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NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter for Retired SCS and NRCS Employees

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NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

John Stierna

AGRICULTURAL APPROPRIATIONS—The House Agricultural Appropriations subcommittee released their draft bill recently as the appropriations process for agriculture got underway. Below are the key conservation proposals in the subcommittee draft bill.

Mandatory funding, Farm Bill Conservation Programs—The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (**EQIP**) was capped at \$1,349,000,000, about \$301 million less than the \$1.65 billion mandated in the Farm Bill. While this is a significant reduction, about 18 percent, it still represents greater funding than FY 2015 by a very modest \$20 million. The FY 2016 amount may be close to the largest funding since the program began in 1996. A portion, about \$94 million, will go for funding the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) projects.

Enrollment in the Conservation Stewardship Program (**CSP**) is being capped again at 7,741,000 acres for FY 2016—the same cap imposed in FY 2015. This enrollment number is above the 7 million acres proposed in the President's budget, but is significantly below the 10 million acres mandated in the Farm Bill. While the committee's acreage cap translates to a cut of about \$40 million in the current fiscal year, it is a *de facto* cut of \$400 million over the ten-year life of the additional conservation contracts that could have been entered into under CSP this year under the Farm Bill authorization.

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (**ACEP**) was left alone in the committee bill, thus allowing the full \$450 million of mandatory funding from the Farm Bill to be available in FY 2016 (before sequestration). This is \$25 million more than FY 2015. About 7 percent of ACEP dollars will go for **RCP** projects. Ultimately, after the appropriations process comes to a conclusion, NRCS will determine the respective portions of ACEP dollars that will go for Agricultural Land Easements (**ALE**) and for Wetland Reserve Easements (**WRE**).

The Conservation Reserve Program is not affected by the committee's bill, thus allowing the Farm Bill authority to control. That means that total enrollment in **CRP** will be capped at 25 million acres during FY 2016.

Discretionary funding—The discretionary funding for NRCS's Conservation Operations (**CO**) account in the subcommittee's bill is slated for \$832,928,000 in FY2016—a cut of \$13.5 million from FY2015. This is particularly adverse since FY 2016 will have NRCS facing an increased workload to address the conservation compliance needs of producers newly covered by these provisions because of the linkage to crop insurance premium subsidies. The committee provided a \$1.7 million dollar increase for CO compared to the President's budget, but that means almost nothing relative to the expected workload.

The Farm Service Agency's Conservation Loan Guarantee program is again authorized at \$150 million, the same as last year and the same as in the President's budget. This program, created in the 2008 Farm Bill, offers guaranteed loans for farmers or ranchers to implement an NRCS-approved conservation plan.

Watershed issues—The committee bill also provides \$6 million in discretionary appropriation for the watershed rehabilitation program. However, the committee bill also blocks any mandatory funding for watershed rehabilitation work that would otherwise come through the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and rescinds \$69 million that would have come through that avenue. This is in contrast to providing \$12 million in discretionary funds last year and allowed \$73 million in CCC mandatory funding last year in the final omnibus bill signed into law (PL 113-235).

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES

Conservation compliance—The subcommittee bill (Sec. 748) has language provided by the House Agriculture Committee that insures that producers newly covered by conservation compliance requirements due to the linkage to crop insurance premium subsidies will not lose their benefits for the 2016 reinsurance year. This provision does not repeal the compliance requirements or the implementation deadlines in law (1 year, 2 years and 5 years), but solely deals with the June 1, 2015 deadline imposed administratively by USDA for submission of the form AD-1026, and difficulties FSA is having in handling the workload in their field offices. The provision also directs USDA to continue to assist producers to come into compliance in order to meet the needed conservation on the landscape. This provision is likely to face opposition in the Senate due to concerns that it risks opening the Farm Bill to amendments on compliance, and the feeling that USDA can solve the internal workload problem administratively, and a legislative provision is not needed.

Independent of Congressional interest in conservation compliance, the opportunity for public comments on the USDA interim final rule on conservation compliance came to a close on June 23rd.

Waters of the United States—On May 27th, EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers issued the final rule defining waters of the U.S. that are covered under the Clean Water Act (CWA). It was released in pre-publication form and is supposed to be in the *Federal Register* very soon, but has not yet been published as of June 24, 2015. The publication date is significant since the rule will be effective 60 days after publication.

