannot know that he is the individual in question. This document, of course, does not resolve the issue of whether more visible recognition is merited. It does illustrate the value of knowledge and conscientiousness of public servants like **Amy Snyder**, **Kay Fanning**, historian at the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, and **Nancy Witherell**, historical preservation officer at the General Services Administration, who also helped me.



Bison head keystone for Arlington Memorial Bridge, carved by Albert Beer of Mount Airy, North Carolina (from Mount Airy Museum of Regional History)

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

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Ron Marlow, Secretary Treasurer

New ARCSE Members

First Name	Last Name	State
Terri	Muse	TX
Dennis	Hilger	MO

ARCSE Complimentary membership

Ron Marlow

When you have retiree social functions or any other time that you see new retirees from NRCS, be sure to remind them that they are eligible for a one-year complimentary membership in ARCSE if they have not previously been a member. All that is required is that they submit a membership application. This one-year complimentary membership includes receiving the bimonthly electronic newsletter. Membership applications and the ARCSE brochure may be printed at <http://www.arcse.org/nFORMS.htm>.

ARCSE Annual Luncheon

The Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees will hold its annual luncheon in the Apache Room at the Albuquerque Convention Center.

Date: Monday July 30, 2018

Time: Social hour beginning at 11am; Lunch at 12pm

For those receiving the newsletter electronically, a reservation form was sent on May 15th. A copy of the reservation form was included with the printed copy of the May/June newsletter. Reservations are due no later than July 17th, 2018.

For all for whom ARCSE has an email address, a reminder will be sent on July 9th. ARCSE needs those who plan to attend to respond by doing one of the following:

1. Mail your reservation now; or
2. Send an email no later than July 11th stating that you plan to attend the luncheon; and mail your reservation in time for receipt by July 17th.

ARIZONA

Ken Cookson, ARCSE Representative

Email: ckcookson@aol.com

Karl Klingelhofer Report. More activity since my glaucoma has stabilized some. I returned June 17th from a trip to Cuba, one day at Disney World and weekend with grandson and great grandson in Tampa. Didn't realize that Tampa was such a beautiful city.

My Cuba trip was on a cruise ship out of Miami. I thought it would be real interesting to see some of the old cars there. Turned out to be hundreds and hundreds. Apparently, Cuba has a very good school system and medical care, but most of the buildings look very rundown. I managed an exciting ride in a '56 Chevy. In the picture, I am in the driver's seat but did not drive the car. Most of the old cars are '50s Chevys.

I will be 92 in August and try to keep active. Hurt my ankle playing tennis and that has stopped that activity for the time being. I still try to fly my 1945 ERCO Ercope once per week just locally.

On June 26th I will leave for a six-day trip to the Midwest to visit my home town cemetery where my wife of 60 years ashes are, the farm where I spent high school years, and a night at U. of Wisconsin where I graduated in 1948. It has been a great life.



Karl Klingelhofer behind the wheel of a '56 Chevy in Cuba

Rod Alt Report. My wife, **Sally** and I hosted a golf outing in Tucson April 30-May 2 for 32 players. We played Quarry Pines on Monday, April 30th, Sewailo on Tuesday, May 1st, and Starr Pass on Wednesday, May 2nd.

Ken Cookson Report. My wife, **Connie** and I turned 80 this spring. We decided to treat ourselves with a three-week trip to Hawaii to celebrate this big event. Our first stop was a week on the Big Island at a resort near Kailua. The highlight of this week was a very informative volcano tour in the area that is now being covered with lava from the eruptions. Our tour guide kept telling us that the people who live here know this is going to happen—they just don't know when. It happened one week later. This is the home of Kona Coffee, and we saw lots of coffee being grown, even in front yards.

We next went to the Island of Maui and stayed at a resort in Kaanapali. We were on this island four days. The highlight was a pineapple tour where we were treated to some of the best pineapple anywhere, much different than the specials in the local grocery stores. We were very impressed with the emphasis on conservation of their resources.

Our next stop was the Island of Oahu and a stay at a hotel in Honolulu near Waikiki Beach. We drove around the island and marveled at the beauty that seems to be everywhere you look. We have been here several times, and the traffic seems to be increasing with each visit. We like going to the north shore and particularly having breakfast at Café Haleiwa in Haleiwa, a very popular place.

Our final stop was on the Island of Kauai with our stay at a resort in Poipu on the south side. A few weeks before our arrival, there was serious flooding in and near the town of Hanalei and we saw the aftermath of it. This is a beautiful island, and a highlight is always a trip up the Waimea Canyon, Hawaii's version of the Grand Canyon. Coffee is also grown on Kauai but an entirely different terrain than on the Big Island.

There we learned of a new breakfast dish called Loco Moco. It is a bed of white rice, covered with a 6oz. ground beef patty, covered with two over-easy eggs and smothered in brown gravy. It gets even better if you use fried rice and mushroom gravy. Mix it all up and you have really got something! Mahalo!

Christopher Williams Report. My wife, **Karen** and I continue our Christian Ministry to children in various ways. As we have for the last six years we worked with the AWANA ministry at our home church in Chandler, AZ. Karen team-taught with a friend in the pre-school program where they had as many as 15 children each night. They had help from three teenagers who did a great job leading game activities, doing the puppet stories and encouraging the youngsters. Chris continued working with clubbers in the 3rd and 4th grades, and 80% of them completed their handbooks during the year.

Karen also had the opportunity once again to teach the skill of sketch-boarding at the Indian Bible College in Flagstaff, AZ. Two of the students applied their knowledge by leading the chapel service at the end of the week. One of them also invited us to

work with his youth group at the Dine Church here in Phoenix as they prepared to go to summer camp and present a Bible story to the other campers. On the third day of our stay at the College we awoke to a short snowstorm on May 2nd. Karen was elated as she has missed the winter snow since I brought her home to Arizona after our marriage in 2012.



Karen Williams in early May snowstorm, Flagstaff, AZ



Our prime leisure time activity



Sketchboard training at Indian Bible College



Children viewing the display

Last October we also created another maze in our carport at Halloween for the third year. These mazes have had Christian messages and have been turned into displays after the holiday. Since November we have been able to use the display on the San Carlos Indian Reservation and at four churches around the Salt River Valley. It is a good thing that we have a big pickup!

In May, after the training session in Flagstaff, we took the opportunity to fly to Philadelphia and visit friends and family, as we had not made it back that far in 2017.

In July, we head north again to Olympia, WA to participate in a weeklong Bible event that attracts nearly 900 children.

REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS UP-TO-DATE BY CONTACTING THE SECRETARY/TREASURER

CALIFORNIA

Bill Ward, ARCSE Representative

Email: bluegrassbillward@gmail.com

Greetings from California! It has been a quieter time in California these last few months as we have moved into the summer season, past the dangerous times California dealt with regarding the Thomas Fire and then the disastrous mud and debris flows that occurred in Santa Barbara County. The effects of those disasters and work associated with them, however, are far from over.

Update on Santa Barbara County Disaster. The emergency work to restore the Santa Monica Debris Basin funded by FEMA was essentially completed, and that initial contract was terminated with a substantial amount of larger boulders still to be removed from the bottom of the basin. A new contract, also being funded by FEMA, was put together to do that work, and it is currently underway. There will also be some repair work done on the principal spillway tower grates.

Doug Toews has been hired by Santa Barbara County to develop basin measures that would help make future cleanouts after major storms more expedient. The burned watershed is expected to take three to five years to completely recover, and for the next few years there will still be a significant risk of dangerous mud and debris flows.



Santa Monica Debris Basin

The National Watershed Coalition, with assistance from Doug Toews, myself and Santa Barbara County, put together a very nice success story on the performance of the Santa Monica Debris Basin. The story can be accessed at the following National Watershed Coalitions web site link:

<http://www.watershedcoalition.org/>.

Special thanks go to **Tom Wehri**, CA NRCS retiree and **Dan Sebert**, Executive Director of the National Watershed Coalition, for their efforts in working with Doug, myself, and Santa Barbara County in the development of this story and ultimate sharing of it on the National Watershed Coalition's web site.

John Tiedeman, NRCS Engineer in Redding California, retired effective April 14th after 34 distinguished years with our agency. John loves conservation work and, in fact, has already returned to the agency to work part time as an ACES employee.



John Tiedeman, his wife Irene and their two daughters in Costa Rica 6/2017

John worked for consulting firms for seven years prior to NRCS but found his interest was in Agriculture and Conservation. NRCS provided the opportunity for John to work throughout California from Redding to El Centro, as well as several foreign

assignments. All were rewarding and memorable, in particular three years in Mexico. John met his wife **Irene** in Cuernavaca, Mexico, and their oldest daughter **Elena** was born there.

The international work interest started early for John, from a summer in rural Africa, to a drafting job in Vienna, Austria. Other details included multiple trips to Honduras, Guatemala, and a December 2016 technical exchange to Cuba.

Diversity of opportunity has been a hallmark of NRCS, ranging from tile drainage in the desert to water quality engineering for the Sac Valley rice growing region. In addition to the people, rewards have been to recognize opportunities (often landowner innovations) and build them to meet broader conservation needs.



John Tiedeman providing technical assistance on an Irrigation Project in the Dominican Republic. April 2018, his first detail as a retiree.



John supervising installation of irrigation lines.

John's plans for "half retirement" include managing his organic orchard, playing music with his "Neighborhood Swing Trio" and traveling with his wife Irene and their daughters. One day after retirement John left for a two-week detail to the Dominican Republic on an Irrigation project. Parting quote from John: "Conservation is a worldwide priority, and every one of us has a job to do." Congratulations on your retirement, John and best wishes to you and your family!

John and I both share a passion for music, conservation and engineering. With help from **Dave Sanden**, NRCS Public Affairs Specialist, John combined some of each of these elements into the following video on a stream crossing project John provided assistance on. The video was "spiced up" with the classic Fiddle Tune, "Salt Creek" from our Western Lights band's first CD, "Favorites of Ours" recorded by our good Friend and fellow retiree **Bob Snieckus** in 1999. Enjoy!

<https://youtu.be/UCbvDLxa-XY>, Clover Creek Bridge Installation

Helen Flach's Travels. We've been trying to keep up with Helen Flach as she followed the great wildebeest and zebra migration through the Serengeti, saw more lions and flamingoes than she could imagine, and gazed in wonder at Mt. Kilimanjaro. She just returned from three weeks in Kenya and Tanzania. Thanks, Helen for sharing these amazing photos!



Helen Flach's African adventure: Elephants in Kenya below Mt. Kilimanjaro



Helen Flach's African Adventure: Zebra and Wildebeest

That's all for this time around folks. Wishing you all the best and a Happy and safe 4th of July from California!



Helen Flach's African adventure: Lions at watering hole

IOWA

Mark Jensen, ARCSE Representative

Email: amjens1@gmail.com

Thank you to **Jody Christiansen** for the following report and pictures: "A planned canoe trip on the Upper Iowa River was changed to a bike ride around Decorah, IA, after the river was too high and not safe. At least I wasn't going on it. The ride included a great partnership with former and current NRCS employees and DNR employees. Retirees **Duane Miller, Bob Dayton, Jody Christiansen, and Rick Knutson** with current employee **Paul Goldsmith** and former employee **Lori Morgan** were joined with DNR employees **Leslie Goldsmith, Becky Ohrman and Mike Steuck**.



