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NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter for Retired SCS and NRCS Employees

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

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NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

John Stierna

Congress—Very little is happening right now concerning agricultural appropriations. Both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have done their work and reported out their respective agricultural appropriations bills, but neither bill has yet been scheduled for consideration on the floor. It is likely that all appropriation bills will be rolled together into an omnibus bill for consideration either in September or after the November election.

The committee-approved Senate bill would provide \$864.5 million to NRCS for Conservation Operations, about \$9 million more than the House. Watershed and flood prevention operations, \$150 million, but watershed rehabilitation work would be blocked by the general provisions in the bill. Of the farm bill programs, EQIP was capped at \$1,347 million, \$78 million less than the \$1,425 million in the House bill. Other farm bill conservation programs were not capped in the Senate bill. The guaranteed conservation loan program administered by FSA received the full \$150 million, the same as the House bill. (The House bill details were provided in the April newsletter.)

The House Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management held a hearing this past week to educate members about innovations in agricultural imagery and technology. This is the second hearing in a series examining Big Data and its role in agriculture. The subcommittee heard from a variety of stakeholders about using satellites, manned airplanes, and Unmanned Aerial Systems (drones) as a way to collect imagery that farmers can leverage to make better business and conservation decisions for their farms. As technology continues to evolve, the witnesses stressed the importance of maintaining the privacy of individual farmers and ranchers and ensuring that their data is protected. The testimony of **Robert Blair**, a farmer from Kendrick, Idaho, is particularly interesting. Here is a link:

<http://agriculture.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=3452>

NRCS—The final rule for the EQIP program was published in the Federal Register on May 12th. While changes from the interim rule were modest, the preamble to the final rule includes a summary of comments received during the comment period. The final rule can be found at:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/05/12/2016-10161/environmental-quality-incentives-program-eqip>

Revisions are coming to the Conservation Stewardship Program. **Chief Jason Weller** will be providing a status summary to constituency groups at a meeting on June 27th. The final rule should be published in the near future.

USDA is making \$2 million available this year from EQIP to help farmers install edge-of-field stations that monitor water quality as it leaves their fields, providing data to evaluate the success of various conservation efforts. The funding is available to farmers located across key watersheds in nine states and is part of USDA's ongoing commitment to measure the effectiveness of a wide range of conservation initiatives. Installed monitoring systems will be in place for up to nine years, giving time to measure the impact of conservation systems on water quality under different conditions. Hopefully, NRCS will also look at the multiple benefits of most conservation systems and not limit the evaluations solely to water quality.

Secretary Vilsack announced the allocation of \$15 million in EQIP funding to help producers on private working lands better conserve water resources. This is intended to strengthen federal response to ongoing and potential drought across 13 states in the West. The Bureau of Reclamation also is providing funding to help water districts improve water and energy efficiency. Read more at:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD1160006>

Late in April, NRCS announced a three year conservation strategy for the Lesser Prairie Chicken by restoring grasslands and prairie ecosystems while enhancing grazing lands. The goal is to restore about a half million acres of habitat through voluntary conservation adoption that also protects

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES

working lands from wildfires and climate extremes. Read more about it here:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD966606>

Soil Health—Former Chief Bruce Knight has written an opinion piece focused on soil health as a critical element to consider as part of the next Farm Bill. He argues for needed research and program improvements to enable producers to get the highest sustainable yields and production needed to sustain a growing global population. Great reading! See it at:

<http://Agri-pulse.com/2018-Farm-Bill-Soil-Health-06222016.asp>

Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule—Both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have included a provision in the EPA funding bill that will block EPA and the Corps of Engineers from implementing the WOTUS rule (also called the Clean Water rule), if the courts remove the stay that currently applies across the country. However, any bill with this provision making its way to the White House is likely to be vetoed by the President. This controversial rule will ultimately be decided in the courts.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Cecil Currin

I just registered for the 71st SWCS international conference in Louisville, KY. This must be about 30 times I have registered for the annual conference, and it has always been enlightening, interesting and fun. The program this year, entitled “Managing Great River Landscapes,” will be exciting with outstanding speakers and lots of opportunity for interaction. With our thousands of years of experience, ARCSE members can bring a wealth of knowledge to the conference, and I encourage members to participate in the SWCS conference when you come to the ARCSE annual luncheon.

Our founders wisely linked the ARCSE annual meeting with the SWCS annual meeting. The two organizations do have a common thread, conservation of our natural resources. I quote from the ARCSE charter. “The purpose of the association is to help its members keep in touch with each other and with NRCS and its activities and to view conservation problems and programs from a non-governmental point of view so that the members may be better able to assist the conservation effort.” Many of us are also SWCS members and supporters. The following is quoted from the SWCS mission statement: “Our mission is to foster the science and art of natural resource conservation. Our work targets conservation of soil, water and related natural resources on working land—the land used to produce food fiber and other services that improve the quality of life people experience in rural and urban communities. We work to discover, develop, implement and constantly improve ways to use land that sustains its productive capacity and enhances the environment at the same time.” ARCSE and SWCS work hand-in-hand and both annual meetings are worthwhile. I can guarantee you will see someone you know.

Many of us are still active in conservation districts, clubs and organizations where our learned SCS/NRCS skills still positively impact our natural resources. I help my next door neighbor on his very progressive farm. It is fun to set up a transit and lay out a drain, foundation or irrigation pipeline. What I am saying is, we are still relevant and we can contribute to the science and art of good land use. The SWCS annual conference and the ARCSE annual meeting is the one best place to renew old acquaintances, meet new and interesting folks and contribute to the conservation of our very special natural resources. Please join us for the ARCSE annual luncheon and participate in the SWCS annual conference.

2016 Annual Luncheon Reservations

The ARCSE Annual Luncheon will be held on Monday, July 25th, 2016 in the Suites Tower, 3rd floor, in the Beckham Room at the Galt House Hotel, 140 N. 4th Street, Louisville, Kentucky 40202. The social hour is at 11am, lunch at 12pm until around 2:30pm. **Reservations are due by Friday, July 15th.** The reservation form was included with the hardcopy May/June Newsletter and was also distributed by email to all members receiving the electronic copy. The form is also available at:

<http://www.arcse.org/Luncheon-form.pdf>

A BIT OF HISTORY

Douglas Helms, Historian

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Boundary Stones and Benjamin Banneker

Boundary stones many not pertain to the history of SCS and NRCS, but I think they may be of interest as they pertain to your nation's Capital. Something I see on my all-too-infrequent bicycles rides on the Washington & Old Dominion Trail provided the inspiration.

The Residence Act of July 16, 1790 approved the creation of a 100-square mile federal district along the Potomac River in Virginia and Maryland. **Benjamin Banneker**, a Black Maryland surveyor, established the south corner of the ten-mile square. Thereafter, **Major Andrew Ellicott** and his survey team placed stone markers at one-mile intervals as they surveyed the boundaries. In 1846 Congress returned the land originally ceded by Virginia. The Virginia portion now comprises Arlington County and a portion of the City of Alexandria. Many of the boundary stones continue to be of value as county/city boundaries.



Boundary Stone for District of Columbia, SW 9 in Benjamin Banneker Park along Four Mile Run



Guide to boundary stones: <http://www.boundarystones.org>

Map at Library of Congress:

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3850.ct000503/>

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 |

MEMBERSHIP

New Members

By Ron Marlow, Secretary Treasurer

| | | | |
|---------------|----|-----------------|----|
| Archer, Earl | TX | Perry, Janet | VA |
| Cox, Sheila | IA | Townsend, Lyn | CA |
| Green, Bruce | MI | Walker, Beverly | GA |
| Morrell, Nick | IA | | |

Commentary on Obituary Information

By Art Holland, South Carolina Member

Just received the last edition of our newsletter, and the obituary information always interest me. Not that anyone cares, but the ages of the deceased are very interesting. The average age of the 106 deceased listed this year (2016 through April) was 84.1 years old, and 67% were over the age of 80. For those having reached age 80, their age at time of passing was 88.7. Retired SCS'ers are living almost as long as they worked, receiving much more than their salary during their years of employment. Using this as a barometer, it looks as if many of us still have some time left.

Ron Marlow adds the following: ARCSE currently has 76 members who are 90 or older, and 367 that are 80 or older, nearly 40%.

ARCSE REPRESENTATIVES

By Ron Marlow, Secretary Treasurer

Introducing New State Representatives

On behalf of the ARCSE Board, I want to welcome several new state representatives. Upon retirement of ARCSE state representative **Chuck Houston**, the new state representative for Nevada is **Liz Warner**. **Liz** retired in 2013 as the NRCS Public Affairs Specialist in Reno, Nevada. Upon the retirement of **Byron Thompson**, the new state representatives in South Carolina are **Grady Adkins** and **Ellis Morrow**. **Grady** retired as the State Conservation Engineer and **Ellis** retired as the Assistant States Conservationist in Columbia, South Carolina. The ARCSE Board deeply appreciates Chuck's and Byron's efforts in leading ARCSE activities in their respective states. The Board is extremely pleased to see ARCSE members like Liz, Grady, and Ellis stepping forth into ARCSE leadership roles.

ARIZONA

Ken Cookson, ARCSE Representative

Email: ckcookson@aol.com

Glen Johnson Report: I made it back to North Dakota, this time traveling by motor home through Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming and South Dakota. Weather was great all the way, so it was an enjoyable trip. A very early spring in ND as most of the spring seeding is complete by mid-May. There have been some very windy days and I've heard several comments that had this been just a few years earlier the air would be full of dust. The big difference is that most farmers are now practicing no-till, leaving just bright sunshine when the wind blows hard. My renter tells me another advantage of no-till is there aren't as many rocks to pick.

I've taken on a project that is pushing this 80-year-old man about as far as he can go. There are some 100-year-old American Elm in the grove here and some have died out so I've cleaned out the grove, cut some of those Elm down, then cut up the branches and burned them. Then I planted 20 Colorado Spruce in their place. I won't live long enough to see them grow very tall, but at least I see them in the ground. This time of year is beautiful around here, with lush green soon to be added to fields of yellow (canola) and blue (flax).

One other note, our high school class graduated in 1954, and this year most of us turn 80 sometime during the year, so we are going to have an 80th birthday party for ourselves. In 1954 80-year-olds looked old. Now we are starting to feel old.

Ron and Barb Moreland Report: We are settled into our Montana home for the summer. The trek north from Arizona took us to see all kids and grandkids in Park City and Denver. We had a few days in Yellowstone and saw 12 bears! On our first float with our raft on the Bitterroot River, Barb caught a 20-inch brown trout with a salmon dry fly. A thrill!

Marion Strong Report: I don't have much to add to the newsletter. I will be travelling to Seattle to help celebrate my youngest grandson's graduation from high school. He has been accepted at Western Washington University next fall. He will join **Nathan**, his brother, at that University.

This will be a new travel experience for me. I will take my cyclo so I can perform my dialysis while in Washington. When I return I will be faced with a major decision regarding my health. I recently underwent surgery to remove some cancer cells from my bladder. The cancer has metamorphosed into a more active kind, but I probably couldn't take the excitement attacking muscle. My Urologist advises removal of the bladder. He has ordered a "Pet" scan. Depending on the results of that scan, I will have to make a decision regarding a further course of action. Wish my message could involve more exciting activities, but probably couldn't stand the excitement.

Karl Klingelhofer Report: April/May was a milestone time for me. I have reported before on getting my Light Sport Flying license at age 86 after two years of intermittent lessons in an Ercoupe at San Manuel Airport. When I had problems in learning to land, I kept wanting to quit, but my instructor said "No" you have to finish and get your license. So, I finally did and would fly in a rented airplane that was available to me.