The rule is labeled either “The Clean Water Rule” or “Waters of the United States Rule” and commonly called the WOTUS rule. EPA and the Corps state that the “rule will ensure protection for the nation’s public health and aquatic resources, and increase CWA program predictability and consistency by clarifying the scope of ‘waters of the United States’ protected under the Act.”

In the preamble to the final rule, EPA and the Corps state:

“The scope of jurisdiction in this rule is narrower than that under the existing regulation. Fewer waters will be defined as ‘waters of the United States’ under the rule than under the existing regulations, in part because the rule puts important qualifiers on some existing categories such as tributaries. In addition, the rule provides greater clarity regarding which waters are subject to CWA jurisdiction, reducing the instances in which permitting authorities, [states and tribes], would need to make jurisdictional determinations on a case-specific basis.”

There has been controversy about the rule ever since it was first proposed, with a lot of conflicting comments being made about what would be covered and what would not be covered by the rule.

For example, on May 12th, about two weeks before the final rule was released by EPA and the Corps of Engineers, the House of Representatives passed HR 1732 by a vote of 261-155. The stated purpose of the bill, as described in House Report 114-93, is as follows

“The purpose of H.R. 1732 is to preserve existing rights and responsibilities under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with respect to Waters of the United States by requiring the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) (collectively, the ‘Agencies’) to withdraw a proposed rule the Agencies have developed regarding the scope of federal jurisdiction under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, consult with state and local officials, stakeholders, and other interested parties on how to identify those waters covered under, and those waters not covered under, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and to develop a new proposed rule after taking into consideration all of the comments received on the original proposed rule and the advice and recommendations made by the state and local officials, stakeholders, and other interested parties that were consulted.”

While it is uncertain if the House bill will be passed by the Senate, the Administration has indicated that it will be vetoed if it makes it to the President’s desk.

A different approach is also being pursued in the Congress. A policy rider has been included in EPA’s appropriation bill that would essentially block EPA and the Corps from implementing the rule for the fiscal year covered by the bill. The argument is that it would be harder for the President to veto an appropriation bill, since it could lead to a shutdown of the affected agencies.

The rule makes no mention of USDA’s voluntary conservation programs that help address water quality, but does mention obtaining technical data from NRCS to help EPA and the Corps make CWA jurisdiction decisions

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

RCPP—NRCS has announced that \$235 million in funding is available for projects under the Regional Conservation Partnership Program. This new innovative approach to conservation allows local partners the opportunity to design and invest in conservation projects specifically tailored for their communities. These public-private partnerships can have an impact that’s well beyond what the federal government could accomplish on its own. Pre-proposals are due by July 8th, 2015.

WREP—An opportunity for \$17.5 million in funding is also available through the Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership, a special enrollment option under the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program’s Wetland Reserve

Easement component. Through this avenue, NRCS hopes to work with partners to voluntarily protect, restore, and enhance critical wetlands on private and tribal agricultural lands. Proposals are due to state offices by July 31, 2015

DamWatch—NRCS has developed a new tool to assist watershed project sponsors to monitor and manage NRCS-assisted dams. This tool provides real-time monitoring of rainfall, snowmelt, stream flow, and seismic events that could pose potential threats to dam safety. DamWatch also provides an avenue for all relevant data on the dam to be integrated and immediately available to project sponsors in the event of an emergency alert. **Chief Weller** has indicated that this tool has been very helpful as emergency personnel were addressing the recent floods in Oklahoma, Texas, and several other states. Nearly 12,000 dams are currently being monitored using the web-based DamWatch tool.

People—NRCS has selected **Louis Aspey** and **Ray Dotson** to be state conservationists in West Virginia and Nevada respectively, beginning on July 12th.

DEADLINE FOR SEPT/OCT 2015 NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS IS AUGUST 25, 2015

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Warren M. Lee, wandblee@comcast.net

It is with pleasure that I announce the election of **Dana York** as your new President-Elect of ARCSE, as well as the re-election of **Jerry Richards**, **Norman Kempf**, **Bill Bowers** and **Arnold King** as our Regional Vice Presidents. Dana will assume the duties of the President in 2017 following **Cecil Currin**'s reign as President which begins in July, 2015.

This is my last message to the ARCSE members as your President. I wish to thank all of you for your contributions to our newsletter and for continuing to meet up with former colleagues and friends. Thank you **Jerry, Norm, Bill and Arnold** for your efforts in keeping our organization functioning. Thank you Ron for keeping me organized and our records straight. Thanks **Doug** for your historical recaps; **John** for the updates on the events taking place on Capitol Hill and **Marc** as our Senior Conservationist Chronicler. A special thanks to **Jerry Bernard** for producing and distributing the newsletter. The electronic version has given us a financial savings, but equally important, a venue where we can share those great pictures of our retirees activities.