Group photo taken at the hatchery, from left to right – Rick Knutson, Lori Morgan, Jody Christiansen, Duane Miller, Bob Dayton, Mike Steuck, Leslie and Paul Goldsmith. Photo by Becky Ohrman.



Biking group stopped for a breather after the first large hill.



Rick Knutson, Bob Dayton and Duane Miller are ready to get started.

The 12-mile ride included hills (big hills!) and flat areas on the trail. We stopped at the Decorah Fish Hatchery where **Mike Steuck** gave us a nice talk about the process used there. The hatchery releases approximately 130,000 catchable-size rainbow and 20,000 catchable brook trout that are raised each year. Once back on the trail, we passed the famous Decorah Eagle nest where there were a couple eagles sitting on the branches next to the nest. Very impressive.

After the ride we stopped at the Pulpit Rock Brew Pub where we caught up with retiree **Dean Thompson**. After a few brews we cleaned up and headed out to dinner. A fun trip with perfect weather and great friends!"

Don Ummel was in Washington, DC from May 31st through June 4th to attend the retirement ceremonies for his son-in-law, **Lt. Gen. Mark Ediger**, Surgeon General, U.S. Air Force. Twenty-five family members and friends gathered to celebrate the occasion. Along with the ceremonies, they spent time visiting some of the tourist sites in the area.

Ronald and Jo Hersom spent this past winter at Weslaco, TX. Ron said it was cooler than normal. Kind of bummed out that he could only wear shorts six days; on the other hand, at least he didn't have to shovel any of the white stuff!

Volney Smith reached a milestone a few weeks ago. He celebrated his 90th birthday. Happy Birthday Volney!

Eldon and Jeannie Weber attended their grandson's graduation from law school at Baylor University in Texas this spring. They enjoyed getting to attend the graduation and spending time with more of their family. Eldon said the picture is of two of his youngest grandchildren "practicing for their learner's permit!"



Eldon Weber's youngest grandkids honing their driving skills

Thank you to **Alice White** for updating us on her and Lee's travels. "In January we spent two weeks enjoying the warm sunshine of Scottsdale and Sedona, AZ. The hikes in Sedona to the Devils Natural Bridge and to Bell Rock and Courthouse formations allowed us to appreciate the red rocks of Sedona. The hike at McDowell Regional Cactus Park near Scottsdale gave us a chance to view and learn about the many cacti in AZ.

In March we traveled to Hilton Head and Charleston, SC. Our family of 12 gathered to celebrate our 70th birthdays. Besides family time, highlights included a hike in Pickney Island National Wildlife Refuge where we saw the snowy egret, alligator, and little blue heron. We took a pirate/Dolphin boat cruise, toured Harbour Town Lighthouse, biked on the beach, had a low country boil and ate lots of seafood with our family. A few days in Charleston visiting a cousin, touring Boone Hall Plantation, historic old house/museums, a carriage ride and the USS Yorktown completed a wonderful celebration."

Ann and I ventured west for our spring trip in April. We visited many friends in Boise, including retirees **Lynann Stewart, Jim Cornwell, and Joe Icenhower**. It was fun to get to visit with these friends again! We travelled south to Lake Tahoe, then over to the coast, down the coast line, east to Las Vegas, and back to Iowa. Some highlights included visiting several friends and family along the way, seeing pretty lakes, a lot of really big redwood trees, some banana slugs, numerous sea lions, the Golden Gate Bridge, and a lot of cactus. As a bonus, some of the cactus and Joshua trees were even blooming! Another fun trip in the books!

Reminder: The retiree summer picnic is Wednesday, July 11th, at Walnut Ridge Recreation Area #2 by Saylorville Lake.

We were saddened recently to learn of the passing of **Carol Wisner**. Carol was the wife of **Robin Wisner**. Robin was a soil scientist in Fort Dodge for many years.

KANSAS

Deanne Lull, ARCSE Representative

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Summer has officially arrived, and has it been hot in Salina the last couple of weeks. We have had the honor of being the hot spot in the state for a number of days. The wheat harvest is well under way, but due to the drought conditions we are experiencing, yields are low with 46 percent of the crop being in poor to very poor condition.

Ron and I attended my 60th high school class reunion over the Memorial Day weekend.

We spent a nice afternoon visiting with the "old" folks. There were 32 in my graduating class with 10 attending the reunion. Ten have passed away, and contact has been lost for most of the remaining 12.

With Justify being a new Triple Crown winner, **Larry Miles** (former Natural Resources Project Leader and who was my supervisor for many years) shared the following background on the jockey. "**Jockey Mike Smith** is a pretty special guy to our

family. He was a young up-and-coming jockey back in the 1970s and 1980s riding thoroughbred race horses on the racing circuit in Nebraska. At that time there were several towns in Nebraska that would hold horse races several weeks up to a month at a time and then they would move to the next town. Grand Island, Lincoln, Omaha, and Sioux City were several of them. My dad loved horses and raised thoroughbred colts for racing. He would contract with a trainer who would take the horse(s) for the summer to the Nebraska circuit. Mike regularly rode his horses, winning frequently. Our family would go to several races each summer and got to know Mike pretty well. He soon moved on to the big time and has ridden in many 'Derby' and Triple Crown races."

With our eyes recently following the volcanic eruptions in Hawaii, **Jeff Gross** (former State Conservationist for Water Resources) reported that his son and daughter-in-law are presently safe. Both of them work in Volcano National Park, so they are very familiar with the volcano. Son, **Jacob**, is a Biological Science Technician with the National Park Service working on invasive species issues, and daughter-in-law, **Danielle**, is a Biological Science Technician working on a USGS project dealing with Hawaiian bats. They have been working day-to-day in the park wondering if they will be evacuated. Their home is in Hilo and is not in any danger.

Karen Churchman (former State Conservationist's Secretary) is awaiting the results from her visit to the KU Med. Center in Kansas City to determine if she would be a candidate for a liver transplant.

We have two new retirees: **Steven P. Wingerson**, Supervisory District Conservationist in the Smith Center Field Office, retired April 28th, 2018; and **Mitchell L. Thierry**, Public Affairs Specialist in the Kansas State Office in Salina, retired June 3rd, 2018.

It was learned at the Kansas NARFE spring convention that over the past year we had lost one retiree and one spouse who I had not reported. **Roger D. Coleman** passed away January 29th, 2018. His last position was the District Conservationist in the Oskaloosa Field Office. **Betty Mae Schwant**, spouse of **Eldon Schwant**, passed away July 8th, 2017. Eldon, who spent many years as the District Conservationist in the Seneca Field Office, survives.

Recently one Kansas retiree has passed away. **Charles C. Foster**, who was residing in Texas, passed away on May 13th, 2018. He served as the District Conservationist in the Washington, Kansas, Field Office. He retired in the early 1980's.

MAINE

John Simon, ARCSE Representative

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MAY 2018: Last Tuesday, May 8th, we had nine happy retirees at breakfast. Attendees included: **Bruce and Karen Champeon, Judy and Charlie Boothby, Chris Jones, Tom Smith, Art Taylor, Bob Lagassey, and John Simon.**

We were all able to wish **Karen and Bruce** all the best in life from their April wedding! Karen had several beautiful photos of the wedding which she shared with us. They were a handsome couple all dressed up in their Sunday best!

Tom Smith was gracious enough to drive way up from Portland and especially see old co-workers from the old days. Tom was in good spirits and in good health. He is still helping his sons in their painting business. I do hope he is staying off the ladders, however!

Bob and Louise Lagassey are now settled back in Bangor from their three-month's stay in Florida. Bob looked all tanned up and fit as a fiddle. Welcome back Louise and Bob. Bob is related to yours truly through my Mother's side of the family, the Plourde family of St. Agatha, Maine.

Chris Jones has started volunteering at the Good Shepard Food bank for one day a week, sorting out mountains of food for distribution to the many food kitchens throughout the state. By the way, Chris was caught on camera by **Patty Wright** up on the Bangor Standpipe during the Bangor Water District spring open house. See photo below. I forget how high the standpipe is, but **Noreen** and I have been up there several times, and the views from up there are spectacular for 360 degrees!

Art Taylor's solar system is putting out about five to seven kilowatts on a good day at his new home. The credit formula for his contribution to the grid needs to be explained by Art if anyone is interested.

Charlie has not yet started his garden or green house, but will soon.

My two mini-splits are in the off mode, but most evenings I put the downstairs unit on for an hour or so to drive off the chill. I love the unit so much. So convenient to use!



Chris Jones on top of the Bangor standpipe tower. Photo by Patty Wright.

JUNE 2018: We had a great noon lunch at the Coach House on June 12th. It was a beautiful day in Maine. In attendance were **Dave and Lydia Musselman, Gary Hedstrom, Paul Hersey, Roger Ashe, Noreen and John Simon, Ray and Kay Voyer, Patty "Clark" Wright** (and two of her grandkids from Colorado), **Judy and Charlie Boothby, Dana Nelson, and Chris Jones**. In all, 14 adults and two grandkids. We all enjoyed catching up with news from each other.



Left to right clockwise: Patty, Kay, Ray, Noreen (not shown), Roger (not shown), Paul, and Gary (not shown), Lydia, Judy, Charlie, Dana, Dave (standing), Chris, and Patty's two grandchildren

I did put in a pitch to the group for my all-time favorite professional book, Growing a Revolution: Bringing Our Soil Back to Life by David R. Montgomery. The book is to the future of our planet, is rated (by me) way up there with Silent Spring by **Rachel Carson**, and Let's Get Well by **Adelle Davis**, a great nutrition book. My prayer is for everyone connected with "working the land" to read and study the book and spread the word. The book is now (by August) available in soft cover. I found it on both the Amazon and Books-A-Million web sites. Also on these two sites they had several (used but in excellent shape) hard cover copies for sale at a very reduced price. The impact of Conservation Agriculture as described in this book, on removing CO₂ from the atmosphere, is enormous!!

This book would make a wonderful present for friends and relatives working the land or very interested in the future of our food supply (and its quality), and of the world. The change will not come from the top but from the producers. If anyone has ideas about how to spread the message, please let me know.



Clockwise left to right: Lydia, Judy, Charlie, Patty (standing taking picture) Dana, Dave (standing), Chris, Patty's two grandkids, Kay, Ray, Noreen, Roger, Paul, Gary (not shown), and John (taking the picture).

I got to talking about mini-split heat pumps and I promised to get out a report of my experiences. I have meters on my oil furnace, and one each on my two mini-splits, so I have years of accurate daily data on energy use vs. heating-degree days. The info prevents me from exaggeration (which I am prone to do), so the info should be useful to readers.

There was lots of chatter from us older folks on how to downsize as we find ourselves with decreased energy and ambition. This is not an easy task to accomplish, for sure. More and more of our elder retirees are finding it harder and harder to attend our breakfasts and annual lunch. Lots of the rest live quite far away.

Kay Nickel and Vassar indicated that they sold their home in Florida and bought a travel trailer to travel the country. They may even show up here in Maine to see old friends! I'll keep you informed.

Till next report, take care and God bless, John Simon.

MISSOURI

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Recent retirees: **Harold Deckard**, Assistant State Conservationist; **Kevin Dacey**, Biologist in the State Office.