Then, the plane was sold and no longer available to me. I heard of a similar plane for sale at Chandler (suburb of Phoenix). My instructor worked with me on evaluating the quality of the plane, and it was decided to make an offer to purchase. That happened on April 15th and now I can fly when I want assuming the weather is OK for this small airplane. I was fortunate in getting hanger space at a reasonable cost that I felt necessary for such an old and classic airplane. I am going to add a decal on the side that says The Spirit of '45. This was a special year for me: the end of World War II, and my discharge from the Army Air Corps in November of 1945. This airplane was being built and finished in Dec. of 1945 (ser. #176), and I met my future wife of 60 years. Was the plane being built for me 71 years ago?

I just fly locally and enjoy feeling the thrill of getting up in the air on my own. So, it is never too late to do something you really want to do. When I told my sons, one said "You are buying an airplane when you are almost 90 years old?" and the other said "Guess you got to do what you got to do."

**Karl's Airplane****Pilot in Command (Karl)**

On June 21st, I will make my summer trip back to the Midwest, fly to Peoria, drive to the Univ. of Wisconsin and have beer and bratwurst on the Union patio (graduated from there in 1948), then down to my hometown area and visit the farm where I spent my high school years, and visit the town where my wife and I were married 68 years ago, and visit her tombstone that includes my name without an end date.

Galen Bridge Report: It has been a busy few weeks. It started with a trip to Circleville, OH and a great visit with **Bill Richards**. I really enjoyed seeing his farming operation again. The corn planter was a wonder to behold of high tech equipment. It plants 36 rows of corn with each pass and is totally controlled with GPS. No satellite, no planting.

**Galen with Bill Richard's corn planter**

Bill and I drove to Fredericksburg, VA and then to Washington, DC. We had a great visit with a number of retirees and in DC a visit to NRCS national office. Have not been there in twenty years, one of those places that never changes, only the people. We met with several top staff people for a lively discussion on the past, present, and future of NRCS.

This event was followed by a trip to London, Scotland and Dublin with my friend **Erwina Peterson**. It was a lot of fun, much history and a dram or two of good whiskey along the way.



Queen's Palace



Erwina and Molly



Galen and Erwina at Old Grouse Distillery

CALIFORNIA

Bill Ward, ARCSE Representative

Email: bluegrassbillward@gmail.com

Hello to all our fellow SCS/NRCS retirees across the country! We continue to meet monthly for both a breakfast and lunch get-together for all retirees who can make it.

On June 9th **Gary Bullard** had his much anticipated hip replacement surgery, which appears to have finally been a complete success. The surgery was done by a two-person team of surgeons that are called on to do the kind of "follow-up surgeries" necessary after previous attempts have not been successful. The surgeons gave Gary a very good report on a "good fit" and no sign of any infection this time. He was discharged two days later.

I saw Gary at the hospital the day after his surgery, and he was so happy with the doctors' report he was on cloud 9. There is no doubt this "Trial" in Gary's life has been a life-changing experience for Gary that has brought him closer to the Lord. Gary credits the success this time to his faith in God and God answering his own prayers and prayers from all those praying for him. I couldn't agree more. Gary says he will have new priorities in his life, including growing closer to the Lord and sharing his testimony. If any of Gary's friends out there would like to connect with Gary, you can send him an e-mail at gbullard@comcast.net.

Leonard Jolley, former Bishop and South Lake Tahoe DC and Davis State Range Conservationist, a member of Creekside (Evangelical Free) church in Napa California, recently explored a missionary opportunity for his church. Leonard traveled down to Dinuba in the Central Valley to investigate "Gleanings for the Hungry," a facility that accepts cut fruit and dries the material for export to countries with a needy population. The facility also makes a soup mix in the winter months that is excellent for subsistence. The facility is associated with Youth with a Mission (YWAM).

Volunteers from churches in the US and Canada travel to the Gleanings location to help process the fruit in the summer and the soup in the winter. Forty Lutheran youngsters with chaperones from Nebraska were there while Leonard was there as well as volunteers from two other California churches. Following is a link with more information about this important ministry, "Gleanings for the Hungry" <http://gleanings.org/>

Following are a few pictures that illustrate the process of receiving, sorting, drying the fruit product to its final form so important to needy populations.



"Gleanings for the Hungry"--The beginning, fruit arrives



Sorting, etc. before drying



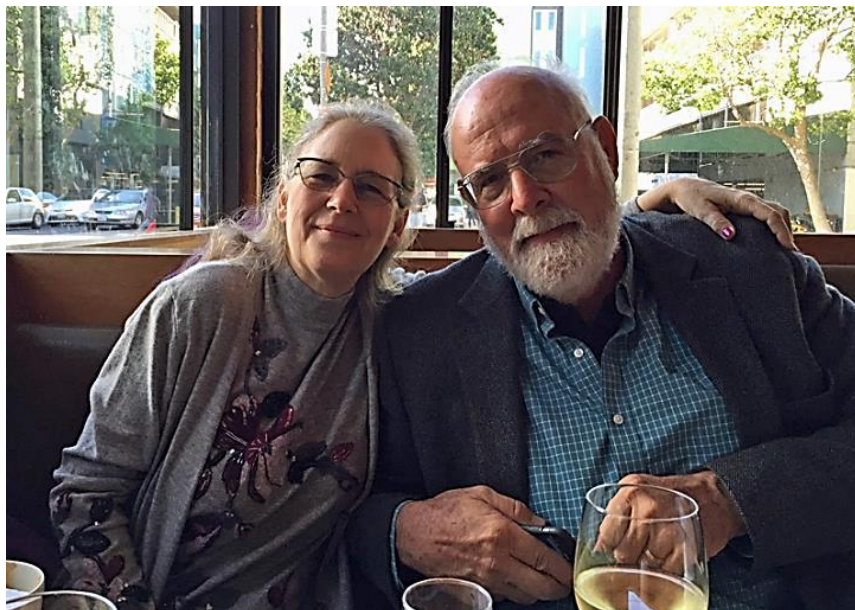
The sun doing its job of drying the fruit



Finished product ready to ship!

Leonard's church is considering the possibility of sending some of their youth group and able adults to Dinuba to assist in the physical effort in making this food product, as well as considering providing some level of financial assistance to the effort in Dinuba. We salute Leonard and his church for their desire to assist in this very important task!

Leonard retired in 2011 as Rangeland and Pastureland Ecologist on the Resource Assessment Division staff at NHQ in Beltsville, MD. He retired again from the NRCS ACES program in Northern California last month.



Leonard Jolley and his wife Maria

Leonard shared with me that **Maria's Dad, Paul Sheffer**, enjoyed a full and rewarding career with SCS/NRCS, having worked as a technician in Petaluma and Napa. That piece of news brought a smile to my face as I had the pleasure of working with Paul early in my career when I was the Area Engineer in Santa Rosa covering the office where Paul worked! I remembered Paul as being a dedicated, congenial person who loved his job.

Bill and Dana Ward's oldest son, Jimmy, graduated from McGeorge School of Law with Honors on May 21st. It was a long four years for Jimmy going to night school, while maintaining his full time job as the music director at our church and starting his family of two beautiful children over the last three years. His grades earned him a full scholarship throughout. He graduated 2nd in his class and received a number of awards and recognitions that I was not even aware of until the graduation! Following are a couple pictures from Jimmy's graduation day.



Jimmy Ward, celebrating with his family on graduation day from law school with honors.



Jimmy Ward with a very proud Mom and Dad!

That is all from the California retirees this time around. Best wishes to all our fellow retirees across the country!

GEORGIA

Edward Ealy, ARCSE Representative

Email: epdro22@gmail.com

A total of twenty-two retired SCS/NRCS employees and spouses met at Ryan's Steakhouse for lunch on April 28th, 2016 in Athens, GA for their winter meeting. Those present were: **Carolyn Adams, Earl Brantley, Jimmy Dean, Fred Dilbeck, Linda**

DiPietro, Edward Ealy, Talbert Gerald, Jim and Judith Helm, James Huff, Steve Lawrence, Marge Lucas, Rick Mann, Andy Page, Donald and Evelyn Stewart, Kitty Stevens, Beverly Walker, Bill and Norma White, Bob and Frances Wilkes.

The group was informed of the passing of **Arneal Scott**, former Assistant State Conservationist in GA (1975–1990), **Clair Lowery**, and **Lorraine Hahn** since our last meeting. Lorraine and husband **Jack** had been regular attendees to our meeting.

It was reported that **Pat Robinson** was recuperating from a broken foot. She is now in physical therapy and enjoys the phone calls and visits she has been receiving.

Earl Brantley suggested a change of location for the next meeting to Logan's Road House, Athens, GA. If this can be arranged, the retirees will be notified when reminders are sent out for the next meeting for July 28, 2016.

IDAHO

Sharon Norris, ARCSE Representative

Submitted by **Mark Weatherstone**: Idaho NRCS retirees met at Pittsburg Landing Campground in the Hells Canyon National Recreational Area for three days of camping, fishing, and hiking.



(Left to Right) Kim Golden, Frank Fink, Bob Tribelhorn, Rob Fredericksen, and Ed Haagen attending the traditional Hells Canyon Happy Hour (Photo by Mark Weatherstone).



Hells Canyon Nation Recreational Trail, Idaho Side: Frank Fink, Bob Tribelhorn, and Kim Golden on the trail (Photo by Mark Weatherstone).



ILLINOIS

Dale Benz, ARCSE Representative

Email: daleab@sbcglobal.net

A Century of Conservation

From Paige Buck, Illinois Public Affairs Officer on May 31, 2016



Harold Kraut holds an award presented to him in 1954 by Illinois Governor William Stratton, for his outstanding achievements in soil conservation.

After **Harold "Boge" Kraut** returned home from World War II in 1945, he purchased his 144-acre farm for \$125 down and a firm handshake as a promise to repay the balance. With that, he became a farmer. Harold said he'd always had a knack for conservation. Maybe that came from growing up during The Dust Bowl, or perhaps from working on his parents' orchard.

"As a little bitty boy, I played in the dirt with those animals up on the hill for years," Harold recalls, talking about a little set of celluloid (plastic) farm animals he got for Christmas. "But I took care of those animals." In fact, Harold still has those farm animals to this day. Taking care of things is just part of his nature.

And that's why Harold drew up and circulated a petition to form the Soil and Water Conservation District in Calhoun County. With the help of a few other local farmers, it came to pass on April 20, 1948. Harold was one of the founding cooperators, served as chairman in 1952, and was a director for many years. "My farm had a little old schoolhouse on it, so we held meetings with our local cooperators in that building for years," Harold explained. "We called them 'cooperators' because that's what we were all doing—cooperating and listening and learning from each other."

Over the next few years, Harold worked closely with an employee of the Soil Conservation Service (now the Natural Resources Conservation Service). He spent one summer as a volunteer, holding a survey rod, laying out contour lines, designing and building terraces, along with other conservation practices, eventually becoming a soil conservation technician.

"One year, I [designed] fifty ponds," Harold said. "I have six ponds here on my land, and they still all look great." Once you get a taste for conservation, it's hard to walk away. Harold retired in 1975, but was already volunteering again the following year. "I thought maybe I could help out," he says with a smile.

"I think I'm still in the soil conservation business, even at 103. People still call me up. They stop by to visit and they always have questions for me."

Harold hopes the NRCS keeps serving farmers with dedicated and personal one-on-one service. "That's what we worked so hard to provide back then and that's what folks still need today," Harold said.