It has been my pleasure in serving you for the past two years and know our future is in good hands with our new leadership team.

--Warren M. Lee

A BIT OF HISTORY

Douglas Helms, *Historian*

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Recent rains highlight values of Upstream Flood Control. Recent heavy rains and flooding in Oklahoma and Texas remind us of the role played by flood control structures built by the Soil Conservation Service. It was 67 years ago, July 8, 1948, that **Hugh Hammond Bennett** and a crowd of 10,000 attended the dedication ceremony of the first structure on Cloud Chief Watershed. It was the first of 1,140 structures built as part of the Washita River Project. The Flood Control Act of 1936 established a procedure to study and authorize projects in upstream areas.



Cloud Chief, Dam No. 1

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Ron Marlow, Secretary Treasurer

New Members

Onstad, Margie	SC
Carroll, Frank	IL
Ourada, John	KS

☞ See the last page of this newsletter for changes received for the ARCSE Members Directory since it was distributed in May, 2015.

ARIZONA

Karl Klingelhofer, ARCSE Representative

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Galen Bridge, Tucson: The first part of June we left the West Coast en route to the East Coast, including D.C. Even though I have traveled this land many times in my career, I still get excited to see the changing landscape, terraces, wetlands, and no-till cropping systems. This is such a magnificent country of rugged mountains and majestic rivers, such as the Columbia, Snake, Missouri, Mississippi, and Ohio.

This trip will continue from D.C. to my home farm in Maine, a brief visit to Quebec, Canada, and return to the West through the Mid-West. Before leaving Tucson, there was a party to celebrate my old age by **Tom and Jeanne George**, and my stepdaughter **Tracie Kirkham**.



Ken Cookson and Galen solving the problems of the world at the Birthday party



Erwina and I on the Mississippi River at LaCrosse.



Galen Bridge at his 80th Birthday party

Marion Strong, Tempe: I have passed my 97th birthday on May 2nd. Several retirees posted greetings on my Facebook. I appreciated the messages. I live by myself in my home. I have the company of my little black Schnauzer, **Mitzie**. I am in fair health, but my kidneys are failing. I will be going on dialysis soon. I will be doing PD (peritoneal dialysis), which uses a machine for dialysis while I am sleeping.

My daughter had invited me to their place in Ocean Shores, WA, but I was unable to go because of the need to prepare for the dialysis. I hope to travel to Seattle later this year to visit **Jim** and his family. My grandson is completing his project for Eagle Scout rank. **Andrew** will be a senior in high school this fall.

I have been retired over 35 years. I still drive around home. For longer distances one of my children or grandchildren drive.

Ron Moreland, Tucson: **Ron and Barb Moreland** just got back from two-and-a-half weeks in Europe. We spent five days in Paris where we walked 10 miles each day in a different *arrondissement*, finding favorite cafés, wine bars, and museums. The rest of the time we were in the Torino, Piemonte, Langhe area of Northern Italy. That area, home to the king and queen of Italian wines, Barolo and Barbaresco, is more beautiful than Tuscany, with miles of vineyards and beautiful villages, all with the Alps in the background--and few tourists. The game changer for us was **Michelle**, our GPS voice, who calmly led us from remote village to remote vineyard.

Bill Fobar, Cottonwood: **Bill and Joyce Fobair** were honored in March for contributing fourteen years of volunteer service to the Del Web Cottonwood Ranch Community. They were honored by placing a park bench with plaque alongside the pathway surrounding the park. Joyce founded the bridge club and continues as chairperson to this day. Bill served as the first chairman of the landscape committee during the transition responsibility from Del Web to the local board members. He supervised the establishment and maintenance of a three-acre, tall lawn Fescue Park. The park is a dedicated public park and services both the public and Del Web's 528 residents. The tall lawn fescue is one developed for our elevation of 3,400 feet. It proved to be an excellent choice that withstands heavy traffic, is drought tolerant, and is green the year-round. It receives heavy daily use and is enjoyed by dog lovers, children, picnickers, and seniors who enjoy watching the activities. With a maintenance program set up by Bill and the current landscape committee chairman, the tall lawn fescue will provide the community pleasure for generations.