The Columbia area retirees met for breakfast on May 9th. Those in attendance were **John and Carol McCarthy, Bob Hummel, Richard and Marjorie Koenig and their son David, Jean Herman, Frank Miller, Jerry Edwards, Larry Pollard, Gena Michalson, Jack Cronhardt, Bob Ball, Gail Sallee, and Dave Rastorfer.**

Dennis Shirk. Good Morning, folks. We are farm-sitting for our daughter so that they can go to church camp. They have an "old McDonald's" farm. It's been a very slow spring for grass growth. I am slowing down considerably. Not much trail riding this spring. See ya down the trail.

Alton Taylor. Just waiting for kids and grandkids to show up and maybe great grandkids—who knows?

Bill Pauls. Everything at the Lake of the Ozarks is good. It was Father's Day, and all of the family Dads were honored and are doing well. We attended Kris's 50th HS class reunion in Newton, IA—fun weekend. Also to the STL Zoo (that Polar Bear is HUGE!), and the penguin house is very cool, but smells funny! G'kids completing very successful ball seasons, parents coaching. I finished three marathons in six days in three different New England States. My son Jeff flew out and ran the first one with me in Maine (he got me started doing this marathon running). It was my 100th, and he actually won the race. Really fun trip. Garden is in and doing pretty good. Groundhog was eating some of the cucumbers, but **Kelly's** dog took care of him (It was a good tussle, but big dogs usually win those battles fairly easily). She was pretty proud of her "prey." If it gets too hot, we just "go jump in the lake!" Hope everyone is doing fine. Come see us anytime. OR we may come find YOU!

Jess Eppe. (Retired in Oklahoma) Hi SCS/NRCS retirees. Hope all of you folks are doing well. **Phyllis** and I are still able to "keep up" with our yard work. My old riding lawn mower (Cub-Cadet) is celebrating its 11th birthday this summer! I need to present it with a "Certificate of Retirement and Thanks" for many difficult jobs well done. By the way, you are being replaced with a John Deere riding mower—maybe it will last longer! Speaking of age related items, Phyllis and I will be married 60 years in July. We plan to celebrate by meeting in St. Louis, MO in the near future with Kids, G-Kids, and GG-Kids. Before we go to St. Louis, we need to get all of our hay baled and hauled in. It's an excellent crop. We fertilized and treated for weeds, and the rains have come as needed! Wishing all of you the very best of times.

Jim Rickman in Texas. Always good to hear from you and get news about the other retirees. This is what I've been up to. I keep a calendar on my phone—otherwise I would not know what I need to do or what I did. I checked it, and this year I went to Canada, and **Jere** and I went to Java, Bali, and Cuba. And in August we are going to Romania and other Slavic countries. Wonder if I really need a home. Jere and I are in good health, and I am still able to crush a paper cup in my bare hands. Hope everyone in Missouri is doing great.

Mike Blaine. This summer is about as bad as I have seen in NEMO. Yards are brown, garden is barely surviving (and I don't know how!), and hay is bad. The first small field we cut was 15 acres. Last year it made 40 bales. This year it made 11. We are hoping for some rain that might spark enough growth for a second cutting. One 25-acre field, at this point in time, isn't worth mowing. We did make a trip east to PA and WV in May. Had a real good time visiting and saw our grandson graduate from Ripley High School in WV. Have kid camps to help with in July, and am keeping busy with other church things. I am doing very well after hip replacement last September. Now I am looking at having a shoulder done. It is hurting me more than the hip did. Hard to tie your shoes when you can't stand to extend your arm! I really can't complain, though. God has been very good to me and mine, and I am very grateful. See you all at our fall dinner. It will be here before we know it!

Paula Price. From the bottom of our hearts thank you from our family for the years of prayers and concerns expressed during **Alan's** 10 years of struggle with CLL (Leukemia). He lost the battle on April 23rd, a sad day for all who knew and loved Alan. But, a glorious day for Alan to enter Heaven's gates. We graduated in the Class of 1967 at Albany R-III High School, Albany, MO, and on January 20th, 1973, we were married in the First Presbyterian Church, Albany, MO. We have asked people to remember Alan as he was before September 6th, 2008, when he was diagnosed. If you knew him before cancer you knew him as a vibrant, strong man who loved life and worked hard to make it just right for others. He loved God, trusted Jesus, loved his family, Boy Scouting, Christmas, and hamburgers or steak. He enjoyed a career as a business owner in Albany, MO and a lineman with United Electric Cooperative in Savannah, MO. In 1962 he was baptized and joined the First Presbyterian Church of Albany, MO. He moved his membership to the First Christian Church of Savannah and helped with the youth. He spent lots of volunteer time at Camp Geiger on the bluffs of the MO River where Boy Scouts gather for camping. Our bucket list included travels, but those were cut short. However, we had a wonderful trip for two weeks to New Zealand and many trips through the years to other points in the United States. I'm blessed with lots of family and friends to help me adjust. And those good memories that will last the rest of my lifetime. Just remember, if you want to do something, do it! If you want to go somewhere, go! Life can change in the blink of an eye in ways you can never imagine! Live life each day! - **Paula; Andrew & Cindy, Jordin, Holly, and Rylee Price.**

We are sad to announce these recent deaths:

Robert Held, Soil Scientist; **Alan Price**, husband of **Paula Price**, Area Clerk at Bethany; **Gayle Potter**, wife of the late **Cordes Potter**, Design Engineer.

MONTANA

Dick Gooby, ARCSE Representative

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Montana Big Sky Report

Joyce Swartzendruber report. I added another museum activity to my volunteer schedule this summer. You might find me in my 1900 outfit at Museum of the Rockies. I'm greeting guests and providing orientation at the Living History Farm. It helps to

have a good background in homesteading and farming. The volunteers get to eat the food prepared on the big woodstove and take home the fresh eggs. Stop by and check it out.

Gordon Decker report. It's been awhile since I submitted a report, so I'll highlight a few things. We just had a very nice surprise guest and visit with **George and Ethel Comer**. George and I commuted for several years in the early to mid-1980s from Southern MD to NHQ in Washington, DC. George and Ethel taught me how to shuck oysters and introduced me to MD wine tasting, resulting in many good times. I had several system tune-ups last year: prostate, hernia, and back surgeries. I waited too long for the back surgery because, since the back didn't hurt anymore, I ended up with numbness in the foot, neuropathy, weak muscles in the legs (resulting from pinched nerves in the back), and wearing a foot and ankle brace. But, with all that, we still had our annual hunting trip to the ranch with the grandkids last fall, and we went to the SF Giants Spring Training camp in Scottsdale this spring. I have knee replacement surgery scheduled this week—more tune-ups this year. Fortunately my wife, **Kathy** who helps teach "Strong Women-Strong Bones" classes at the senior center three to five days a week, is in good shape and able to do the things that I cannot. We continue to attend grandkids graduations, ball games and other events. We also have one grandkid and his fiancée living with us during the school year. He is attending Montana State University.

Gooby Ranch Report. This spring no cliff swallows showed up. We like to have the swallows since they eat all the mosquitos. Last year I only had one mosquito bite. By the 10th of May there were still no swallows. We went down to the river bridge that usually is full of swallow houses, but they were not there either. **Mary Ann** hauled three wheel barrows full of clay up to our house, so the swallows had plenty of close building material, but still no swallows.

Mary Ann went online to the Cliff Swallow web site and left a message that we had excellent building eaves for the swallows to build their houses, and that their building material was right by the eaves, and in the past the swallows loved living here. She posted our GPS information so they would know right where to come to. Mary Ann got a lot of responses. By May 15th you can't believe how many swallows have shown up. Six swallows have built houses on the eaves of the dog house. It looks like Mary Ann will have to get at least one more wheel barrow of home-building material for the swallows.

It's that time of year when we had to brand the calves and the bulls we bought. The calves aren't too hard to brand. Mary Ann can rope them, hop off her horse and flip them on the ground and tie their legs together while **Jeannie** gives them their shots and **Gary**, Jeannie's spouse, brands the calf. My job is to let the calf out of the pen and write down its ear tag number.

The bulls are a totally different issue to brand. The bulls weigh at least 1,400 pounds. I let the bull out of the pen and Mary Ann grabs it by the head as it comes out the gate, then she digs her heels into the ground until the bull stops running, then she wrestles the bull to the ground and holds it down by its head and bites down on one ear to pacify the bull. Jeannie works to get a rope around one back foot, while hoping she doesn't get her teeth kicked out. She holds onto the rope so the bull doesn't move around while Gary is branding the bull on the left hip.

In the meantime, I'm busy taking pictures so I will have them for the June retirees report from the Gooby Ranch. I thought if we included some pictures in our report that you could see what I was telling you was the truth. When I went over to the computer to upload the pictures, I opened up the camera slot that holds the memory card. Unfortunately I had forgotten to put the memory card in the camera. I felt really bad about that. If I hadn't been taking pictures, I could have helped with branding the bulls and calves. I felt a lot better after Mary Ann told me I should take pictures again next year.

This sure is different summer weather than normal. Normally when the hay is ready, Mary Ann can cut the fields. This year it has been raining nearly every day. The hay is ripe and needs to be cut. But if we cut it, all it will do is get rained on. In order to solve the problem, this past week Mary Ann has been cutting some hay, hauling it into the barn and spreading it out so it will dry. After the hay gets dry she puts it in stacks and ties bale string around it so she can stack it. Then she heads out with her rain clothes on and cuts some more hay.

Jerry Bernard suggested to me that Mary Ann also bring hay in the house to dry. That way we would get more hay dried each day so I added it to her to-do list. Mary Ann's pet calf that's in the house when Mary Ann is, thinks it was an outstanding suggestion.

NEW YORK

Nancy Lee, ARCSE Representative

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The annual New York Retirees' picnic will be held on Wednesday, July 18th at Dorchester Park overlooking Whitney Point Reservoir. Bring meat to cook and a dish to pass and beverage of choice. The fire will be lit at 11am for cooking your meat. Dorchester Park is two miles north of Whitney Point on State Route 26.

NORTH CAROLINA

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On May 3rd, 43 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 **Lawrence Matheson**, who is 94 years old, was recognized as the oldest person in attendance. Other Senior Conservationists attending were **John Garrett** and **Ed Helmey**. Lawrence, Ed, and John are WWII veterans. Ed was an Air Force pilot during the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, and John served in the US Navy.



Senior Conservations attending the North Carolina picnic on May 3rd. L-R: Lawrence Matheson (94), Ed Helmey (90) and John Garrett (90).

State Conservationist, **Timothy Beard** gave a report on NRCS Service Delivery Teams, including the funding and hiring freeze. He said it was a challenging time to accomplish the mission of the Service with limited personnel. Tim was presented a framed collection of memorabilia from the 50th SCS Anniversary celebration at the **Hugh Hammond Bennett** home-place that was held on April 26th, 1985. This will be hung in the NRCS conference room.



North Carolina Retirees

Attending the picnic were State Conservationist **Tim Beard**, **Jim and Becki Canterberry**, **David Clapp**, **Nancy Clary**, **Albert Coffey**, **Tommy Cutts**, **Ray and Debra Dorsett**, **Frank and Loretta Evans**, **Dick and Andy Fowler**, **Dick and Carol Gallo**, **Barbara and Coy Garrett**, **John Garrett**, **Tim Garrett**, **Charlie Godley**, **Mitchell Guthrie**. Also attending were **Bill Harrell**, **Boyce Harvey**, **Ed Helmey**, **Howard Hobson**, **Ed Holland**, **Robert Horton**, **Joe Kenyon**, **Roger Leab**, **Phyllis Pate**, **Lawrence Matheson**, **Darwin and Martha Lynn Newton**, **Clara Raynor**, **Cecil Settle**, **Horace Smith**, **Mike and Kay Sugg**, **Phil and Kathy Tant**, **Alan Walker**, and **Wilson Spencer**.