Ken Karl Neitzel was called by his Lord on March 2, 2016 at 101 years of age. Ken was born in Baraboo, Wisconsin, to Carl and Hazel Neitzel on December 21, 1914. He was the oldest of seven children and is survived by his youngest sister Maxine of Peru, Illinois, and many nieces and nephews. Ken was a resident of Edina, Minnesota, since he retired from SCS in 1970. His wife, Helen, predeceased him in 2008. Ken and Helen devoted their lives to the Salvation Army Church and practiced the Salvation Army motto "Heart to God and Hand to Man". Ken was a veteran of World War 11. Following his discharge, he went to work for the Soil Conservation Service. He was called back by the military to serve in Korea. Upon discharge, he went back to work for SCS. He worked in Wisconsin, Washington D.C. and Champaign, Illinois, as the State Administrative Officer for SCS. Ken was buried in the Salvation Army Cemetery in Chicago, Illinois, next to his beloved wife Helen on March 6th.

IOWA

Mark Jensen, ARCSE Representative

Email: amjens1@gmail.com

The 2016 RC&D fishing extravaganza was held this spring in Union County. The group stayed at the Calico Cat Barn (lodge) and fished in Three Mile Lake and Twelve Mile Lake. Both of these lakes are part of PL-566 Watershed projects. The fishing was pretty slow, but the conversations were abundant and fast. **Alex Kestel** caught a 16-inch crappie in Three Mile. Three Mile Lake is to be killed out and renovated this fall. However, the people in that boat thought that Twelve Mile Lake was the one to be renovated, so they threw the nice crappie back. I guess there was some pretty interesting and lively discussion when that group got back to shore!



The 2016 RC&D Fishing Group at the Calico Cat Barn. Front Row, L-R: Charlotte Asell, Dora Guffey, Rose Kraus, Shirley Stout, Kurt Hoeft. Back Row, L-R: Dennis Guffey, Lyle Asell, Denny Michel (Retired DNR and a good partner of RC&Ds), Tom O'Connor, Jeff Kestel, Dale Kraus, Warren Johnson.

Iowa's retirees held their bi-annual summer event on June 23rd at the SCORE Pavilion in Nevada, IA. The following people attended the event: **Bob Dayton, Lyle and Charlotte Asell, Jim Ayen, Joe Ausan, Lew and Connie Brent, David and Kay Brietbach, Art and Mary Bryant, Chuck Fisher, Rosie and Bob Gaudette, Jim and Jan Frederick, Mark and Ann Jensen, Russ and Donna Knutson, Ken and Marge Meyer, Roger and Donita Link, Duane Miller, David and Sandy Reeves, Maralee and Jack Sarasio, Brian and Kathy Peterson, Steve Manternach, Keith McCall and Shirley Iverson, Volney Smith, Sam Schreve, Janet Schmidt, Jerry and Marion Stevens, Herb Wilson, Robin and Carol Wisner, Lee White, and Dorman Otte.** Lunch consisted of a delicious meal catered by Hickory Park Restaurant from Ames.

Our guest speaker was **Dorman Otte**, the National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) state legislative chair and President of the Des Moines NARFE Chapter. He provided us with an interesting and informative discussion of key legislative issues at both the State and National levels which affect federal retirees. In our last newsletter, there was a paragraph about **Bob and Rosie Gaudette's** winter trips to Myrtle Beach and their collecting of shark's teeth. Bob brought one of the wall plaques that he's made using the shark's teeth to the summer event. The shark shaped plaque shown in the pictures was made using over 700 fossilized shark's teeth. This luncheon gave us an ideal opportunity to visit and catch up on the activities of many long-time friends. Thank you to **Herb Wilson and Roger Link** for organizing the event.



Bob Gaudette with a shark-shaped wall plaque that he made with fossilized sharks teeth



Keith McCall having a discussion with Dorman Otte



Socializing at the Retiree Summer Event

Thank you to **Linda Miller** for providing the following update on her and Dennis' activities: "**Dennis and Linda Miller** spent their winter vacation in Hawaii. The first ten days were on Maui enjoying all the spectacular natural beauty of that island. The last twelve days our daughters and their families joined us on Oahu and we all spent time together celebrating our 50th anniversary, sight-seeing and just hanging out on the beach. This made for great rocking chair memories! Our summer vacation was a week at the Burntside Lodge in Ely, MN with friends. Fishing, relaxing and getting caught up with each other's news over a drink sums up our activities. Grandson #1 graduated from Monticello, Iowa High School in May. He has been to orientation at the University of Iowa and considers himself a Hawkeye already!"



Dorman Otte presenting a program about NARFE

Dennis and Cheryl Pate recently returned from a couple of weeks in California. They visited their son, **Todd**, his wife, **Kelly**, three-year-old grandson, **Mason**, and 14-month-old granddaughter, **Avery**. They had a good time spoiling the grandkids! While in California, they also spent a half day with **Jim and Colleen Schneider**. Many of you will remember them when **Jim** was a geologist and **Colleen** was a public affairs specialist in Iowa. In February, **Dennis** had a knee replacement. He says that it has healed so well that he was able to play a couple of rounds of golf this week.



Socializing at the Retiree Summer Event

While on the topic of body parts, **Duane Miller** had a hip replacement a few weeks ago. He said it feels great and I'm guessing he will be ready for bike riding this summer and skiing next winter!

Thank you to **Eldon Weber** for providing this update on some Weber family activities: "After pondering a little as to whether I had anything to submit for the newsletter that would interest anyone, I decided to share our family (Dallas, Texas) highlights. We were pleased to be able to attend some important events, including the inauguration of our son **Brad** who served as the President of the Dallas Bar Association (11,000 lawyers) during the year 2015. Recently we attended our Granddaughter, **Molly's** graduation of 360 students from Woodrow Wilson High School in Dallas, where she graduated with high honors and gave the farewell address and starred in their high school performance of "Phantom of the Opera." During that same visit to Dallas we enjoyed hearing of the experiences our Grandson **Ward** was having this summer as Intern for the Dallas Public Defender's office. He just finished his first year in law school at Baylor."

Here's a "Hold the Date" alert: The annual retirees' Christmas Party will be held on November 17th. It will be at the Machine Shed Restaurant by Living History Farms in Des Moines.

In May, we were saddened to learn about the passing of **Dick Birchmier** from Centerville. He was 87 years old. Dick was a long time Civil Engineer in the Shenandoah Area Office and Centerville Project Office. See the In Memoriam section for more details.

KANSAS

Deanne Lull, ARCSE Representative

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Summer has arrived with a vengeance in the Salina area with record breaking temperatures giving us the honor of being the hot spot in the state for a number of days.

Robert Gerdes and **William Roth** received honors for their work in their service clubs. **Robert**, spouse of retiree **Dorothy Gerdes**, was honored in April for his many years of service as secretary/treasurer in the Salina Sunflower Lions Club. As president of the Lindsborg Kiwanis Club, retiree **William Roth** accepted the "Distinguished Club" citation. Only six clubs of the Kiwanis 70 clubs throughout the district received such an award.

One retirement has been reported: **Timothy W. Michael**, Soil Conservation Technician, in the Iola Field Office retired April 30, 2016.

In April, NARFE Chapter 280 located in Salina, KS, hosted the Kansas annual convention. Those retirees and spouses who spent many hours planning, attending, and working at the three-day convention were **Mike and Margery Ahern, Kayla Ascher, Harold and Paula Blume, Rosie Collins, Duane Evans, Jean Hamilton, Debbie Kaiden, Gerald and Charlene Karnes, Harold and Becky Klaege, Francis Komarek, Larry and Carolyn Kuder, Ron and Deanne Lull, John and Linda Ourada, Kathy Razak, and Lawrence and Phyllis Wetter.**

Only one current death is noted; however, we learned of two deaths in the past that have not been reported. **Francis V. Willmeth** passed away June 4, 2016. **Francis** retired as the Work Unit Conservationist in the Smith Center Field Office in the late 1960's. **Betty J. Davis**, spouse of **George Davis**, passed away February 2, 2016. **George** retired as the District Conservationist in the Minneapolis Field Office in 1980. He preceded her in death in 1993. **Robert F. Brull** passed away October 27, 2009. He was a Soil Conservation Technician in the Hays Field Office retiring in 1984.

MAINE

John Simon, ARCSE Representative

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Well, hello to all in the great US of A after a mild winter. At Bangor we had 6,301 heating degree-days vs. a 30-year average of 7,132 HDD, so we were 11.65% warmer. We also had only three snow storms where I needed to use my snow blower (two inches plus).

We lost a long time SCS/NRCS'er, **Donald Collins** on May 2, 2016. He was 71. He had been a DC in Houlton, and an RC&D coordinator in Presque Isle.

MARCH: On Tuesday, March 8th, the regular Tuesday breakfast was attended by **Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon, Charles Boothby, Ray Voyer, Roger Ashe, and John Simon.** We all enjoyed the attendance of Roger who has recently retired. I did not recognize the name, but when he came in to Dysarts I immediately recognized him. We all enjoyed Roger's company and hope to see him often.

Art Taylor finally has his system of mini-splits installed and running. He and **Linda** chose a Mitsubishi model which is handsome and quiet. Art has most of the inside of the house painted, and it looks real nice. He has some of the electrical fixtures up and is getting ready to start the finish wood work on the windows and doors.

Bruce visits **Pat** every day. She responds to feeding with him there much better than with the staff. I mentioned to Bruce the two books I just finished reading: Comet by Carl Sagan via Random House, and Mars Up Close by Marc Kaufman (National Geographic). Both are wonderful books for anyone interested in astrophysics. This led us back in our discussion to all the meteor impact sites in Quebec Province. Open up Google and look around. If the lake looks round and like meteor impact sites, it probably is.

I found a site that lists all the impact sites in the world that are known, listed by county. At one point in time the earth was one busy place. Just waiting for us to appear and further mess things up. The books Comet and Mars helps one to understand the process. The Mars book has enough information showing that at one time Mars had a large amount of water! Two mind-expanding books I recommend reading are Worlds in Collision by Emmanuel Velikovsky and The 12th Planet by Zacharia Sitchin.

Ray and Roger traded pics of their dogs, acting just like proud parents. They both have beautiful dogs. Any of you who know **Dennis Erinakes** knows he has two dogs, Ranger and Scobie. He treats them like his kids, and of course they adore him. In mid-June of this year Dennis lost Scobie, so I am waiting on news of who the new replacement will be.

Roger indicated that he too has a mini-split heat pump at his house, and like me he lets it run through the cold snaps with no trouble at all. He also loves it as much as I do.

Charlie's itchy fingers got the best of him and he is starting some vegetables in his green house.

Ice went out on the Kennebec early so **Bill Moulton** had to take in his ice fishing shack. Fishing was not so great this year. Charlie did not get a chance to visit Bill and share in the catch--maybe next year.

You all know by now that we lost one of our co-workers, **John Malley**. John was 90. Some of you sent me great memories working with John. I started working with John when he was a DC in Machias back in the early to mid-1960s. He was a true pleasure to work with. I will treasure those working memories with John 'till I meet him again. Till then, RIP John.

APRIL: Attending last week's breakfast on April 12th were: **Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon, Charlie Boothby, and John Simon**. Art is now doing the trim work on the doors and windows of his new house. **Charlie** is doing the greenhouse thing. He reported that the recent heavy wind storm damaged the door on his greenhouse, but repair is in the process. He still indicated that his number one problem with the greenhouse is keeping it cool!