Park bench dedicated to Bill and Joyce Fobair at Del Web Cottonwood Ranch Community

I was one of seventy-seven Veterans honored by the **Arizona Honor Flight Program**. I am a veteran of both WWII and the Korean conflict. I felt privileged and honored to share such a special experience with 76 of my brothers in arms. This program was staffed entirely by volunteers who took care of us and made us feel appreciated for our service. Even school children came up to us, shook our hands and said "thank you for your service."



I was most impressed by the first stop at the Nation's Capital, which is a masterful piece of architecture and construction. As a point of interest our guide told us, if the Statue of Liberty were placed in the center of the Rotunda, there would still be thirty feet of space above her crown. This building is filled with a rich history of our nation's capital.

We made many stops within the National Park that have historical significance including: The Vietnam Wall, The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, The Arlington National Cemetery, and Ft. McHenry, among many others. I purchased a flag representing the first 13 colonies and raised it on the flag staff at Ft. McHenry. As we stood on the grounds at Ft. McHenry in a moment of silence, we were reminded of what Francis Scott Key, writer of the National Anthem, saw that night: "The

bombs bursting in air gave proof through the night that our flag was still there." "And the Star-Spangled Banner in triumph shall wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!"

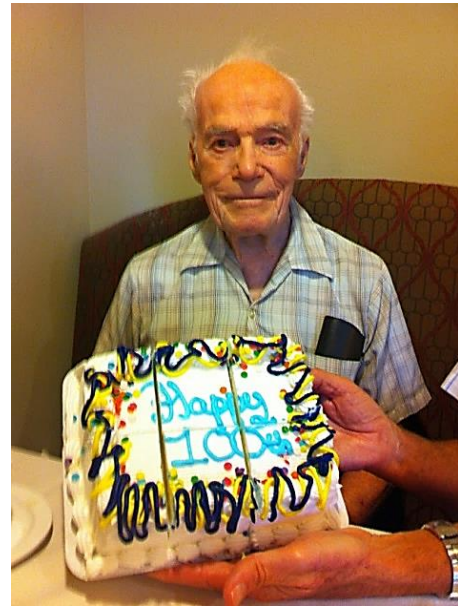
CALIFORNIA

Bill Ward, ARCSE Representative

Email: bluegrassbillward@gmail.com Hello to all our Fellow SCS/NRCS retirees across the Country! We have some fun things to share for this issue of our national newsletter.

A number of our retirees have enjoyed recent travels, or are still traveling. **Tom Wehri and his wife Naomi** just returned from a 6-week tour of five European Countries of France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland and a little of Spain. Tom says they are "Tired but had a great time." **Helen Flach** is currently traveling and enjoying the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

SCS Retiree Alton Almquist turns 100! Tuesday, June 16, 2015 was Al's 100th birthday. He celebrated with friends at his independent living community during the day and enjoyed dinner with SCS/NRCS retirees, **Marianne and Brian Hallet**. A basketball game and a baseball game on TV rounded out the day with his teams winning.



Al Almquist Celebrates 100 years!

A congratulatory party with friends and family was held on Saturday, June 20th. Thirteen family members came in from Virginia, Colorado, North Dakota, and Minnesota. SCS friends included **Rome Rivera** and **Walt Sykes**. Al met Rome while working in the Concord Field Office and Walt while working in the CA State Office when it was in Berkeley.

Al worked approximately 46 years with the Federal Government. He spent time in the Navy during WWII where his hearing was severely impacted due to his work in the engine room. He worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in South Dakota and Arizona, then SCS in California. He was a Design Engineer and worked on many of the big watershed projects. A big thank you goes to **Marianne Hallet**, longtime friend of Al's for providing this information on Al.

Some fascinating American Connections to China!

Recently California SCS retiree **Jack George** shared with me two fascinating documents related to conservation work in China that belong to his good friend and fellow SCS retiree **Hew Todd**. One of those documents was a copy of the June 1945 issue of National Geographic with one of the featured articles titled, "China fights erosion with US Aid." This story was written by our agency's first Assistant Chief, **Walter Lowdermilk**.

The second document was a biography describing Conservation Engineering work in China done by **Hew Todd's** father and Civil Engineer, **Oliver Todd**. The documents both described extensive American conservation efforts to help China. They are further linked in that both Walter Lowdermilk and Oliver Todd worked closely together in China and became close friends as a result of their work on some tremendously complex conservation efforts there.