NORTH DAKOTA

Bob Bird, ARCSE Representative

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The North Dakota SCS/NRCS retirees will be having their annual luncheon at the Bismarck Elks Lodge room from 11am to 2pm on Thursday, September 20th. We will review new retirees during the year and those who were lost during the year. We will be asking the State Conservationist to give us a brief update on agency activities. Most of the time will be spent visiting with each other. Please put September 20th on your calendar to attend.

OHIO

Jon Gerken, ARCSE Representative

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Sadly, **Anna Perales**, retired State office employee, passed away on Monday, June 4th, 2018. Ann retired from NRCS with more than 40 years of dedicated service. Ann's last position was management assistant on the Assistant State Conservationist for Operations staff in the State office. Ann was very active with our Native American Indian Special Emphasis Program and served both state and nationally. She was very proud of her heritage and was dedicated and actively involved in various other Native American groups.

Ann's obituary is at

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/dispatch/obituary.aspx?n=anna-m-perales&pid=189208299&fhid=8706>

OKLAHOMA

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The Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees met at the Golden Corral Buffet Restaurant in Oklahoma City, OK April 27th, 2018. Thirty-five people were in attendance, including **Don Bartolina, Dick and Avon Bogard, Lester Brockman, Larry Caldwell, Steve Chessmore, Duane Crider, Brad Elder, Fred and Gayle Fortney, Wayne Fjeseth, Randy and Bonnie Freeland, Harry Fritzler, Sandra and Terry Hough, Bill Johnson, Otho Lamar and Bobbie Steenbergen, George Moreland and Betty Gilbert, Glen and Eunice Mullen, John and Joy Pewthers, Eddie and Linda Rathbun, Stan and Fredia Rice, Chris Shepherd, Jim Smith, Gene Spurlock, Ed Stinchcomb, and Keith and Phyllis Vaughan.**

Duane Crider called the meeting to order. He asked if anyone knew of a retiree needing prayer. **Nick Lambeth** was not in attendance as he is recovering from a sore on his foot which he has had since he was in the hospital in Oklahoma City last December. He had fallen and broken a bone in his upper leg. **Chris Shepherd** offered a prayer for **Nick** and the meal.



Chris Shepherd and Duane Crider

First-time attendees introduced themselves: **Ed Stinchcomb** retired as the DC at Chandler on January 1st, 2018. He travels to Hollis every two weeks to check on his mother and oversee the family farm. He is also active in the Cross Timbers Prescribed Burn Association and with his Church (Henderson Hills Baptist Church). **Dick Bogard** retired as the RC&D Coordinator at Pawhuska in January, 1996. He and his wife **Avon** currently reside in Durant. He worked for the Oklahoma Department of Human Services for 16 years after retirement from NRCS. He is an active Gideon, CASA Volunteer, Volunteer for the local hospital Auxiliary, and is an active Kiwanian. He is also a 5K runner. **Gene Spurlock** told the group that **Dick** had taught him to water ski at one time.



Ed Stinchcomb



Avon and Dick Bogard

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, minutes of the meeting, a list of attendees, the date and location of the next meeting, and the latest newsletter.



Sandra and Terry Hough

A list of recent retirees was read by **Fred Fortney**: **Jerry Balch**, SCT, Marietta, 1/31/18, worked for the Conservation District for 23 years and then for NRCS for 14 years; **Babette Goodwin**, Personnel, Stillwater SO; **David McKay**, Resource Engineer, Woodward TSO, 12/31/17, 35 years; **Ed Stinchcomb**, DC, Chandler FO, 1/3/18, 37 years; **Steve Kelley**, DC Clinton FO, 1/3/18; **Phil Glenn**, Construction Inspector, Pauls Valley WO (2009) and Shawnee FO (2013), 11/22/17; **Larry Coppock**, Resource Engineer, Perry TSO; **Joe Vielma**, Soil Conservationist, Pawnee FO; **Tony Schreiner**, Soil Conservation Technician, Frederick FO, 17 years; **Birdie Neal**, State Office, 3/31/18; and **Mike Till**, Soil Conservation Technician, Watonga FO, 3/31/18.

Fred Fortney also read a list of retiree deaths since October, 2017. They were: **Ron Treat**, 74, retired Water Resources Staff, Stillwater SO, 37 years, 1/14/18; **Anna Sue Armstrong**, 87, retired Caney Valley CD Secretary, Bartlesville, retired in 2006, 12/17; **Otis Bennett**, retired RC&D Coordinator, lived in Owasso, OK, 3/12/18; **Ruby Speed**, retired from State Office, lived in Pawnee, 101 years old, 12/16; **Allen Moss**, former RC&D Coordinator in Tahlequah, lived in Vici, OK, had 21 years of service before resigning, 4/17/18; and **Carolyn Soloman**, widow of **Leonard Soloman**, former Executive Director of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission. **Fred** asked for a moment of silence in their memory and provided a prayer.

Randy and **Bonnie Freeland** brought the equipment to show the video "The Hugh Hammond Bennett Story." It was approximately 20 minutes in length. The information in the video made the entire group "proud" to have been a part of the conservation movement in Oklahoma.

It was announced that the guest of **Otho Lamar**, **Bobbie Steenbergen**, was given recognition earlier in the year as a "Distinguished Significant Woman in Agriculture." Congratulations to Bobbie Steenbergen!



Bobbie Steenbergen and Otho Lamar

Duane Crider announced that his 16-year-old grandson would be running the half-marathon in the Oklahoma City "Run to Remember" on Sunday, April 29th, 2018. **Duane** and his grandson ran the relay last year. **Stan** and **Fredia Rice's** son will be running a 100-mile marathon on the Talihina Drive in Tahlequah.

Gene Spurlock still runs a herd of cattle, has a large garden, and serves as a deacon at First Baptist Church in Chelsea, OK. **Stan Rice** still works part time as an environmental consultant. He and **Fredia** volunteer at their church and attend **Stan's** Air Force Reunion each year. They have twice been to France where he was stationed and will attend the reunion in Los Angeles this year. Still enjoying kids, grandkids, and life.

Eddie and **Linda Rathbun** live on their inherited cattle farm near Rush Springs, OK. They enjoy the farm life and gardening, although back surgeries have put a hold on the gardening. They have two sons, eight grandchildren, one great grandchild, one horse, and one goat! **Glen** and **Eunice Mullen** still live in a retirement center in Yukon and will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary on September 5th!

Fred and Gayle Fortney volunteer at Elite Repeat, a resale shop that donates to charities. In retirement, they make an annual trip to Branson, MO. **Fred** spends time on gardening and at his "hobby" farm. They both are big Oklahoma State University men and women's basketball fans. **Don Bartolina** will once again be coordinating the 67th Annual National Land and Range Judging Contest in Oklahoma City. He and his wife will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary with a trip to Italy in June.



Fred and Gayle Fortney

Keith and Phyllis Vaughan volunteer at the Our Daily Bread, a local food pantry. Playing golf and attending grandkids ball games occupy most of their time. They will be celebrating 57 years of marriage with a trip to the Holy Lands in June.



Phyllis and Keith Vaughan

Duane Crider announced to the group that he, **Chris Shepherd**, and **Sandra Hough** had agreed to continue to serve as officers of the group for another year. **Chris Shepherd** will be President, **Duane Crider**, Vice-President and **Sandra Hough**, Secretary/Treasurer. No other nominations were offered and a motion was made and seconded to accept this proposal for officers for the upcoming year.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 26th, 2018, 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. Put it on your calendar now! Everyone is welcome and no reservations are required.

Oklahoma Conservation Historical Society Has Been Established (submitted by Larry Caldwell).

The Oklahoma Conservation Historical Society (OCHS) has transitioned from a dream to an operating organization. The mission of OCHS is to collect, preserve, and share Oklahoma's conservation history. We are partnering with the Oklahoma Historical Society, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, and the Oklahoma State University Library's Oral History Research Project. OCHS has also enjoyed great support from the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts, the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Oklahoma Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. OCHS has incorporated under the State of Oklahoma and is in the process of becoming a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization under IRS rules. By-laws have been developed, and officers and a six-member board of directors has been elected.



Larry Caldwell

We have begun several projects and agreements including the following:

1. Agreement with the Oklahoma History Center to evaluate historical conservation artifacts and archived materials and display those of statewide significance.
2. Agreement with the Oklahoma State University Oral History Program to complete interviews with conservation leaders (video and transcript) that will be preserved in their permanent oral history collection website. To date, 11 have been completed; 12 more will be done in 2018.
<https://library.okstate.edu/oralhistory/digital/>
3. Agreement with NRCS to allow 11 oral histories of NRCS employees (including the seven living State Conservationists), digitize 20,000 black and white historic photos to be placed on the Gateway to Oklahoma History website (<https://gateway.okhistory.org/>), and share Oklahoma conservation history with NRCS employees.

4. Worked with the Oklahoma Department of Libraries to complete digitizing all county soil surveys produced in Oklahoma (from 1915 to the present).
5. OCHS participated in Conservation Movie Night in Ponca City that included a viewing of the Hugh Hammond Bennett video and a display of historic conservation photos at the event.

Memberships with the Oklahoma Conservation Historical Society are now being accepted. Membership categories are: Individual (\$25), Family (\$40), Organization (\$50), and Founding (\$100). To date, 45 members have joined.

OREGON

Don Stettler, ARCSE Representative

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A nice group braved the record breaking April heatwave to attend the Spring Quarter retiree lunch at The Old Spaghetti Factory in Clackamas on April 25th.

Those attending were **Gale Vogue, Pat Straka, Joe Sahlfeld, Lowell and Marian Kenedy, Don Wallin, Gary Formanek, Terry Mitchell, Dick and Kathy Sylvester, Kay Denfeld, Bobbie Hart, Chad McGrath, Stefanie Aschmann, Russ Hatz, Jeff Repp, Ralph Wadleigh, and yours truly, Don Stettler.**

Several sent me their regrets. Faithful attendee **Eldena VanderZanden** told me she would be in New Orleans. She promised me that she would have a beignet for me. Another faithful attendee, **Beth Zetter**, said she had other plans. **Bruce Newton** told me he would be busy with his Habitat for Humanity duties.

Lowell Kenedy told about how he self-published his book, Palouse Farm Stories. Very nice! **Chad McGrath** and his wife attended the NCAA March Madness tournament in Boise, ID. They were surprised to find that a one-time co-worker had seats next to them. Several attendees mentioned that they have been busy working in their garden. **Terry Mitchell** as well as **Dick and Kathy Sylvester** were into this activity. Gale Vogue recently toured Washington, D.C. with family members. Besides working in her garden, **Kay Denfeld** has been active playing with her ukulele group. They currently have three gigs scheduled. She also enjoyed a get-together with her high school classmates. Kay is about to be a great aunt for the fifth time. Since the new great nephew will be born in Hawaii, she may have to force herself to make the trip.