We got to talking about after-death experiences, and Bruce brought up the subject of ongoing shows of "beyond death" which are currently on the National Geographic channel. Below I have copied the body of Bruce's email which includes the web site and further information on the subject.

<http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/the-story-of-god-with-morgan-freeman/videos/beyond-death1/>

Several books I recently read (and re-read) that you may be interested in include *Glimpsing Heaven* by Judy Bacharach, and *The 12th Planet* by Zecharia Sitchin. Both are extremely interesting (to me at least) and quite enlightening. Great stuff for talking about or reading on a rainy day in the summer.

An interesting item was an article in the May issue of *Astronomy* that scientist have mathematically determined that there is a large planet in our solar system (using complex mathematical processes) that shows that this planet is about 10 times the mass of earth and is causing strange eccentricities in the orbits of the outer planets. No sightings have been reported as of yet.

In Zecharia's book, the twelve planets are the major components of our solar system which include the sun, moon, the nine planets including Pluto, and a large 10th planet called Nibiru/Marduk with an orbit with a 3,600 yr +/- period. It is too bad that the scientists involved have not read *The 12th Planet* book!

Another book that would be especially appropriate for young high school and college students is: *Applied Minds, How Engineers Think* by Guru Madhavan. Almost everyone would benefit from this book. I wish I had a copy when I was going through college!

MAY: Last Tuesday (May 10th) we had six retirees breaking bread together. Attending were **Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon, Bob Lagassey, Charlie Boothby, Roger Ashe, and John Simon**. A pleasant breakfast was had by all. Charlie said he has quite a few vegetables started in his greenhouse.

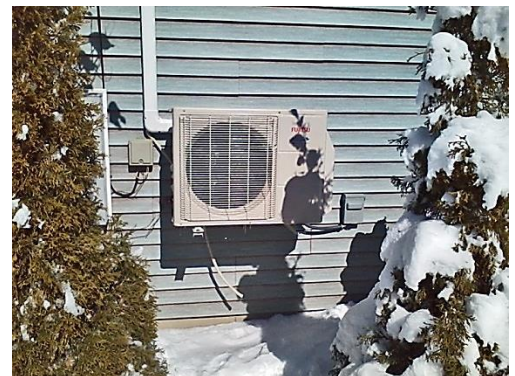
Recent birthdays. April: **Bruce Champeon**, 72. May: **Charlie Boothby**, 81; **John and Lola Ferwerda** both turn 91; **Phil Christensen**, 75; **Bob Lagassey**, 78; and **John Simon** turns 77 in May. So you can see we are not a group of spring chickens!

Heard from **Dave Popp** who indicated he now reads his email on his cell phone. I heard last fall from **Susan Watson** that Dave was still farming and going strong, but his email was bouncing on me. Welcome back Dave. Dave was my first client after I retired. The system of four cranberry beds and a recovery pond that I designed for him show up quite nicely on Google Earth! Hopefully they are still functioning well for Dave.

For those of you with heat pumps or planning on installing one, I turned off my mini-split on April 22 but kept the outside unit on standby (I did not turn the breaker to the unit off).

The unit on standby uses from 5 watts per hour to 25 watts per hour, depending on the outside temperature. The unit apparently must use most of that power to keep the outside unit warm enough so that condensation does not occur, I suspect. The variation is proportional to the outside temperature and ranges from a low of \$0.02/day to about \$0.10/day. It is a small cost to me to keep the outside unit ready for the A/C season. Most days it is about \$0.05/day. I have yet to go through my winter records to determine the cost savings for the winter of 2016 with the M-S on. When I do I'll let you know.

As a comparison, my refrigerator uses about 3.3 kWh/day. This is about \$0.57/day all year around. This is a lot less than a cup of coffee at local restaurants for sure.



John Simon's mini-split heat pump

JUNE: Well, we had 11 friendly faces at our annual June noon luncheon at the Coach House restaurant--down quite a bit from last year. Those attending were: **Connie and Tom Smith, Anita and Gary Hedstrom, Roger Ashe, Ray Voyer, Noreen and John Simon, Terese and Paul Hersey, and Charlie Boothby**.

We enjoyed sharing family stories and updating everyone as appropriate. **Paul Hersey** updated us on his part time work with NRCS. They now locate Paul out of the Farmington FO, and he has an assigned government vehicle. Paul also handles several other counties, now including my county of Penobscot. A lot of his time is spent training the newer hires. He also has done a bunch of new manure waste management plans. He loves his work now, as he is not bothered by constant phone calls and emails and other administrative work. Just the technical stuff. It is good to see that old talent put to good use. **Dave Garcelon** is also in the same part time work program as Paul.

Tom Smith gave **Noreen** and me a history of his recent injuries. His three sons are in business together in the Portland area and doing quite well. I recommended that Tom stay off of ladders after hearing of his ladder incidents!

Gary Hedstrom said that his brother **Warren Hedstrom** is doing well. I have not seen Warren in years. We were in Ag. Engineering together. I think he was a year behind me, not sure though. He taught at U Maine in the Ag. Engineering department until they did away with it. He then switched over, I believe, to the Forest department to teach forest engineering courses.

Ray Voyer told us a little about his trip to Turkey to visit his son at his Air Force base a year or so ago. He says things are changing now over there and are not for the good.

Got an email from **Bill Moulton** who is still going strong with his farm and genealogical work. He said he plans to put in several mini-splits to heat and cool his house. Good choice. We shared some tips on thermostat settings that would prevent his oil system from freezing up.

Dave Popp called me to inform me of the passing of **Darryl Brown** who some of you may know. He worked as a soil scientist briefly with SCS. He also taught briefly at the Delaware Valley College in Pennsylvania. Darryl started his own "Main-Land Development, Inc." in 1974, served in the Maine Legislature for eight years, was head of Maine DEP for about 18 months and then as Director of the Maine State Planning Office. His last endeavor was with the Cianbro Construction Company as a project manager.

Dave said the price of cranberries was so low last season (2015) that he did not even harvest his crop and is not doing the cranberry thing this year (2016) either. Funny, I have noticed *NO* decrease in the price of cranberry products because of the low prices! The farmer always gets the short end of the stick to be sure!

From Maine, Take care and God bless.

MISSOURI

Dave Rastorfer, ARCSE Representative

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The Columbia area retirees met for breakfast at the Country Kitchen in Columbia on May 11th. Those in attendance were: **Virgil and Joy Gardner, Darlene Edwards, Frank and Kay Miller, Ed and Judy Smith, Odie Swanegan, Bob Herschbach, Bob Hummel, John Turner, Mike Wells, Hugh Curry, John and Carol McCarthy, Neil and Louise Randall, Ron Miller, Bill and Kris Pauls, Jerry Edwards, Richard and Marjorie Koenig, Jack and Joyce Walker and Dave Rastorfer.**

We are saddened to hear of the death of **Bill Riggs**, long time area engineer in Chillicothe and Bethany; and **Tom Lattimore**. See the In Memoriam section for more details.

Bill and Tom will be missed by those of us who knew them. Both were great friends, employees and mentors.

Frank and Kay Miller have recently returned from a short trip to Eureka Springs, AR for the Passion Play and a quilt show.

Lane Thurman: "Had a great day last week. I took my great grandson fishing with me. **Logan** is nine years old and hasn't done any lake fishing at all. I took him to Stockton Lake, and we had a great time. He caught the first fish which was a crappie, but not quite long enough to keep, so had to throw it back. We ended up with only four that were keepers but he had a great time. We got up rather early because of the hot weather, I mean at four in the morning. We were on the lake at 5:45 and fished until about 10--it was already starting to get really hot then. We had a nice day out. Not many people get to fish with their great grandsons. I guess that means that I am getting old, and sometimes when it is hot like it was on Thursday, I feel it."

Paula Price: "**Alan** renewed his driver's license for six more years last week, and his pickup is ready to roll. Other than a nearly three-week stay in KU Med with pneumonia, he's had a good year so far. He's still limited in activity but not determination! Alan was diagnosed in September, 2008 with CLL (Leukemia) and he had a stem cell transplant in September, 2009 to correct DNA that was adversely affected by the CLL. Honestly, it seems like it's been a long life time in these eight years! He struggles with having to use a walker, and on the other hand is happy to be able to get around. We praise God every day for those who have been close by in word, deeds, and prayer during Alan's wellness journey."

"Our granddaughters are beautiful and growing. **Jordin** is now eight and a 3rd grader. **Holly** and **Rylee** will be two on July 2nd and are ACTIVE little girls! We love it when our family visits us. We enjoyed watching Jordin play basketball last winter and hopefully will get to enjoy some of her summer ballgames. She was so excited at her first game that she hit a home run! She made a perfect layup in basketball--more than one actually. She is a happy girl and comfortable in faith and family."

"The realty firm I work for merged with RE/MAX Professionals and made us their Savannah Branch on June 1st. I enjoy being their office manager. Alan and I hope to take a little vacation in August and again in October. Short trips are about all we can hope for, and even those don't always get to occur. I just wish we could have a Platte Territory Reunion! God bless all of you and have a great summer!"

Dennis Shirk: "Not much news to share here. Seems life has been fairly normal and routine. Won't take our vacation 'till August. See you down the TRAIL."

Bill Pauls: "The **Pauls** are enjoying our new-to-us lake home at 149 Kingfisher Rd. in Camdenton, MO out by Bridal Cave. We love it down here. Still have the cabin right on the lake about 1/2 mile away, and the summer season is in full swing with family and friends coming and going. We just updated the ol' "84" Party Barge Sun Tracker with a "05" Sun Dancer Tritoon. Nice upgrade for us. Anybody in the neighborhood, come visit."

Mike Blaine: "The Blaines are waiting on some rain to make the garden grow. The plants are just sitting waiting on water. I did sprinkle once but can't afford the water bill to do it right! Also waiting on my hay guy to come and mow hay that has already gone dormant. But he buys it all, so I guess I can't say anything! We did spend three weeks traveling in May. We got to see all our kids and grands in MO, WV, and PA. Hope everyone is having a great summer!"

Nancy Ayers: "As I'm writing this bit of info about what I'm doing now as a retiree, I am in San Diego, CA making arrangements for my **Uncle Donnie**. He passed away this past Wednesday at Sharp Hospital at the age of 85. I am his POA. My mother, **Muriel Grant Caldwell**, had nine brothers and one sister. Only **Aunt Marie** is still alive at the age of 89 in Miami, FL. I'm her POA also. So this has kept me busy from the east to west coast since I retired. **Van** will be retiring next year after 35 years with the University of Missouri. I come from four generations of MIZZOU graduates, and I teased Van that he finally got smart and received his doctorate at MIZZOU. We will be moving to his family farm in Bedford County, TN (just 15 miles from Jack Daniels) next year. We run about 160 head of red short horn cattle and put up warm season grass hay. Van and I also restore antique tractors. And I have 49 laying hens and sell eggs and produce at the farms market."



Vanessa Ayres' wedding picture. Nancy and Van Ayres, parents of the bride, on the right.

"Our daughter, **Vanessa**, got married last November. She married a farmer from Mississippi County. She is a graduate from Murry State University with a BS in Agriculture Technology and works for Black and Gold Potato Company. So if you eat a Frito-Lay potato chip, this company grows all the potatoes (including sweet potatoes) for Frito-Lay."

"Harrison will be a senior at Cape Girardeau Central High School this year. Yes, I do have a 17-year-old at my age. Did you know 60s are the new 40s? It appears he may follow the Caldwell family tradition in playing college football. His high school team has been to the state playoffs three years straight, and last year Harrison received first team all-conference and all-district as a junior. The college recruiters are already romancing him."