Joe Sahlfeld and Beckie made a trip to Hawaii. Besides that, he has been busy working in his yard. **Don Wallin** has also been busy learning to take care of the garden that **Diana**, his late wife/master gardener, took care of. **Pat Straka** told us that she is recovering well from her series of surgeries. Of late, **Bobbie Hart** has kept busy selling her and her husband's rental property. Ridding oneself from rental property has kept **Stefanie Aschmann** busy as well. **Russ Hatz** has been involved in certifying organic farms. Russ mentioned something about Luxembourg citizenship. **Jeff Repp** recently spent three weeks in Texas honing his guitar skills. He and **Maurine** live next to a golf course. Last year a golfer inadvertently broke a window of their house (those birdies fly awfully fast). To prevent a repeat, he has built a screen. **Ralph Wadleigh** and **Jan** are planning a trip to Maine.

Since the winter quarter lunch, yours truly has experienced two computer crashes. One was related to Microsoft's repeated attempts to update Windows 10 on my seven-year-old desk top. Previous failures reverted back to the previous version of Windows. But while I was watching football on a Sunday afternoon, Microsoft again commandeered my computer to once again try to update Windows 10. Again, the update failed, but this time it did not return to the previous Windows. The kids advised me it was time for a new desktop. It turned out to be a lemon. Just short of three months it failed to wake up after being idle. This was after the CD drive had quit working. The Norton backup was good except my email contact lists. So, if you are not getting my email please let me know.

The summer quarter lunch is planned for July 18th, a week earlier than the usual fourth Wednesday. It will be held at the Peppermill in Aloha.

PENNSYLVANIA

Bill Bowers, ARSCE Representative

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and **Timothy Murphy, vindemurph@verizon.net**

It sure has been a fickle spring this year. Cool, wet weather has delayed planting of many crops and stepped up the lawn-mowing chores. Nevertheless, it is a beautiful time in Pennsylvania. There are a thousand shades of green as you travel around the state this time of year. We welcome two recent retirees, **John Magagna**, Soil Conservationist, Towanda and **Joe Kraft**, State Soil Scientist, Harrisburg. Congratulations to both John and Joe and welcome to the world of RETIREMENT!

Also please congratulate **Gerald Root** who has been recognized as a Senior Conservationist! A Senior Conservationist has reached the minimum age of 83 years and has completed the Senior Conservationist Questionnaire. Gerald began his SCS career as a student trainee in Schuylkill County in 1956. Served as District Conservationist in Clarion and Dauphin Counties and was an Assistant State Conservationist in Harrisburg. In 1974 he transferred to Wisconsin and then on to NHQ where he was Deputy Director of the Conservation Division. Gerald retired in 1992 and lives in Woodbridge, VA. There are several others "Senior Conservationists" out there. If you have reached the age of 83 (or beyond), just complete the Senior Conservationist Questionnaire at <http://www.arcse.org/qFormSenior.htm>. If you need assistance with this questionnaire, please contact me at wbowers@comcast.net.

Highlights of our September 16-17, 2018 annual get-together include Brady's Restaurant (great food), the Western PA Conservancy (a premier conservation agency), and Fallingwater (a Frank Lloyd Wright creation in harmony with nature). Mark these dates on your calendar and plan to be there to renew friendships and visit one of Pennsylvania's most famous homes.

Don Lindsey says "We have been rejoicing lately with the arrival of **Cade Maverick Lindsey** in Anchorage. This is the fifth grandchild of our son **Scott** and his wife, **Joyce**. Thanks to today's electronics, we have seen him, but not been there yet. There is another great grandchild expected in Alaska in September and one in Virginia in November.

Julie's youngest, **Quinn Holland**, has graduated from Penn State and is planning to go to American Samoa on a World Teach Mission to teach math and science for a year. We will sure miss our "go-to" tech guy, as well as the best ribs smoker ever.

Don received a pacemaker in May. He has long had bradycardia, and the pacemaker is expected to speed up his heart and give him more energy. Otherwise, he continues his activities with Littlestown Historical Society (getting ready now for Good Ole Days Celebration in August), colonial carpentering at Union Mills Homestead in Westminster, MD, church, etc.

Shirley has been busy with Master Gardeners, teaching ESL at the local Literacy Council, genealogy stuff, and keeping up with our ever-growing family.

Wayne Bogovich says "When **Jackie** and I retired in April 2016, we paid for a future vacation to celebrate, consisting of a river boat cruise from Moscow to Saint Petersburg, Russia. We finally did it from Mid-May through Memorial day. Highlights were Saint Basil's Cathedral in Red Square and Kizhi Island, which is 30 kilometers from the Arctic Circle. A good time was had by all. We're looking forward to our next adventure."



Wayne and Jackie Bogovich in Moscow

Hosea Latshaw says he has been working to adjust to his retirement over the last 14 months by trying to stay as busy and as active as possible. "I have been volunteering my time to assist with building a new shower house for our local Church camp located near Mount Gretna, PA. The hours contributed by volunteers have cut the cost of the project almost in half. The same camp hosts a Mud Run on Mother's Day weekend each year. I have assisted with that over the last five years, but this year have been able to step up my participation. I have been able provide engineering assistance as well as setup and tear down of many of the obstacles. Check out the web link under "Gretna Gritty Mud Run." I have been trying to maintain contact with the NRCS engineering folks in Harrisburg and have worked on a few special projects for them, including assisting with a new PA NRCS Irrigation Guide, reviewing PL-566 Dam Assessments, and reviewing other PL-566 reports."

Bill and Mary Ann Bowers report that they enjoyed their annual visit in April to Corpus Christi, TX to visit daughter **Amy**. Corn was over a foot high in early April! Bill is still active as a Penn State Master Gardener. This spring he helped put the finishing touches on a butterfly garden in the shape of a butterfly in a local township park. The garden really attracts butterflies and people. Despite a late start, Bill reports that the vegetable garden is doing well with lots of lettuce and onions, sugar peas and cucumbers ready to pick and potatoes in blossom. Tomatoes are staked and zucchini and squash are growing rapidly. The blueberries are looking good, and the netting was just installed to protect the blueberries from the birds. Bill continues to get an immunotherapy infusion every other week and reports feeling good. He has resumed normal activities. Thanks again for all your support during the past year.

Nevin and Judy Ulery recently spent a week in Williamsburg, VA. We visited Colonial Williamsburg for three days. Be sure to ask Judy about the quilts at the museum and the Native American's dress! We also visited Jamestown and got to see some of the current archaeological excavations within the original settlement area. After two walking tours in the hot sun, Judy had enough, but Nevin went back for the third session. He almost signed on as a volunteer!

Our oldest daughter, **Beth**, and her husband moved back to Elizabeth after ten years in Austin, TX. They now live about three miles from us and reside in the home Rich grew up in. He is now commuting to Austin one week each month. Beth's son, **Tommy**, is now working in San Antonio with USSA and is currently enrolled in a master's program that is paid for by his employer.

Our youngest granddaughter, **Kate**, gave birth to an eight pound, six ounce baby girl on June 7th. She and **Julian** have named her **Sophia Mae**. We will fly to Seattle on June 23rd for our first visit with our third great-grandchild. We will also get to spend a brief time with our grandson, **Marc**, who will be visiting Seattle on business. Marc lives in Stockholm, Sweden and works for Mine Craft, which is now owned by Microsoft.

Carl Dupoldt suggests in the event that people would like to keep up with no-till conservation, here's a link to videos from the 2018 conference:

<https://www.no-tillfarmer.com/articles/7535-national-no-tillage-conference-sessions-videos>



Tim and Gina Murphy at Arches National Park

Tim and Gina Murphy toured the Hoover Dam, Grand Canyon, Zion, Bryce Canyon, Capitol Reef, Canyonlands, and Arches National Parks in May. Every park had its own unique features, so it was difficult to pick a favorite.

Tim's Traminette wine was chosen as Grand Champion in the Susquehanna Winemakers' Guild 10th annual competition on June 9th. The Traminette, made from grapes grown in Cumberland County, topped the field of 50 wines entered.

Harvey Pinkerton shares: "Last fall I persuaded my 99-year old mother, who was living alone, to go on "vacation" and spend the winter with us. She is still on "vacation." Might be a permanent "vacation," just not sure yet. However, she has been to the emergency room three times since coming."

"For those who haven't heard, the McKeever Center is no more. It was under the jurisdiction of Slippery Rock University. They indicated about a year ago it didn't fit into their scheme of things and defunded the center. **Fran Byers**, the director, retired, and some of the staff were given positions at Slippery Rock. The center is abandoned and on the state auction block. Anyone want to buy a well-equipped 200-acre parcel? More info at:

http://www.alliednews.com/news/local_news/mckeever-s-closed/article_2d6ac693-d781-5d4d-8d88-122e664b9578.html

And speaking of McKeever, when I started at Mercer, **Ivan** frequented Mercer quite often. He arrived on occasion at 8am from Harrisburg, even if that meant leaving in the middle of the night. All of us on staff were told to be out of the office by 8 and not be back until quitting time. And if we didn't have enough appointments for the entire day, hide. Dick didn't care where, just hide, and yes, we all had occasion to do that very thing.

Jim Cropper, former NRCS Agronomist, wrote an essay on how things were on the farm he grew up on in Illinois. Shared by **Frank Resides** and edited by **Fred Bubb**, here is an excerpt:

"We had a 1937 Minneapolis-Moline with steel wheels and cleats. This old tractor had a magneto switch that you had to engage below the steering wheel. Then, you dismounted to turn the starting crank at the front of the tractor while the tractor transmission was in neutral. It had a hand clutch lever. Usually one crank was enough to get it started. We used it a lot to cultivate corn. It was the days before power steering so it took a muscular person to make the U-turn to cultivate the next set of corn rows.

Dad used a horse drawn planter and he check planted the corn. One time you cultivated north/south and the next time east/west. Doing so uprooted weeds that we missed the previous cultivation. Using a horse required 42 inch wide rows. The corn was planted in "hills", usually 3-4 kernels per hill. With the advent of herbicides, much narrower corn rows are used today. Only an organic grower is using a row cultivator now. We tried for three cultivations before the corn got too high to pass over without breaking off stalks. Rainy weather and haymaking interfered with getting in three cultivations.

With the wide rows and hilled corn, one could plant pumpkin and squash near a corn hill after the corn got a good start. They produced a good crop since the corn never developed a closed canopy. Being a capitalist at an early age, I planted pumpkins and squash to sell to

town folks - good for Halloween and baked squash. My mother helped me open a bank account which eventually in a small way helped pay for my college education."

History of Conservation Districts in Pennsylvania

I think we all know the story of **Hugh Hammond Bennett** going to **President Roosevelt** (1933) and Congress (1935) as clouds from the Dust Bowl darkened the skies over Washington. In 1933 FDR gave Bennett \$5 million to create a temporary agency, the Soil Erosion Service (SES). In 1935, at FDR's request, Congress passed enabling legislation for the Soil Conservation Service.

In 1937, the PA legislature passed a law providing for the creation of conservation districts following watershed boundary lines. SES was at work with CCC Camps from 1934 -1937, another story for another issue.

In 1945 legislation was passed, Act 217. On November 28th, 1945 Potter County became the first county declared a conservation district. Within one year Allegheny, Berks, Clarion, Clinton, Jefferson, Lehigh and Tioga county commissioners took the same action. Something I cannot understand, according to an SCS publication, **John Smith** of Indiana County is recognized as the first CD cooperator in PA. Today 66 of 67 PA counties are conservation districts, and Philadelphia County is an Urban Conservation Partner under Act 217.

A final question, to satisfy my own curiosity: How many of our retiree readers had the unique opportunity to be the first DC in a new conservation district? I would like to hear from you with dates and experiences.

TEXAS (NORTH)

Arnold King, ARCSE Representative

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Eleven members attended the April 20th meeting. Those attending were: **Earl Blakley, Clyde Goodman, Dennis Erinakes, Anita Plummer, Dennis Gaster, Joyce Petty, Bernie and Maxine Owen, Dave and Barb Stockbridge, and Dave Drennan.**

Anita Plummer reported that **Betty Sisson** is back home after a hospital stay.

Clyde Goodman reported that he attended his first NRCS Credit Union board of directors meeting. **Clyde's** wife, **Marla**, is gaining proficiency with her new power chair which has really helped her mobility.



Left to right: Joe McEntire, James Abbott, and Joe Camp enjoy each other's company and repeat old-time stories about their careers.



Retirees line up for the tasty BBQ lunch which is followed by the silent auction

Bernie Owen had 2018 tax year handouts available. Bernie reminded everyone that there is a telephone scam going on where they say you can be subject to arrest etc. if you don't do such and such. The IRS does not call you on the telephone! I had a call on my answering machine this past week from the scammer. Needless to say, I did not call them back!

The April meeting was our last to be held at St. Ann Catholic Church where we have met for seventeen years.

Arnold King comments: The annual Texas Retiree Reunion held their 25th anniversary meeting at New Braunsfels, TX. There were about 56 participants, which was slightly down from last year. **Billy Griffin, Jr.** presided over the meeting this year and did a great job. Next year, **Phillip Wright** will take over the reins. There is continued concern about lack of interest among the younger retirees. Next year the group decided to hold the meeting during the weekend of April 5th and 6th, 2019. The meeting began with the traditional breakfast buffet that all of the early risers enjoy. The silent auction yielded about \$2,500 for the scholarship fund.

Thirteen members attended the May 18th meeting, including **Clyde Goodman, Arnold King, Maxine Owen, Bernie Owen, Anita Plummer, Joyce Petty, Earl Blakley, Douglas Seibel, Elaine Davis, Billy Don Davis, Mary Mattinson, Dave Drennan, and David Buland.**

After a lot of discussion regarding number of meetings, it was decided to cancel the July and August meetings. Remaining meetings will go as scheduled with one exception. If weather conditions are a potential problem, the club will follow the weather closing policy of the Fort Worth Independent School District. (Note: **Dennis Gaster** will not be doing a newsletter for July and August). These policies will be further reviewed at the June and September meetings as we hope to get additional input from other members not present.

TEXAS (SOUTH)

Rosendo Trevino, ARCSE Representative

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San Antonio, Texas hosted the 25th Anniversary of the National Association of Professional Hispanic NRCS Employees (NOPHNRCSE) June 9th 2018. Eight of the Organization's past fourteen presidents were in attendance.



From Left to Right: Carlos Suarez, Humberto Hernandez (Ret.), Pedro Ramos, Rebecca de la Torre, Michael Margo (President), Bertha Venegas, Rosendo Trevino (Ret.), Astrid Martinez, and Rafael Guerrero.

The first Conference was also held in San Antonio, May 24th 1993. A few of SCS leadership attended: **Galen Bridge, Gene Andreucetti, Manly Wilder, Sherman Lewis, Martha Marbury, Dennie Burns, Mel Goldsborough, Wes Oneth (Hosting STC) Charles Adams, Pearlie Reed, Ray Margo Jr. (Interim President) Elesa Catrell, Coy Garrett, Bill Miliken** and many more.

WASHINGTON, DC, NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

John Peterson, ARCSE Representative

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Washington Capital Area Retirees Luncheon, Fort Meyer Officer's Club, Arlington, VA

When former **First Lady Barbara Bush** passed away on Tuesday evening, April 17th, 2018 at 92, it brought back a memory for **Blanche** and myself that we will treasure forever. I thought I had better capture it for our family.

In about 1987, when I was the Deputy Chief (Administration/ Management) for the United States Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service (SCS), **George H. W. Bush** was the U.S. vice president (1981-1989). He held a goodbye reception for a staff person who was leaving his staff and moving on to the Smithsonian Institution. The reception was held in Constitution Hall, and many federal agency heads and their deputies for management were invited who had worked with the lady honored. The SCS Chief at the time was a political appointee who could not attend, but Blanche and I did.

When we arrived at Constitution Hall, and we were among the first to arrive, there was a long reception line with the honoree and **Barbara and George Bush** at the end. We were in a huge ballroom. The reception line was the first thing attendees encountered as they entered. About 100 feet past VP Bush was a huge bar, and the room was filled with tables, chairs, and food. I was ahead of Blanche in the reception line.

One of Barbara Bush's big activities was to support education. Just before this reception, she had made some awards to exceptional schools. Blanche was teaching at Sydenstricker School then, which was a highly regarded pre-school in Springfield, VA.

As I got to the head of the line and shook hands with VP Bush, thinking Blanche was right behind me, I made a bee-line for the bar. I ordered my usual beer and looked around for Blanche. Just as her turn had come to shake hands with Mrs. Bush, a friend of the Bush's came over, and the entire line stopped while they had a short exchange. While Blanche was waiting, in her pearls no less, she was wondering what to say in her 15 seconds. When Mrs. Bush turned to Blanche, Blanche thanked her for her promotion and encouragement of reading at young ages. Blanche said she taught at a school that had received the Presidential Award, and reading to children was one of her favorite activities. That struck a chord with Mrs. Bush, and she talked with Blanche for some time, stopping the entire receiving line. As the conversation ended, she shook Blanche's hand and said, "Thank you, Blanche." Yes, Blanche had a name tag on, but she was still impressed that Mrs. Bush took time to read it. I am sure that those in line behind Blanche were looking fondly at the bar they could not get to.

Needless to say, Barbara Bush has a special place in our hearts. The former First Lady was always so gracious and well-mannered. But I will never forget the time she took time to talk education with Blanche, keeping many other people in a reception line from getting to the bar. That was a hoot.

Saline Soils and Pheasants

I think many of my NRCS colleagues will enjoy this article from the SD Outdoor Forum on an innovative saline soils initiative in SD (Andrew Johnson, editor). The S&P Committee members should also. If any of you want to contact the author, Andrew Johnson, who also edits the newspaper, his email is ajohnson@aberdeennews.com. He was very gracious in letting me send this to you. The link to the article is below.

<https://www.theoutdoorforum.net/index.php/2018/06/08/pheasant-saline-soils/>

Back in the 80s, when I was Director of SCS's Program Integration Division, we did a study on saline soils. The principal author was **John Lowry**, an economist from IL who is now retired in AZ. I wish I knew how to find that study. Maybe someone who gets this can help me.

Two unlikely partners have joined forces to combat a growing soil health problem in South Dakota, and the state's pheasant population stands to benefit. Earlier this year the South Dakota Corn Growers Association and Pheasants Forever both pledged \$100,000 toward a saline soils initiative. The two membership organizations have had differing views on various land management practices over the years, but the threat saline soils pose to the state's landscape has provided common ground. "We've always been viewed as adversaries—right, wrong or indifferent—but we actually have the same viewpoints on many things and share common thoughts about what's going on across the landscape," said **Matt Morlock**, acting director for Pheasants Forever in South Dakota. "The impact of saline soils is an area of concern for them and for us, so it was a logical place to start a partnership." As a result, perennial grasses and the resulting wildlife habitat they provide, especially nesting cover, will soon take the place of struggling row crops on white-caked saline soils in central South Dakota.

On June 19th, **John Peterson** was invited to attend a Soil Health Practices Conference held at the French Embassy in Washington, DC. In addition to the experience of being in the embassy, **John** met some old SWCD friends in attendance. Among them was **Ernie Shea**, a past NACD Executive Director. **John** was also pleased to see an NRCS Soils expert, **Dr. Bianca Moebius-Clune** as a panelist.

John and Blanche Peterson also attended The Land Improvement Contractors of America's (LICA's) summer conference in Grand Rapids, MI July 9-13. The NRCS Engineering Division made a presentation on conservation practice standards there. Then it was a quick trip home where the **Petersons** had tickets to Major League Baseball's 89th All-Star summer classic on July 17th.

Doug Helms made another trip to Monaco in June to see Grand Prix races and see the sights. He rode the train from Milan to Monaco, and his hotel looked out over the Mediterranean. Sounds like fun!

Charles Krauthammer really did love his Nats. At many a game we would see him drive his wheelchair to the elevator taking him up to his seats. And he was always smiling as he went. This family will really miss him.

WASHINGTON

Ken Kaul, ARCSE Representative

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Health issues seem to dominate our meetings. **Jud Melton** reports: "I'm sorry that I am unable to attend the monthly luncheons. I'd like to. It's been a year ago today that I fell and injured my neck (spinal cord). It's been a tough year for us. I've been home since October and slowly, very slowly, regaining use of my limbs and digits. One therapist said my recovery would be one fingernail thickness per day and that's about it. I can get around the house with a walker and do some things for myself.

The therapists come four times a week to stretch me out, and it's working but very slowly, which is frustrating to me. **Jerry Richards** continues chemotherapy to treat his pancreatic cancer. **Larry Edmonds** continues to lose weight and gain strength and stamina. **Lennie Husa** continues to make improvements and hopes to return to our monthly get-togethers. We are all looking forward to a great summer."

Tina and I will be on a road trip in June to visit children and grandchildren in TN and NC. We attended two of our granddaughters' graduations, one in Idaho and one in Texas.

WEST VIRGINIA

Peg Reese, ARCSE Representative

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Diana Doerr, Program Assistant at the Morgantown State Office, retired on March 31st, 2018 and **JR Wolfe**, Farm Bill Program Specialist at the Morgantown State Office retired on April 28th, 2018. JR has returned part-time as an ACES employee. Former NRCS Computer Specialist **Beverly Stemple** retired March 2nd, 2018.

Alan Staddon and his wife "just returned from a wonderful vacation which took us through the National Parks of the western United States. Our daughter, husband and two grand-children arrived from Australia and met us in Las Vegas, NV where we rented a 30-foot motorhome on June 1st and started our journey. Traveling over 3,000 miles in 20 days was quite an adventure. We visited the south rim of the Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Canyon Lands National Park, Dinosaur National Monument, Arches National Park, Yellowstone National Park, Mount Rushmore National Monument and Rocky Mountain National Park. Our family grew a little "closer" as we traveled around and through these beautiful and scenic places. From the deep and colorful canyons to the high mountain passes where the elk graze. From dry and desolate deserts to thunderous waterfalls with rainbow mist.

From snow covered mountains to the aroma of the thick Ponderosa pines. From blooming spring mountain flowers to a tall standing Grizzly Bear. We do have a GREAT place to live and enjoy life. We are truly thankful to have had a safe and memorable time in God's creation."

Engineer **Wes Morrow** retired from his post-NRCS job at Thrasher Engineering. Wes is using his newly-freed time to make repairs on his home, train for fencing competitions, and spend more time with his family. One recent highpoint in his life is the graduation of his daughter from WVU. As the first member of his family to graduate from college, Wes is proud that all five members of his family are now WVU graduates.