MONTANA

Dick Gooby, ARCSE Representative

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Jim Johnson Report: "We were away from Bozeman on a trip to Alaska with the Senior Center so we didn't attend the breakfast."

Joyce Swartzendruber Report: "We really enjoyed a 26-day trip to South Africa, Swaziland, Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Our seven-person group included Massachusetts STC **Chris Clarke** and Montana Resource Conservationist **Stephanie King**, plus spouses and friends."

"Together we visited many game parks and Kruger National Park, saw all of the big 5 (all in the wild except for the leopard), petted cheetahs, baby leopards, white rhinos, zebras, snorkeled the Indian Ocean, spelunked granite cave, zip-lined Blyde River Canyon, bungee-jumped, slept in a cave, and biked through Soweto."



Orphaned white rhinos in Africa

"We had an impressive number of experts speak to us on SA economics, rhino preservation, game management and rehabilitation, and a full day along the geo-trail from Swaziland into South Africa. The geo-trail is nominated for world heritage designation and includes the oldest landscapes on earth, and perhaps the oldest soils. Some of us were very excited about this!"

Jim and I extended our Africa time at Victoria Falls and Cape Town.



Chris Clarke and Joyce Swartzendruber atop Rock of Execution outside Mbabane, Swaziland



Joyce and Jim Swartzendruber at Soweto Backpacker Hostel, Johannesburg, South Africa



Stephanie King, Jim Melnis, Mark Simonson at the Apartheid Museum, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Gooby Ranch Report: "Yesterday a cow had a calf, and a couple hours later the calf crawled through the fence and got into the hay field. **Mary Ann** suggested we go out and weigh and tag the calf while the mother was on the other side of the fence. That was a great idea except that the Preakness horse race hype was starting and I had to watch the race. I suggested Mary Ann wait until the race was over and then I could help her with the calf. It looked like a big storm was headed our way so Mary Ann decided not to wait for me. I was able to see her from the house while still being able to see the TV and could watch out the window to see how it was going with the calf."

"She got his ear tag in and was getting ready to weigh him. To weigh the calf you put a canvas sling around his belly and hook it to the scale, then lift the scale until the calf is off the ground and not rubbing on you, so you can see how much it weighs. Mary Ann finally got the canvas around the calf's belly and hooked it to the scale. She started lifting the calf, and he was running in circles around her-- plus she wasn't tall enough to lift him off the ground even though she was lifting the scale way over her head. Finally after over half an hour she was able to get the calf over to the metal gate. Mary Ann climbed up the gate then lifted the calf and finally got the scale high enough over her head to get the calf off the ground and far enough away so he wasn't rubbing on her."

"When Mary Ann got back to the house she said the calf weighed 125 pounds, which is way more than Mary Ann weighs. How many people do you know that can lift more weight over their head than they weigh. I was impressed, but like she said, she has to lift hay bales over her head all the time and they weigh at least as much as the calf weighed. All these years of training Mary Ann the proper way to lift things are really paying off."

"Now that we have gaited horses, Mary Ann is able to save 48 minutes time riding down to the mail box to get the mail. Of course, part of that time saved is that I talked her into riding bareback to save time by not having to saddle and unsaddle the horse. Now Mary Ann is available to work an additional 48 minutes a day, six days a week on the to-do list items, I listed. Also I have Mary Ann training the horse so she can ride it with the halter. That will save her another two minutes. The NRCS Management trainings have really paid off. Like they said, always look for more efficient ways of doing the job. Every minute saved is a minute earned."

"Yesterday Mary Ann and I hauled some tasty, healthy beef to **Shirley Elliot** in Bozeman. I talked to her while Mary Ann unloaded the beef. Shirley sure looks healthy. It must be because she eats Gooby beef."

Paige Buck, NRCS Public Affairs, Champaign, Illinois did a great story on Harold "Boge" Kraut, Batchtown, Illinois NRCS retiree. He's now 103 years old.

NEBRASKA

Norman Kempf, ARCSE Representative

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The breakfast meetings were called to order with 12 members present in May and 15 members present in June. **Don Peterson**, a former Nebraska and Iowa engineer, attended the breakfast.

Bob Engel, retired soil scientist, reminded us that this was the 36th anniversary of the Mount St. Helen's eruption. He was a member of a group that worked on that project after the eruption. Several people added that they still had a small vial of the volcanic ash which had been given to them by workers there.

There was much discussion about the May 9th hailstorm which caused a lot of damage in Lincoln. This storm was unprecedented. The hail lasted about 90 minutes and ranged from pea to softball size. Jim Fortner reported that his house and shop received several hundred hits from softball-sized hail that made fist-sized holes in the roof sheeting.

Don Manley reported that **Leo Shields**, retired research soil scientist, has recently undergone eye surgery and now is reading 20/40 and can drive again. **Jim Carr** has recently been diagnosed with large cell type B lymphoma and is receiving radiation and chemo treatment.

Jackie Culver, wife of **Jim Culver**, passed away on June 11th, 2016 after a courageous battle with Parkinson disease.

You can tell it is June with the number of wedding anniversaries: Lou and Evelyn Buller, 61st; Kay and Lyle Westerman, 69th; Steve and Jan Stover, 53rd; Donna and Gus Dornbusch, 19th; Norman and Sylvia Kempf, 53rd; Norm and Linda Helzer.

Norm and Linda Helzer went on a Sandhills birding trip with Linda counting 131 species. The surface lakes in western Nebraska are excellent shorebird habitats.

Keith and Maryalice Sheets visited Keith's old home town, Gandy, NE. Try to find that on a map!

Bill and Colleen Hance had recently been in Branson, MO. Bill said the highlight was the production of "Moses," which they hope to see again later this year.

Steve and Jan Stover attended their school's 101st annual celebration. Steve said one attendee who was 100 years old used to be his barber when he was growing up.

Jim Harder had been in Flowermound, TX visiting family.

Jim Culver and Norman Kempf traveled to Ontario for their annual fishing trip. Lots of fish were caught and pictures taken to back up big stories.

Norman Kempf traveled to South Dakota with **Sylvia** and his sister from Australia to visit friends and relatives. He also attended a family reunion in the Black Hills of SD. From there he traveled to Pierre, SD where he met his youngest son and two grandsons for four days of fishing. He then participated in the annual SD golfing tournament which was held in Mitchell, SD.

NEW YORK

Nancy Lee, ARCSE Representative

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NY SCS/NRCS Retirees' Annual Picnic will be on Wednesday, July 20th at Dorchester Park, Whitney Point, NY just off Interstate 81. Bring your own meat, drinks, and dish to pass. BBQ fire starts at 11am. Let's have a good turnout.

NORTH CAROLINA

Jim Canterbury, ARCSE Representative

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On May 12th, 45 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 Conservationists **Elwood Guthrie and Lawrence Matheson**, who are 92 years old, were in attendance. Other Senior Conservationists attending were **Arlie Culp, John Garrett, and Leonard Kilian**. Matheson and Culp are also WWII veterans. Three of the ten retired state conservationists who live in North Carolina were in attendance.

State Conservationist **Timothy Beard** gave a report on NRCS programs and funding. He said it was a challenging time to accomplish the mission of the Service with limited personnel.

Attending the picnic were **Lipe and Renda Barrier, Tim Beard, Mark and Brenda Berkland, Jim and Becki Canterbury, David Clapp, Nancy Clary, Dr. Maurice and Nancy Cook, Arlie Culp, Donald Joyce, Tommy Cutts, Ray and Debra Dorsett, Howard and Peggy Garner, Catherine McCabe, Dick Gallo, Coy Garrett, John Garrett, Tim Garrett, Elwood Guthrie, and Mitchell Guthrie**. Also attending were **Boyce Harvey, Hubert Hawkins, Ed Helmey, John and Maggie Hill, Howard Hobson, Ed Holland, Joe Kenyon, Leonard Kilian, Harold Lile, Lawrence Matheson, Margaret White, Warren and Betsy Mincey, Phyllis Pate, Cecil Settle, Clara Raynor, Pat Tyndall, and Talmadge and Marjorie Wiggins**.



North Carolina Retirees' Picnic, Raleigh, NC, May 12, 2016.

OKLAHOMA

Randy Freeland, ARCSE Representative

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The Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees met at the Golden Corral Buffet Restaurant in Oklahoma City, OK on April 22nd, 2016. Thirty-nine people were in attendance: **Ed Abernathy, Don Bartolina, Kenneth and Rebecca Blan, Lester Brockmann, Bob Bumgarner, Steve Chessmore, Everett and Helen Cole, Les and Barbara Conner, Duane Crider, Wayne Fjeseth, Fred and Gayle Fortney, Randy Freeland, Harry Fritzler, Lloyd Garrison, Shelley Hungerford, Otho Lamar, Nick Lambeth, Jim McCampbell, Tim Miller, Herb Moody, George Moreland and guest Betty Gilbert, Nelson and Mary Mueller, Glen and Eunice Mullen and daughter Carolyn, John and Joy Pewthers, Stan and Fredia Rice, Dan Runnels, Bob and Milly Smith, and Bettie Todd**.

During introductions, several members related memories of their work for the greatest federal government agency in the country. These are always interesting and uplifting to members in attendance. Please come to future meetings with memories to share.

A copy of the National Retirees Newsletter was passed around so members could see what shows up in the Oklahoma section of that newsletter. It contains pictures from our previous meetings and news about retiree groups in other states.

Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retiree President **Gordon Moebius** recently had surgery, so Vice-President **Dan Runnels** presided over the meeting. **Dan** gave a brief update on **Gordon's** status and asked for others in need of prayer. It was mentioned that **Ruel Bain** is not doing well. **Stan Rice** provided the blessing for the meal, and everyone enjoyed the buffet meal.

Shelley Hungerford was a first-time attendee and retired in March, 2013 as an Administrative Assistant for Field Operations in the State Office. She has worked with many of the retirees since she worked in Programs, Ecological Sciences, Financial Management, and Public Affairs at various times throughout her career. She also served in the Perry Area Office and Woodward Field Office and now works as a contract employee at the State Office for the Programs Section. Her husband, **David**, is still working for NRCS. They love to travel when time allows and spending time with family.



Shelley Hungerford and Dan Runnels



George Moreland and Betty Gilbert

Kenneth and Rebecca Blan live south of Antlers, OK. They raise a few calves and a few pine trees. **Kenneth** said they attend First Baptist Church regularly and have four kids, "thousands" of grandkids, and "hundreds" of great grandkids scattered all over everywhere. A cow-calf operation and timber management program keep **George Moreland** plenty busy. He is currently logging some fields he planted to trees in 1973 and is replanting the logged area to permanent pasture. He likes to fish and hunt in his spare time, along with hunting arrowheads.

Les Conner is a volunteer at the Oklahoma State University Botanic Garden, the Stillwater Public Library, and at Countryside Baptist Church. He and **Barbara** love to vacation in Colorado and sightsee and ski. They recently celebrated 50 great years together. **Duane Crider** said he and **Jan** love to travel, especially cruises. He runs every day for exercise, as well as keeping up with four grandsons and their parents who live within 1/4 mile of them.

Don Bartolina still works with the National Land and Range Judging Contest in Oklahoma City. He is the local coordinator in its 65th year of existence. **Stan and Fredia Rice** still work part time, volunteer, travel, and enjoy their grand kids and great grand baby.

A card was also read from **Joan Leaverton** expressing her appreciation for the SCS/NRCS Family and what they have meant to her and **Erwin** for many years. She noted that the date of our meeting (April 22nd) would have been Erwin's 87th birthday.