Judy Fairbanks is "proud to finish my four-year term on the Board of Education by making the motion for our new Tucker County Superintendent, **Alicia Lambert**. She may be the youngest in our state and the prettiest."



WISCONSIN

James Enlow, ARCSE Representative

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The Wisconsin retirees met on June 14th at Langford's Pub & Grill in Green Lake, WI to have lunch and fellowship.

Erv Lesczynski and **Steve Prissel** were the gracious hosts. Those attending included **Vic Price**, **Ron Lowery**, **Steve Prissel**, **Bob Bricco**, **Ted Manning**, **Mark Buelke**, **Gene Nimmer**, **Rick Zirk**, **Larry Decker**, **Pat Murphy** and **Erv Lesczynski**.

The group enjoyed great food, great camaraderie and great fellowship. Lots of SCS and NRCS history was discussed. **Howard Gundlach** was called to jury duty and was sitting on a jury as they dined.

The next luncheon is scheduled for August 9th at the Cross Country Bar and Grill, Rhinelander, WI. **Jim Barnes** will be the host.

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. Only one for this edition.*

Joe M. Kenyon

Hillsborough, NC

SENIOR CONSERVATIONIST CHRONICLE

by Marc Safley, Chronicler, Senior Conservationist

Senior Conservationist

Arthur B. Holland

Senior Conservationist **Arthur (Art) Holland** was born September 3rd, 1932, in Charleston, WV. He was raised in Elkview, WV. His interest in agriculture began at home; his father taught vocational agriculture at the local high school. Art was active in the 4-H program from 5th grade through his university years. He was one of four 4-H'ers selected to attend the National 4-H Camp in 1950. And, he received a scholarship from Esso for his 4-H activities that paid his tuition at West Virginia University. Art enrolled in West Virginia University where he pursued a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural engineering. He worked at various jobs during the summers leading up to graduation. Among these was a job with the University of Maryland's Entomology Department, at Fort Belvoir (VA) with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and as a Student Trainee with SCS at Clarksburg, WVA. He graduated in 1955. That same year he enlisted with the Corps of Engineers as a 2nd Lieutenant. Art served in France at the Chinon Engineer Depot from June 1955 until January 1957. He was honorably discharged in 1957 as a 1st Lieutenant.

Art was hired by SCS in 1957 and was assigned to be the federal representative on PL-566 projects in WV. Following that job, Art was made State Construction Engineer then promoted to Assistant State Conservation Engineer for WV. In 1967 he was promoted to State Conservation Engineer for SCS in Alabama. In 1971 he was again promoted to National Planning Engineer and Snow Survey Liaison on the National Engineering Division staff at SCS headquarters. It wasn't long, though, before he became head of the Northeast Planning and Design Unit at Upper Darby, PA. In the late 1970s he accepted the position of Director of the Northeast Technical Service Center at Broomall, PA. That office was subsequently relocated to Chester, PA. Art retired from SCS on April 1, 1994.

During and after his career with SCS, Art has been involved with personnel training and working with local residents on conservation concerns. He was an instructor at the Coshocton (OH) and Michigan training centers for construction inspectors. He has been an associate member of the Chester County (PA) and Beaufort County (SC) Conservation Districts. Art also served on the Westtown (PA) Planning Commission.

Art has three children, eight grandchildren, and one great granddaughter born in June of this year. He has been married twice. His interests beyond his family include golf, bridge, square dancing, and tossing horseshoes. He lives in Bluffton, SC, and says that it is a wonderful location with very stimulating residents and much to do.

OBITUARY INFORMATION

Ron Marlow, Secretary-Treasurer

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

Surname

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

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| Bacon | Honorary Member and Senior Conservationist Samuel "Sam" Rankin Bacon (106) of Cookeville, Tennessee passed away on September 9, 2006 in his sleep at his Cookeville home. He was born in Glencoe, Maryland and grew up on a dairy farm there. Friends remember Bacon for his independence and active life, as well as his generosity toward a variety of community projects. He was delivering meals on wheels to people when he was over 100. He graduated from the University of Maryland in 1924 with a degree in agriculture. Sam's career in agriculture was very beneficial to farmers, beginning in 1928 and continuing through 1963 as a soil conservationist for the federal Department of Agriculture in Soil Science and Soil Conservation. He worked in 10 states. After his retirement from soil conservation, Bacon worked for the next 30 years distributing small items to retail stores. He and his late wife, Reba , were instrumental in establishing the Cumberland Art Society, and for more than 17 years, he delivered Meals on Wheels to the homebound elderly, many of whom were younger than he was. His family includes two daughters, Janet Baggett of Nashville and Suzanne Bacon of Clinton, MD; and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Reba Bacon; a brother and two sisters. |
| Bennett | Otis Bennett (83) of Owasso, Oklahoma passed away on March 12, 2018. Otis retired as an RC&D Coordinator for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. |
| Casey | William Hunter Casey (96) of Lexington, Kentucky passed away on May 9, 2018 at Thomson-Hood Veterans Center in Wilmore. Born in Mercer County, he was a United States Army Air Corp Veteran, a graduate of the University of Michigan and a State Wildlife Biologist with the USDA Soil Conservation Service. Bill was a member of the Harrodsburg Baptist Church and an avid hunter and fisherman. Survivors, in addition to his wife of seventy years, Thelma "Jean" Casey are, two sons: Daniel H (Michelle) Casey of O'Fallon, IL and David K. Casey of Lexington, and two grandchildren. He was preceded in death by one brother: James H. Casey and a half-brother: Travis Casey . To share your memories or to leave a message for the family, please visit: www.alexanderandroyalty.com |
| Coleman | Roger D. Coleman (95) of Oskaloosa, Kansas passed away on January 29, 2018, at the Kansas City Hospice and Palliative Care Center in Kansas City, MO. Roger was born in Atchison, KS and was a graduate of Atchison High School. He received a Bachelor's Degree in Agronomy from Kansas State University and a Master Degree in Public Administration from UMKC. He was an Eagle Scout. He served in the US Navy from 1941 to 1946 and was stationed in Eureka, CA at a Lighter than Air Base and on the USS Lexington Aircraft Carrier as a part of the occupation forces in Japan. Roger farmed at Larkinburg, KS |

for a few years after graduating from KSU. In 1959 he began working for the USDA Soil Conservation Service (NRCS) in Olathe, KS. He filled several roles including District Conservationist and Resource Conservationist for the Kansas City Metropolitan Area. He retired in 1992. Roger was a member of many organizations including being the oldest member of the Oskaloosa Rotary Club and a Paul Harris Fellow. He was a member of the Soil Conservation Society of America and a founder and former president of the Kansas Wildflower Society. He served on the Jefferson County Conservation Board as a supervisor and won several soil conservation awards through the years. He was also a member of the Oskaloosa United Methodist Church and served on several different boards. Roger married **Maxine Grace Davitt** while they were in college at KSU on December 23, 1947. She preceded him in death in 1973. He married **Jacqueline Louise Merryfield** in August, 1974. She preceded him in death on September 9, 2007. He is also preceded in death by a son **Doug Coleman**. Survivors include a son **Donald (Patricia) Coleman** Lenexa, a daughter, **Janis (Terry) Abramovitz**, Shawnee, seven grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Oskaloosa United Methodist Church or Kansas City Hospice and Palliative Care sent in care of the funeral home PO Box 602, Oskaloosa, KS 66066. Online condolences may be made at www.barnettfamilyfh.com

- Espey** **Royce W. Espey, Sr.** (81) of Halifax County, North Carolina passed away on June 20, 2018. Royce retired as Planning Engineer on the River Basin/Watershed Planning staff of the Soil Conservation Service in Raleigh where he worked for more than 20 years. Royce graduated from the University of Tennessee earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Engineering. Following college, he served his country with the U. S. Army from 1959 to 1962. Royce is survived by his three sons, **Royce W. Espey, Jr.** and his wife **Terri** of Fuquay Varina, **Gary G. Espey** of Wake Forest and **James L. Espey** and his wife **Debbie** of Lexington Park, MD; two sisters, **Sue Tinkle**, and **Geraldine Binkley** and her husband **Billy** all of Dyer County, TN; sister-in-law, **Althea Espey** of Baton Rouge, LA; three granddaughters, a grandson and great-granddaughter. Online condolences can be directed to the family by visiting www.letchworthsykesfs.com. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of your choice in memory of Royce.
- Foster** **Charles Calvin Foster** (97) formerly of Washington, Kansas, passed away on May 13, 2018 at Mustang Creek Estates, Sachse, Texas. He was born in Trenton, Missouri. He grew up in Effingham, Kansas, went to Parsons Junior College, and graduated from Kansas State University. Charles worked for the Soil Conservation Service as a District in Osborne, Oskaloosa, and Washington, all in Kansas, retiring in 1983. Charles was preceded in death by: his wife, **Evelyn**; and one grandson. He is survived by five children; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and one brother, **Raymond Foster**, of Horton, Kansas. Memorials may be made to the First United Church, of Washington, in honor of Charles Foster.
- Hager** **Roger F. Hager** (76) of Dillsburg, Pennsylvania passed away on April 20, 2018, at the Milton Hershey Medical Center surrounded by his loving family following post-surgical complications. He was born in Waukon, IA. Roger was a 1964 graduate of Iowa State University, later receiving a second degree from the University of Wisconsin with degrees in Agronomy and Business. In 1971, Roger moved to Pennsylvania. He was a long-time employee of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, retiring as a contract specialist in 2003. Roger also served on the board of the Dillsburg Area Public Library. Roger was a legendary personality who had a deep appreciation for the people and things he loved and was a phenomenal influence on his children, grandchildren and all who knew him. He was a voracious reader and student of history, with a special passion for World War II events. Roger is survived by his wife, **Linda C. (Obyle) Hager**; as well as his daughter, **Sarah Hager Crone** and her husband **Leon** of Mechanicsburg; a step-daughter, **Laura Martino** and her husband **Peter** of Clinton, NY; a step-son, **Peter Dohner** and his wife **Beth Ann D'Agostino** of Dillsburg; six grandchildren; and a brother and a sister. Memorial contributions may be made to the Dillsburg Area Public Library, 204 Mumper Lane, Dillsburg, PA 17019 or the Lutheran Camping Corp., P.O. Box 459, Arendtsville, PA 17303.
- Held** **Robert J. Held** (90) of Pershing, Missouri passed away on April 25, 2018 at Hermann Area District Hospital. Robert was born in Pershing. He graduated from Hermann High School. He then went on to attend college at University of Missouri where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree. He worked for the Soil Conservation Service as a Soil Scientist. Robert proudly served his country in the U.S. Air Force and was a member of Zion-St. Peter's United Church of Christ. Robert is survived by a brother, **Jim Held** & wife **Betty**, of Hermann; a sister **Marilyn Homeister** of Tiffin, Ohio; a sister-in-law **Bettie Held**, of Morrison. He is preceded in death by his parents, a brother and a brother-in-law. A private memorial service will be held at a later date. Memorial donations may be given to Zion-St. Peter's United Church of Christ. C/O Toedtman & Grosse Funeral Home.
- Ireland** Senior Conservationist **William Ireland** (95) of Georgetown, Delaware passed away on September 3, 2007. William was a Soil Scientist with the Soil Conservation Service, retiring in 1971.
- Kilian** Senior Conservationist **Leonard John Kilian** (91) of Ridgeway, North Carolina passed away on January 6, 2018. Leonard retired as Soil Conservation Technician in Warren County. He was a lifelong resident of Warren County. He was a US Air Force Veteran, a farmer, and a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church where he held many offices. After retirement, he served on the Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District Board until his death. He was a member of the local Farm Bureau for forty years and was also a member of the Cattleman's Association. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Faye Roberson Kilian**. He is survived by his son, **John Farrar Kilian**, seven nieces and five nephews.
- Laurie** **Jerry Wendell Laurie** (79) of Maysville, Kentucky passed away on June 16, 2018, at Kenton Pointe Care Center in Maysville. He was born in Manchester, Ohio. Jerry was a graduate of Ohio State University, a field man with Carnation Milk Co. for 16 years, and retired from the Natural Resources Conservation Service after 20 years of service in Bracken, Mason and Robertson counties. He was also a member and trustee at Trinity Lutheran Church in Maysville, member of Aberdeen Lions Club, former City Council member, and former volunteer coach for the Knothole Baseball and Peewee Basketball. Jerry is survived by his wife of 54 years, **Carolyn Bachtel Laurie**. He is also survived by his son, **Jay (Jeane Kropp) Laurie** of Madison, WI. Memorials are suggested to Trinity Lutheran Church or Hospice of Hope. Condolences may be sent to www.mooreandparkerfh.com
- McLoda** Life Member and Senior Conservationist **Niles Allan McLoda** (88) of Midlothian, Virginia formerly of Amelia, passed away on June 23, 2018. Niles retired in 1988 as the State Soil Scientist for Virginia with the USDA Soil Conservation Service. He was preceded in death by his parents, **John and Maybelle**; and his brothers, **Dale and William**. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, **Jane**; his daughters, **Gail Weatherford (Irl)** and **Nancy McLoda (Brooks Smith)**; two granddaughters, **Sarah and Allison Weatherford**; and siblings, **Neal McLoda**, **Noreen Collins** and **Sherill "Cookie" McLoda**. Burial was in the

Virginia Veterans Cemetery at Amelia with military honors. Condolences may be left at www.hillsmanhix.com.

- Miller** **Jean Brakefield Miller** (89) of Irvine, Kentucky passed away on June 12, 2017 at St. Joseph Hospital in Lexington. A native of Estill County, Jean was the widow of Francis Green Miller who retired from the Soil Conservation Service. Jean was a retired Vice President of the Estill Savings & Loan, who enjoyed travel and working on her yard. She was preceded in death by her infant daughter **Teresa Ann Miller**; six brothers, three sisters; and a great-grandson. Survivors include her son **Steven (Shirley) Miller**; her daughters **Penny (Charlie) West**, and **Joan (Eric) Minton**; and six grandsons. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested memorial donations to Marcum Wallace Hospital, Estill County Ambulance Service, or the Estill County Public Library.
- Nance** Member **Luke Atkinson Nance, Jr. P.E.** of Columbia, South Carolina passed away on May 1, 2018. He was born in Galivant's Ferry, SC. A graduate of Aynor High, he received a degree in Agricultural Engineering from Clemson College. Lt. Nance served in the 3rd Armor Division US Army at Fort Knox, KY, and Ayers Kaserne, Kirch Gons, West Germany. He received his master's in Ag Eng. from Clemson University. He was a registered Professional Engineer in both Agricultural and Civil Engineering. Luke was an engineer at Lockwood Greene Engineers in Spartanburg, SC, for two years. He was a Planning Engineer for Natural Resources Conservation Service/USDA, formerly SCS, for over 50 years, the last nine years as a volunteer. Luke received many awards and honors through the years for his excellent work, knowledge, and dedication, including volunteer of the year several times, plus President Obama's Call To Service Award for over 6000 volunteer hours. He was a member of NSPE, ASABE, ARCSE, and SCSPE which awarded him the Young Engineer of the Year award in 1973 and the Engineer of the Year award in 2017. He belonged to Washington Street UMC for over 50 years where he served as a member of the choir for over 30 years. He was President of the Columbia High Band Boosters and the PTO. He survived his many battles spanning 22 years with a cavernous angioma on the brain stem through hard work and persistence with the aid of his devoted wife, as well as many skilled therapists. He is survived by his wife of over 55 years, **Laurely Kyrilach Nance**; children, **Marcy Reid (Tom)**, **Eva Nance (Kimberly McAlister)**, **Tom Nance (Catherine Stapleton)**; sister, **Sarah Nance Burns (John)**; sister-in-law, **Jann Morton Nance**; and five grandchildren. He was predeceased by his parents and a brother, **Lewis E. Nance**. Memorials may be made to the Music Ministries at Washington Street UMC, 1401 Washington Street, Columbia, SC 29201; Angioma Alliance, 161 Jefferson Drive, Palmyra, VA 22963 or SCSPE Educational Foundation for MathCounts, SCSPE, PO Box 11937, Columbia, SC 29211. Condolences may be shared at ShivesFuneralHome.com.
- Perales** **Anna M. Perales** (73) of Columbus, Ohio passed away on June 4, 2018. Anna was born in Duluth, MN. She retired from the USDA with over 40 years of dedicated service. Many of her years were spent loyally working for the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). She was a member of the Chisolm Society, Oneida Organization and the National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA) sponsoring tribal elders. She was passionately active in local, state, and national Native American affairs and culture. Anna was very proud of her Ojibwe and Fond du Lac heritage and avidly researched genealogy. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by children **Sheralyn Brown** and **Michael Perales**; and three siblings. Anna is survived by three children, eleven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren; a sister and a brother. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Anna's memory to Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities - Adult Services 2879 Johnstown Road Columbus, OH 43219. Visit www.schoedinger.com
- Potter** **Gayle Ann Potter** (71) of Columbia, Missouri passed away on June 15, 2018. Gayle was born in Columbia. She was a graduate of Hickman High School and attended the University of Missouri. She was married on Oct. 16, 1970, in Columbia, to Cordes L. Potter who preceded her in death on March 25, 2016. Cordes was a design engineer with NRCS. She was a chef, seamstress, singer, florist, gardener, writer, fisherman, Gram, mother, sister, Christmas decorating queen, and philosopher. Survivors include two daughters, **Robyn Goodman (Brett)** of Gainesville, Fla. and **Samantha Potter** of Columbia; three grandchildren, two sisters, and a brother. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.memorialfuneralhomeandcemetery.com.
- Price** **Alan Barton Price** (68) passed away on April 23, 2018 after a ten year struggle with CLL (Leukemia). He graduated in the Class of 1967 at Albany R-III High School, Albany, MO, and on January 20th, 1973, he married **Paula Ann Bonham** in the First Presbyterian Church, Albany. Paula is the area clerk with the NRCS at Bethany, Missouri. Additional Survivors: son, **Andrew B. Price (Cindy)** and four granddaughters. Alan's post high school graduation included two years of Junior College at Wentworth Military Academy in historic Lexington, MO, where he lettered in soccer and completed an Associates of Arts Degree. He then transferred to NW Missouri State University and completed a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration, Class of 1972. In 1984 Alan completed the educational and on the job training requirements to become an Electrical Lineman at United Electric Cooperative in Savannah, MO. Alan served proudly in the Missouri National Guard Unit A Battery, 129th Field Artillery Company, Albany, MO for nine years. He received an Honorable discharge as Chief of Section #3 Gun.
- Sauerwein** **Margaret Sauerwein** of Tigard, Oregon passed away on May 17, 2018. She was preceded in death by her husband **Bill Sauerwein** in 2007. Bill retired from the Soil Conservation Service as the forester at the WNTC in Portland.
- Schwant** **Betty Mae Schwant** (71) of Seneca, Kansas passed away on July 8, 2017 at her home. She was born in the Onaga Hospital and attended Onaga Grade School and High School, graduating in 1964. Betty attended Crum's Beauty School, graduating in March of 1965. She was a member of the First Lutheran Church in Sabetha. Betty married **Eldon Schwant** on October 9, 1966 at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Wheaton. Eldon retired 2005 from the SCS as the District Conservationist in Seneca. They celebrated their fiftieth anniversary this past October. He survives, of the home. Betty owned and operated the Hair Affair beauty salon in her home in Seneca. She also worked various jobs around town. Other survivors include a son and two daughters, nine grandchildren, two brothers, and two sisters.
- Seeley** **Raymond Harold Seeley** (93) of Charleston, Illinois passed away on May 13, 2018 while at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center. Ray was born in Harvey, Illinois. He attended a country school near Lerna, Illinois before enlisting with the United States Army, faithfully serving his country during WWII. Ray married **Alice M. (Hayes) Warman** on October 14, 1977 at the Charleston Otterbein United Methodist Church and they shared 40 wonderful years of marriage. Ray loved being outdoors and enjoyed activities such as boating, camping, fishing and tending to his vegetable garden. His fondness for traveling was shared by Alice, and their travels to the western states, including Alaska and Hawaii, were memorable. In addition to his loving and devoted wife, he is survived by three sons, **John (Penny) Seeley** of Hendersonville, NC, **Ron Seeley** of Fisher,

IL and **Jim (Dortha) Seeley** of Middletown, IL; two stepsons, **Clyde (Trish) Warman** of Bullhead City, AZ and **Darrell (Debbie) Warman** of Charleston; seven grandchildren; twelve great-grandchildren; seven great-great-grandchildren; and a sister, **Phyllis Christoff** of McDonald, OH. Ray was also preceded in death by a sister, **Wilma Pedigo** and two daughters-in-law. Ray was employed for more than 30 years as a soil conservation technician with the USDA Soil Conservation Service. He was a member of the Otterbein United Methodist Church in Charleston; a Life Member of the Charleston VFW Paul McVey Post 1592; the Charleston Moose Lodge #1388; and a former member of the Charleston Elks Club B.P.O.E. #623. It is requested that donations in his honor be made to the American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Coles County or the Charleston VFW Paul McVey Post 1592. Gifts may be left at the visitation or service or mailed in care of Adams Funeral Chapel, 2330 Shawnee Dr., Charleston, IL 61920.

Speed **Ruby Speed** (101) of Pawnee, Oklahoma, formerly a resident of Huntsville, passed away on December 6, 2016 in her home in Pawnee. Ruby retired in 1980 as a fiscal clerk with the USDA Soil Conservation Service. She leaves behind her son, **Roger Brashear** of Pawnee, grandson **Stephen Brashear** of Orlando, Florida, and her daughter **Debra B. Simpson** of Huntsville.

White **Edgar A. White, Jr.** (66) of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania passed away on May 30, 2018, after a brief battle with cancer. Ed retired in 2011 as the State Soil Scientist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Wisner **Carol R. Wisner** (76) of Ames, Iowa passed away on June 14, 2018, at Bethany Life in Story City, Iowa. Carol was born in York, NE and graduated from York High School in 1960 and Mounds Midway School of Nursing in St. Paul, MN in 1963. She worked as an RN until her retirement in 1995. Carol is survived by her loving husband of 54 years, **Robin**, a daughter, a son and five grandchildren, and one great-grandson. Robin retired as a soil scientist with NRCS. In lieu of flowers memorials can be made out to Bethany Life or Mt. Hermon Christian Camp. Online condolences and photos can be shared at www.adamssoderstrum.com.



**DEADLINE FOR
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER
NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS IS
AUGUST 25TH, 2018**