The OK retiree website (www.cyber-shack.net/nrcs/) has been helpful in our effort to keep retirees informed. This website also has a posting of the attendees, minutes, and pictures from each of the meetings. For several years, **Bill Porter** has kept this website current with pictures and other items of interest to the retirees. We will miss **Bill** but hope someone will step up with computer skills to keep **Bill's** efforts on the web.

Dan Runnels read a list of recent retirees: **Lou Ann Walker**, Information Technology, State Office, Stillwater, 11/1/15; **Steve Elsener**, Biologist, State Office, Stillwater, 1/3/16, 40yrs.; **Steve Clark**, Resource Specialist, Claremore TSO, 12/31/15, 35yrs; **Paula Templeton**, CD Secretary, Wagoner, 1/16, 38yrs; **Jon Lillie**, Construction Inspector, Stillwater Watershed Office, 3/1/16, 12yrs; and **Julie Adams**, Cartographer/GIS Specialist, State Office, Stillwater, 2/16/16, 22 ½ yrs.

Fred Fortney read a list of retiree deaths since October 2015: They were: **Velma Jean Herndon**, 95, 11/7/15, retired 1980, State Office, Stillwater, 30yrs; **Bill Fagan**, 84, 11/14/15, retired 1990, Project Engineer, Okmulgee, 37yrs; **Beverly J. Collyar**, 88, 12/5/15, CD Secretary, Newkirk (mother of **Dean Collyar**, SCT at Pawhuska & Newkirk); **Mavis Jones**, 88, 1/13/16, State Office, State Construction Engineer, retired 1986, 38yrs; **Billy Putnam**, 89, 2/22/16, Administrative Officer (Connecticut, Virginia, Puerto Rico and other states), retired mid 1980's and returned to Oklahoma; and his wife **Pauline**, 89, 2/27/16; **Lemuel (Lem) F. Ball, Jr.**, 91, 2/28/16, AC Okmulgee, retired 1980, 30yrs. (also worked Okemah, Poteau & Claremore); **Kenneth Ferguson**, 84, 3/2/16, DC Poteau, retired mid 1980's, 26 yrs; **Bill Porter**, 60, 3/16/16, State Office, Stillwater, ASTC Water Resources, 36yrs; **H. C. (Henry) Langford**, 78, 3/25/16, CET, Perry, 37yrs. A moment of silence was observed and **Fred Fortney** offered a prayer.

Terry and Sandra Hough sent word that they were spending a few weeks at Beaver Springs Campground in Piedmont, MO. Their children own and operate the campground and always appreciate a little extra help.

Tom Lucas continues his work to establish an Oklahoma Conservation Museum. He still needs a couple of SCS/NRCS retirees to serve on the Board of Directors.



Fredia and Stan Rice



Joy and John Pewthers



Lloyd Garrison and Bob Bumgarner

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 28th, 2016, at the Golden Corral on MacArthur Boulevard in Oklahoma City. **Dan** reminded the group that Golden Corral now opens at 10am, so there is extra time for visiting before the meeting starts at 11:30am. Everyone is welcome and no reservations are required.

OREGON

Don Stettler, ARCSE Representative

Email: don.stettler@comcast.net

The summer quarter lunch will be held on July 27th at the Peppermill Restaurant in Aloha. Detail will be emailed several weeks prior to the lunch.

Ever since Kathryn Schultz's article, "The Really Big One" was published in the July 2015 issue of "The New Yorker," there has been considerable discussion here in the Northwest about preparation for the anticipated huge earthquake which many believe is now overdue. This earthquake is expected to result in severe damage and disruption of life in the region. Residents are being urged to prepare by having an emergency supply of water, food, medicine, and other necessities on hand.

In an effort to prepare for a response to the devastation, a simulated emergency test called "Cascadia Rising" was held in mid-June. In this test, emergency operations and coordination centers at all levels of government and the private sector were activated to conduct a simulated field response operation within their jurisdictions and with neighboring communities, state emergency operation centers, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and major military commands.

An expected consequence of this huge earthquake would be a complete breakdown of infrastructure, including normal means of communications—landlines and cell phones. For this reason, ham radio capabilities in providing emergency communications were tested. This involved expediting the flow of test emergency message traffic generated at the local level and addressed to the FEMA National Response Coordinating Center. I, along with several other Oregon hams, were given messages that were to be transmitted at a prescribed time. An early evaluation of the result of this aspect indicates, thanks to modern digital modes, that the messages received were nearly one hundred percent accurate.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Byron Thompson, ARCSE Representative

Email: landmgtinc@wctel.net

From **Grady Adkins**: "South Carolina is getting into the "fabulously hot" summer weather. Everybody must be on vacation because there is not much to report. Byron Thompson was re-elected to another term on the McCormick County Council."

TEXAS

Arnold King, ARCSE Representative

Email: arnolddking@hotmail.com

The May 2016 meeting of the SCS/NRCS Alumni Club will be held at 10am on Friday, May 20th, 2016, at St. Ann Catholic Church, 100 SW Alsbury Blvd., Burleson, Texas.

Nineteen members attended the April 15th meeting: **Bernie Owen, Doug Seibel, Tom Hodges, Emma Adams, Bill Adams, Billy Don Davis, Elaine Davis, Betty Sisson, Bernelle Baxley, Earl Blakley, Anita Plummer, Diann Wilmart, Bill Kuenstler, Rita Kuenstler, and Jerry McMIndes**. Bill Kuenstler prepared this report.

A get-well card was sent to **Jane Seibel**, who broke her hip last month. A get-well/thinking-of-you card was sent to **Marion Porter**. Sympathy cards were sent to **Bill and Rita Kuenstler** on the death of **Bill's** sister, and to **Billy Don and Elaine Davis**, on the death of **Billy Don's** mother.

Diann Wilmart graduated from Southwestern Adventist University this past weekend with a Bachelor of Science degree in General Studies. She worked toward this for several years and should be quite proud of her accomplishments.

Jimmy Hocker, husband of **Patsy Hocker**, died May 6th. Jimmy and Patsy were long-time members of our group. His funeral was May 10th. See the In Memoriam section for more details.

Dennis Erinakes presented the program for the April meeting, which was an update on the Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District.

The Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District (GCD) was created in 2009 by the 81st Texas Legislature with a directive to conserve, protect, and enhance the groundwater resources of Ellis, Johnson, Hill and Somervell Counties in Texas.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality designated a large area over the Trinity Aquifer, from the Red River to Central Texas as a Priority Groundwater Management Area (PGMA) due to the critical groundwater declines facing the area.

The District protects property values by preserving the quantity and quality of groundwater for future generations. Groundwater below landowners' property is protected from neighboring landowners who could drain all their groundwater without a GCD in place.



Dennis Erinakes gives a presentation on the Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District

District operations include the following activities:

- Registering water wells
- Conducting scientific and technical research on groundwater resources
- Educating the public about groundwater issues
- Responding to concerns and questions from the public and local/state officials
- Developing and enforcing a management plan and rules

The district is installing equipment in water wells around the district to track and record information on groundwater levels in the different aquifers underlying the land. This helps them to track water level decline in the different aquifers and perform aquifer characterization, mapping, and modeling. They are also building a database of wells in the district, which they will use to evaluate projected growth in water demand, and the pressures on groundwater supplies to meet this demand.

A major concern for groundwater quality is the large number of old and/or abandoned wells that are not sealed. This may allow exchange of water between different aquifers. The problem with this is that deep aquifers (>5,000 feet) are saline, so that if an unsealed well goes that deep, the saline water can push upward into aquifers used for drinking water, thus contaminating it.

VIRGINIA

Ken Carter, ARCSE Representative

Email: duckheadone@gmail.com

We received news from **Rachel Hollins**, former Contract Specialist in the Richmond State Office, that she and her husband have moved. Her new contact information is: 1711 Bellevue Ave, Apt D-913, Richmond, VA 23227 (email: rhollins1944@gmail.com). Shortly after moving in, this area was hit with severe thunderstorms. Power was knocked out and stayed out for over four days. How's that as a welcome to the neighborhood!

We would like to welcome **Janet Perry**, former Chief Economist and Director of the Resource Economics and Analysis Division in Beltsville, MD to our ranks. Janet has recently retired and is living in Virginia.

2016 ARCSE ANNUAL LUNCHEON IS ON MONDAY, JULY 25TH. RESERVATIONS ARE DUE BY FRIDAY, JULY 15TH. THE RESERVATION FORM IS AVAILABLE AT:

<http://www.arcse.org/Luncheon-form.pdf>

WASHINGTON, DC, NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

John Peterson, ARCSE Representative

Email: jwpeterson@cox.net

Wayne and Anna (Dolly) Maresch celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on June 9th, 2016. **Wayne** says it's been a great trip, with many more ups than downs. They've had six children, 17 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren. **Wayne** said he has told the great-grandchildren he is not to be addressed as "Great Grandfather," but as "Grandfather the Great." Congratulations, **Wayne and Dolly**.

Joan Albertella sends: "My daughter **Dana Ensley** has accepted a position at a YMCA in Hamburg, KY, just outside Lexington. She will be Vice President for Operations for this huge "Y" which is currently under construction. I just got back from helping her and the family unpack and get settled. I am a true "Blue Star Mother" with my granddaughter's husband on his third deployment; my granddaughter, **Captain Erin Griffen** who is finishing her advanced training (she already has had a deployment to Iraq); and my grandson, **James Albertella**, who is going into the Army on August 1st. I am still at Lake of the Woods and involved in several activities."

We were saddened to hear that Life member **William Richard (Dick) Folsche** (78) passed away on June 25th, 2016 at his home, Mystic View Ranch, Savoy, TX. He had retired from the NRCS as Head of the National Cartographic and Geo Data Spatial Center in Fort Worth, TX. See the In Memoriam section for more details.

WASHINGTON

Gerald Richard, ARCSE Representative

Email: glr52pdr@aol.com

Present at our May and/or June luncheons at the Timber Creek Grill and Buffet were: **Jud Melton, Ralph Schmidt, Lennie Husa, Harry Riehle, Larry and Jean Edmonds, Hans and Kathryn Krauss, Jerry Richard, Carl Vennes, Ken Kaul, Chet Jahn, and Larry Zehm**.

Ralph Schmidt had a double by-pass heart operation May 3rd and has come through in fine shape. In fact, he made it to our June meeting and is doing well. **Phyllis Richard** had a right hip revision surgery on June 16th, and after four days in the hospital is back home for recovery.

Carl Vennes will be attending a high school class reunion at Malta, MT. Carl also had some recent excellent trout fishing at Amber Lake.

Our July luncheon will be on July 11th instead of our usual first Monday because of the 4th of July. We will be having our yearly afternoon BBQ potluck at **Jud and Karen Melton's** home along the Spokane River at Post Falls on August 8th for SCS and NRCS retirees and their spouses. Hamburgers and hot dogs plus ice tea and coffee will be provided. So mark your calendars for Monday, 12:30pm, August 8th, 2016 and plan to spend an afternoon of good food and companionship. Call **Jud** at (208) 773-1349 or **Jerry Richard** at (509) 747-5039 for any questions or more information.

WEST VIRGINIA

Peg Reese, ARCSE Representative

Email: pegreesevw@gmail.com

John Cox, retired district conservationist in Gassaway, passed away on March 11th, 2016. You can read more in the obituary section of this newsletter. Our condolences to his family.

Jerry Brackenrich, Area Resource Conservationist in Beckley, retired on April 1st. And **Rob Pate**, Resource Soil Scientist, who also worked in the Beckley Area Office, retired on June 1st.

Peggy Helmick gave the following update: "I'm having cataract surgery on Tuesday (June 22nd). I have to start the eye drops on Sunday, so I won't be driving for a while. Dave will be here sometime Monday and will take me on Tuesday. I'm not looking forward to it, but everyone says it is just a piece of cake, so keep me in your prayers."

Alan Staddon "just returned from Millbridge, Canada, about a three-hour drive north of Toronto, where I enjoyed a successful bass fishing trip with **Terry Densmore**. Terry is the brother of **Dee Weston**, NRCS-retired. We fished a different lake each of the four days. Largemouth and smallmouth bass are the main catch on most of the lakes in this area."



www.arcse.org



Alan Staddon with Canadian largemouth bass caught on a crank bait.

WISCONSIN

James Enlow, ARCSE Representative

Email: ljenlow@att.net

The Wisconsin retirees met for lunch and fellowship on June 9th, 2016 at Langford's Pub & Grill, Lawsonia Golf Course, Green Lake, WI. **Erv Lesczynski and Steve Prissel** were the hosts. Those in attendance included the hosts, **Erv and Steve, Jim Kaap, Greg Rebman, Howard Gundlach, Gene Nimmer, Ted Manning, Pat and Kathy Murphy and Jim and Lynnette Enlow.**

After an enjoyable lunch and fellowship, some retirees left to play a round of golf. The next luncheon is scheduled for August 11th, at Wayne's Family Restaurant in Oconto, Wisconsin.

DEADLINE FOR SEPT/OCT 2016 NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS IS AUGUST 25, 2016

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.*

Shelby H. Brownfield, Boise, ID
Johnny Eubanks, Gilbert, SC
Duane Kenneth Setness, Salem, OR
Alfred Vanderstucken, Victoria, TX

Marc Safley, Chronicler, Senior Conservationist

SENIOR CONSERVATIONIST CHRONICLE

Marc Safley, Chronicler, Senior Conservationist

Senior Conservationist
Shelby H. Brownfield

Senior Conservationist **Shelby Brownfield** was born June 12, 1931, in Ava, Illinois. He was raised on his family's dairy farm. After high school he enrolled in the University of Illinois. While in college he worked at several jobs including home construction and repair, a lab technician with the Agricultural Research Service. Shelby graduated in 1954 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture with a major in Agronomy (crops and soils).

After graduation he continued working for ARS at its Joliet Experiment Station as lab technician. He also worked for Swift & Co. as a field representative selling farm chemicals and fertilizers and for Sears, Roebuck & Co. as a garden store manager.

Shelby began his career with SCS in 1956 in Greencastle, IN, as a field soil scientist. In 1957 he was relocated to Spencer, IN, where he worked as field soil scientist until 1960. In 1960, he was promoted to Area Soil Scientist and survey party leader at Franklin, IN. He remained there until 1963 when he took the same job at Shelbyville, IN. In 1967 he moved to North Vernon, IN; in 1972 he relocated to Kendallville, IN. He was in Kendallville just a short time, for he was selected in that year to be soil correlator located at Bozeman, MT. He remained in Bozeman until 1977 when he was promoted to State Soil Scientist for Idaho at Boise. There he remained until 1986. During his tenure in Idaho he participated in a temporary assignment for US-AID to Algeria in 1984. The team of which he was a member worked to select and evaluate sites for agricultural research and plant materials projects.

Shelby retired from SCS in mid-1986. Following retirement he worked as Senior Soil Scientist under contract to the Idaho Division of Environment from 1986 to 1988. He, along with other SCS retirees, founded Associated Earth Scientists in 1987. His company performed various work under contract including evaluation of drain field sites for sewage treatment and disposal, evaluation of landfill sites, evaluation of drainage and soil conditions for proposed subdivisions, and other related urban soil consultation. He also trained Idaho District Health Officers to identify soil problems.

Shelby reports that he continues to be involved with everything from do-it-yourself projects ("...mainly remodeling and repair of my homes including a log home...") to family gatherings and church activities. In 2006 and 2007 he spent three weeks of each year as a volunteer with Marion Medical Mission in Malawi, Africa. On those trips, Shelby helped install shallow wells in rural villages. He has also visited Ethiopia in 1992, 2004, and 2007 where he assisted his agricultural engineer and missionary son David Brownfield. During those trips he assisted on water development projects and repair of water systems in the highlands of northwestern Ethiopia.

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, I will be glad to do the search. Please send death notices and obituary information directly to Ron Marlow 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)

Bacon **Daniel Bacon** (88) of Macon, Georgia passed away on June 18, 2016. He was born in Tattnall County. He graduated from Glennville High School in 1944 and worked in the shipyards of Savannah until he was 17 and old enough to join his two brothers already serving to protect our country in WWII. He served in the Navy in the South Pacific until the end of the war on the Bunker Hill returning wounded soldiers back to the U.S. Upon returning home he utilized the GI bill graduating from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC) in 1948 and the University of Georgia in 1950 with a BS degree in Agriculture with a minor in Agronomy. He took a job teaching in Surrency, GA. After teaching Agriculture to returning war veterans, he worked for the USDA in the Soil Conservation Service throughout several Georgia counties. In 1964 he took a job with the United States Forest Service at the Pisgah National Forest near Brevard, North Carolina mapping soils. Upon completing his Master of Agriculture from N.C. State University in 1968, he then moved his family to Atlanta where he became the Southeast Regional Hydrologist for the US Forest Service. After retiring in 1984, he opened a consulting firm, Soil Surveys, and practiced until 2001. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, **Jean Bacon**; children, **Becky Rosson-Bonner (spouse, Cleve Bonner)** and **Dexter Bacon**, San Antonio (**spouse, Diane Riden Bacon**); three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to the American Diabetes Association or Tattnall Baptist Church in the memory of Dan Bacon.

Birchmier Member and Senior Conservationist **Richard Walter (Dick) Birchmier** (87) of Centerville, Iowa passed away on May 19, 2016 at Mercy Medical Center in Centerville. He was born in Van Buren County, Iowa on a farm S.E. of Milton, Iowa. He attended high school at Milton, Iowa, graduating as valedictorian in 1945. Dick entered the Army in 1945 as a member of the Army Specialized Training Reserve Program, spending one year at South Dakota State University in Brookings, South Dakota. He then served with the 3rd Armored Division at Fort Knox, Kentucky. He attended Iowa State University, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Engineering in 1952. He lived in Cedar Rapids, Savannah, Milton, Indianola, Greenfield, West Des Moines, Shenandoah and Centerville, Iowa. He worked at Collins Radio in Cedar Rapids, farmed, and in 1962, started with the USDA, Soil Conservation Service. Dick was a registered engineer in the State of Iowa. He was in charge of Engineering Project Offices in Shenandoah and Centerville, retiring in 1994. He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Centerville, American Legion, Soil Conservation Society of America, Knights of Columbus and 18-80 Club. Survivors include his two daughters, **Cynthia L. Hunt** of Maryville, Missouri, and **Suzanne J. Birchmier** of Centerville, Iowa; four sons, **Richard L. (Peggy) Birchmier** of Milton, Iowa, **Randall R. (Karen) Birchmier** of Maitland, Florida, **Michael A. (Paula) Birchmier** of Kansas City, Missouri, and **Thomas D. (Raegan) Birchmier** of Albia, Iowa; 17 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death in 2012 by his loving wife of 60 years, **Martha Lou** and one son, **Gregory Walter**. Condolences may be shared online at www.langefh.com.

Brownfield **Marjorie A. Brownfield** (83) of Shelbyville, Illinois passed away peacefully on October 6, 2014, in Shelbyville Rehabilitation and Healthcare. She died of Lewey's Body Dementia. Her husband, **Shelby**, was the sole caregiver

24/7 for over four years. Marjorie was born in Jacob, ID. She was known by **Marjorie Sullivan** most of her career as a special education teacher. She married a school mate and longtime friend, **Shelby H. Brownfield**, of Boise, Idaho, on May 24, 2003, in Shelbyville. Shelby is an ARCSE member who retired as the State Soil Scientist in Idaho in 1986. They lived about one-half of the year each in Boise, Idaho and Shelbyville. They resided in a log home designed by Marjorie that she and her family built. She was a much loved friend and respected stepmother of Shelby's five children and three stepchildren, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Marjorie received her bachelor's and master's degrees in special education from the Illinois State University. She has traveled worldwide including two short term missions to Malawi, Africa where she taught in a Marian Medical Mission, Deaf School. Any gifts or donations can be given to First Presbyterian Church in Shelbyville, or Alzheimer's Association. To send online condolences, visit www.lockartgreenfuneralhome.com.

- Brull** **Robert F. Brull** (86) of Hays, Kansas passed away October 27, 2009. He was a Soil Conservation Technician with the Soil Conservation Service in the Hays Field Office, retiring in 1984.
- Collins** **Donald Collins** (71) of Houlton, Maine passed away on May 2, 2016. He had been a District Conservationist for NRCS in Houlton, and an RC&D coordinator in Presque Isle. He was born in Rumford, Maine. Donnie received a degree in Agriculture Resource Economics from the University of Maine in 1973. He was employed by the USDA Soil Conservation Service until his retirement in 2009. He worked in the Field offices of Bangor, Caribou, Machias and Houlton. Donnie was an active member of the Houlton United Methodist Church, past president of Vital Pathways and current President of Houlton Community Golf Course. He participated in many other community organizations, including the Board of Directors for Big Rock Mountain. He was the recipient of the Paul Harris Fellowship Award in 2012 from the Houlton Rotary Club. Donnie is survived by his wife of 51 years, **Marion Morgan Collins**; a son, a daughter, and two grandchildren children of Easton, PA. He was predeceased by an infant daughter, **Catherine Louise Collins**; and his brother, **James**, who passed away Sunday, May 1, 2016, just one day before his own passing. In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made in Donnie's memory payable to Vital Pathways. Online condolences and guest book: dunnfuneral.com.
- Cox** **John Robert Cox** (71) of Gassaway, West Virginia passed away on March 11, 2016, with his family by his side. John served in the United States Navy from 1964 to 1967. He graduated from West Virginia University School of Forestry in 1972. In 2009, he retired from the federal government after a career with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. John was an avid outdoorsman who loved to hunt and fish. He loved to travel and was a supporter and leader of 4-H and a 4-H All-Star. John was a member of the Gassaway United Methodist Church. Surviving John is his wife of almost 51 years, **Rhonda K. Cox**; son, **Jeffrey Cox (Shelly)** of Kenna; daughter, **Melissa (Mike) Duty** of Gassaway; son, **Eric Cox** of Boston, Mass.; six grandchildren; and a great-grandson. Also surviving is his mother and stepfather, Jane and Frank George of Walton. In lieu of flowers, the family request donations to Livestrong.org. Condolences may be extended to the family at www.roachfuneralhome.com.
- Culver** **Jackie Sue Culver** (80) of Lincoln, Nebraska passed away June 11, 2016 after a long courageous battle with Parkinson disease. She was born in Chickasha, OK. She was married to ARCSE member **Jim Culver** who retired from NRCS in 2001 as a National Leader in Soils. Jackie is a graduate of Oklahoma State University School of Home Economics in 1958. She was active in Beta Sigma Phi, Civil Air Patrol and Payne County Extension Homemakers. She enjoyed working and was quite skilled with all kinds of crafts. She was one of the first owners and operators of a craft store "Hearts and Hands" and an instructor for various craft classes at Southeast Community College. Jackie is survived by her husband of 58 years, **Jim**; daughter **Kathy (Mark) Swanson** of Palmyra; son **Jim (Irem) Culver** of Potomac, Md., and son **Jon Culver** of Lincoln; three grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Memorials to the American Parkinson Disease Association, (APDA), Nebraska Chapter, 501 No. 87th, Suite 207, Omaha, NE 68114.
- Davis** **Betty J. Davis** (87) of Minneapolis, Kansas passed away on February 2, 2016 at the Ottawa County Health Center. She was born in Harrison, AR and was the wife of George Davis who retired as the District Conservationist in the Minneapolis Field Office in 1980. He preceded her in death in 1993. Betty was a 1945 graduate of Bergman High School. She was united in marriage with **George W. Davis** on December 30, 1944 in Harrison. George and Betty moved to Minneapolis in 1956 and became actively involved in the community. Betty was a sales coordinator for EIDorado for many years. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church. Betty and George were leaders for church youth groups and 4-H. She was preceded in death by a great-grandson **Oliver George Schapaugh**. Survivors include her three children, ten grandchildren and sixteen great- grandchildren.
- Folsche** Life member **William Richard (Dick) Folsche** (78) passed away on June 25, 2016 at his home, Mystic View Ranch, Savoy, TX. Dick was born in Troy, KS. He was educated at Kansas State University earning both a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Engineering and at Syracuse University earning a Master's in Public Administration. He was employed by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service for 43 yrs., retiring as Head of the National Cartographic and Geo Data Spatial Center in Fort Worth, TX. Dick was preceded in death by his parents and sister, **Ann F. Dornbusch**. He is survived by his wife, **Marjorie H. Folsche** of Savoy; daughters, **Laura F. Daggs** of Fort Worth, TX and **Rebecca F. Luttrell** of Keller, TX, stepsons, **Royce W. Espey, Jr. (Terri)** of Fuquay Varina, NC, **Gary G. Espey** of Wake Forest, NC, and **James L. Espey (Debbie)** of Lexington Park, MD; four grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; a step-granddaughter; and brother-in-law, **Gus Dornbusch (Donna)** of

Lincoln, NE. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Covenant Presbyterian 322 W Pecan St. Sherman, TX 75090, or a charity of your choice. The online register may be signed at <http://www.waldfuneralhome.com>.

- Hahn** **Lorraine Hahn** (91) of Athens, Georgia passed away on April 19, 2016. She was born on in Reedsville, Wisconsin and worked for many years for the USA Soil Conservation Service. She was a founding and dedicated member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Athens. She is survived by her husband, **Jack R. Hahn**, her daughter, **Jeanne Stanelle (Paul) Eleazer**, her son, **Steven W. Stanelle**, five grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Trinity Lutheran Church Educational Fund. 1924 - 1991
- Hayhurst** **Ernest Neil Hayhurst** (85) of Raleigh, North Carolina passed away on April 7, 2016. Ernie retired in 1990 as Assistant State Soil Scientist for North Carolina. He was born in Grantsville, West Virginia. A graduate of Calhoun County High School, he served in the United States Army from 1952-1955 and was stationed in Germany. After completing his service, Ernie returned to West Virginia and attended West Virginia University, earning both his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees. He worked as a Soil Scientist for the Soil Conservation Service for over 40 years. He began his career in Ohio before transferring to North Carolina in 1976. After his retirement, he worked another ten years as a consultant for Soil & Environmental Consultants, PA in Raleigh. Ernie had been an active member of St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church in Raleigh since 1976, serving for many years as an Eucharistic Minister. Even once Alzheimer's stole most of his memories, he could still recite the mass prayers verbatim, and both praying and listening to hymns always made him smile. He was preceded in death by his first wife, **Christina (Pauling) Hayhurst**. Ernie is survived by his devoted wife of more than 30 years, **Samera Saleeby (Samia) Hayhurst**; Ernie had one son, **Michael Hayhurst** of Youngsville, NC, one daughter, **Dianne (Trip) Casson** of Wake Forest, NC, and four stepsons; plus ten treasured grandchildren.
- High** **Marylou High** (94) of Portland, Oregon passed away on April 29, 2016. She was the widow of **Robert High** who at his retirement was Oregon's state geologist with the Soil Conservation Service. Please sign the online guest book at www.oregonlive.com/obits
- Hocker** **Jimmie C. Hocker** (84) of Ft. Worth, Texas peacefully passed away on May 6, 2016. He was born in Salina, OK and was the husband of **Patsy Hocker**. He attained his B.A. from TCU and his MBA from Duke University. Jimmie was instrumental in building Humana and later worked at Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas. Upon retirement, he volunteered at the Vintage Flying Museum at Meacham Airport. As a pilot, he enjoyed flying from an early age and shared this love with students and family. Survivors: Wife of 62 years, **Patsy**; two sons, a daughter, and eight grandchildren.
- Howell** Member **Jon Roger Howell** (76) of Lansing, Michigan passed away May 1, 2016 after a brief illness. He was born in Mount Ida, Wisconsin and grew up on a dairy farm. He received his bachelor's degree from University of Wisconsin at Platteville in 1962. Roger retired from the USDA in 1995, having worked in the Soil Conservation Service as a soil conservationist, a district conservationist and a public information officer. Family members recall how he needed to stop the car to take photos wherever he saw soil erosion. Roger believed in community service. He was a member of the Soil and Water Conservation Society for over 50 years serving one year as President. He was leader with Boy Scout Troop 111 and both of his sons were Eagle Scouts. He took leadership roles with Jaycees in several communities until he became an "exhausted rooster". He was a member of First United Methodist Church on Delta River Drive for nearly 40 years, serving on the Board of Trustees. After retiring he volunteered with the National Active and Retired Federal Employees group and with the Michigan Envirothon. Roger was the ARCSE state representative for many years. He and Dixie served as resident lighthouse keepers through the Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association. Roger and Dixie walked regularly at places like Hunter's Orchard Park, Hawk Meadows Park and the Riverfront Walk. Roger still enjoyed splitting his own firewood. Surviving are his children, **Leslie (Ernest) Delemeester**; **Kim (Joel) Murray**; **Christopher "CJ" Howell**; and eight grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife of 47 years, **Dixie** in 2012 and son **Scot**. Memorial contributions may be made to Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association or his church, FUMC.
- Lattimore** **Thomas William Lattimore, Jr.** (90) of Higginsville, Missouri passed away on May 28, 2016. He was born in Sullivan, MO. Tom worked for the USDA Soil Conservation Service for 30 years retiring as the District Conservationist in the Higginsville/Lafayette County Field Office. He also taught Vocational AG in High School for 5 years. He was a WW II Army Air Force veteran, a member of the VFW Post 1000 in Independence and the American Legion Post 223 in Higginsville. He is preceded in death by a daughter, **Linda Diane Lattimore**. He is survived by his wife of 68 years **Maudie** of the home; son, **Thomas Michael Lattimore (June)** of Good Thunder, MN; two grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Memorials are suggested to Grace United Methodist Church or the Lafayette County Cancer Coalition. Condolences may be emailed to the family at: Kaiser-Wiegers@ctcis.net.
- Lowery** **Claire Cook Lowery** (88) of Athens, Georgia passed away on April 15, 2016. Born in Milan, GA, she was preceded in death by her husband of 63 years, **Frank Harris Lowery, Sr.** who retired from the Soil Conservation Service as a Soil Survey Party Leader. Claire graduated from Milan High School, Middle Georgia College and attended Georgia Women's College in Milledgeville. She was a National 4-H Project Winner in Home Beautification in 1944. She taught in the local schools and was a devoted mother to their four children.

- Riggs** **William Norman Riggs**, 80, of Chillicothe, Missouri, passed away on June 6, 2016 in Lenexa, KS. William was born in Wentzville, Mo. and was a graduate the University of Missouri attaining a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Engineering. For 41 years William worked as an agricultural engineer for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. He was a United States Army Veteran, serving from 1958 thru 1960 in Germany. He was a member of the United Methodist Church of Chillicothe; the Kiwanis Club of Chillicothe and the Masonic Lodge of Bethany, MO. He was a Registered Professional Engineer since 1957 and a member of the Society of Agricultural Engineers since 1958. He was most proud of receiving the FFA State Farmer Degree in 1954 and working since 1983 with the Boy Scouts and receiving the Honorary Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, **Ruby** of the home; three children, **Russell Paul (Melinda) Riggs** of Caruthersville, MO, **Rachelle Renae (Jon) Lee-Warner** of Norfolk, VA, and **Ryan Alan Riggs** of Warrensburg, MO; and four grandchildren. Memorials in honor of William Riggs may be made to Butterfield Youth Services in Marshall, MO, or to the United Methodist Church of Chillicothe and left at or mailed to Heritage Funeral Home, 3141 N. Washington, Chillicothe MO 64601. Online condolences may be left at www.heritage-becausewecare.com
- Shaffer** **Louise Shaffer** (86) of Athens, Georgia passed away on June 12, 2016 after being moved to St. Mary's Hospice. She is survived by her son **Michael** and other family members. Louise was the wife of former Georgia State Soil Scientist, **Morris Shaffer** who retired from the Soil Conservation Service. He passed in 2014.
- Smith** **Joyce Cook Smith** (87) of Athens, Georgia passed away around June 22, 2016. She was born in Athens. She married her childhood sweetheart Wilton Smith in 1947, a year after graduation, and began her life as a military wife. He served in both the Navy and the Air Force and retired to Athens where they lived with their four sons most of whom attended the University of Georgia. Joyce was a federal employee beginning her career at Robins Air Force Base, GA working as did her husband with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (OSI). She also had top secret clearance as part of her role with OSI. She was also employed by the US Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service in Financial Management. Joyce retired in 1989 with 32 years of federal service. She is survived by her four sons, ten grandchildren, and fourteen precious great grandchildren. Contributions may be made to Prince Avenue Baptist Church.
- Willmeth** Senior Conservationist **Francis V. Willmeth** (96) of Jewell, Kansas passed away on June 4, 2016. Francis retired from the Soil Conservation Service in 1976 as the District Conservationist in the Smith Center Field Office.
- Wise** Senior Conservationist **Grady Lee Wise** (101) of Reidsville, North Carolina passed away on April 4, 2016. Grady retired in 1973 as District Conservationist in Reidsville, NC. He was born in Coffee County, Alabama and worked his way through Auburn University graduating in 1939 with a BS degree in Agriculture. His first job was with the Farm Security Administration in Marion, Alabama. In 1941 he was drafted into the US Army. While stationed in Fort Belvoir, Virginia, as a Lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers, he met and married Frances E. Onyun, March 14, 1942. Following his discharge Grady worked for the Soil Conservation Service his entire career in Rockingham County. Grady was predeceased in death by his wife, eight brothers and three sisters, including **Dr. French P. Wise** of Greensboro, NC. He is survived by his children, **Janet Wise Pugh** of Greensboro, **Joan Wise Dalrymple (Neill)** of Holly Springs and **David Keith Wise** of Reidsville; his four grandchildren, and his four great grandsons. Grady was civic minded and a faithful member of the American Legion Coleman-Southard Post No. 79 where he served as treasurer for over 40 years. He was a member of the Exchange Club, delivered Meals on Wheels (into his 90's) was a member of NARFE, an active member of Main St. United Methodist Church and a member of the United Methodist Men. Not enjoying idle time, he purchased a small farm outside of town in 1952 where he spent all his spare time; growing tobacco, organic vegetables for the family, cattle and U-Pick strawberries.



Jefferson Hibiscus



Reflection Pond, Denali National Park, Alaska.