There was a tremendous amount of fascinating information in the documents, and this write-up shared here can only briefly touch on some of the highlights and important contents of both documents.

To conclude this California report we have an update on **Hew Todd** who followed in his father Oliver Todd's large Conservation Engineering footprints in China with his own successful SCS Engineering career in California. So let's get to the good stuff!

1945 National Geographic article, "China fights erosion with US Aid"

In a somewhat similar manner to our agency's work in our own country, the Soil Conservation Service provided technical assistance to land users in China in 1942-43 on proper ways of farming and other land use to control and reduce horrendous erosion problems that existed there.

Walter Lowdermilk, Assistant Chief of the SCS, directly under Chief **Hugh Hammond Bennett**, was the team leader for SCS making the trip to China to provide this important technical assistance. He was also the author of the National Geographic article documenting this effort.

The scope of the work and technical challenges described in this National Geographic story faced by the Chinese and our technical assistance team under Lowdermilk were incredible and fascinating to read about. Early in the article Lowdermilk quickly made the statement that:

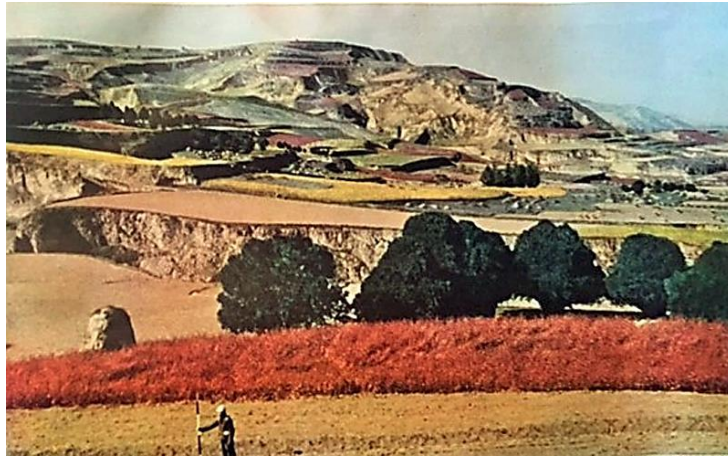
"Famines in Northwest China were not due to adverse change of climate but to suicidal agriculture in cultivating steep slopes without adequate measures for protecting fields from soil erosion."

Lowdermilk noted it had been common for Chinese farmers to utilize "Benching" on their steep farm lands in an effort to reduce and control erosion, while beneficial, more effective measures were needed. Lowdermilk and his team shared practices and

lessons learned in the US to utilize narrow strip cropping and terraces on the contour. In test areas it was determined that these "new practices" greatly improved the ability to eliminate significant erosion on slopes up to about 20%.

The challenge of reducing gully erosion and healing thousands of existing gullies in the steep lands was an even more extreme challenge. Aerial seeding and small dams constructed in the gullies were measures that were implemented with varied levels of success.

Following are a few of the actual photos that were part of Lowdermilk's article in National Geographic.



A newly constructed terrace with a huge, deep gully in the background.



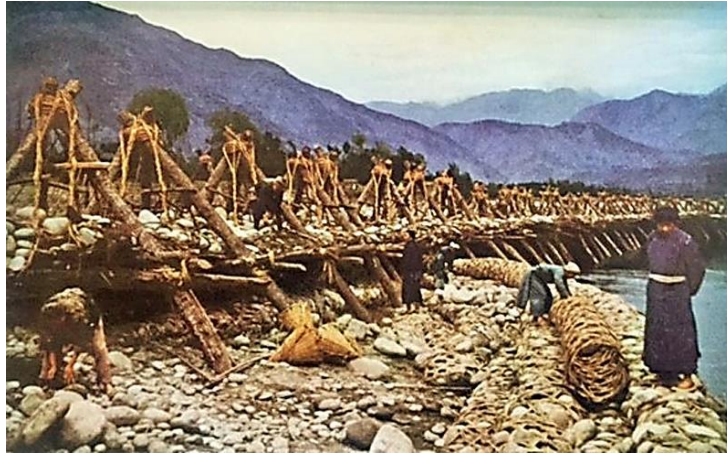
Some newer Bench Terracing on Chinese Spring wheat fields, 7,000 ft. elevation



Some effective bench terracing reduces erosion in Tsinghai, North of Sining

There were many fascinating historical sights and engineering wonders for Lowdermilk and his team to see as part of their travels and work in China. One such wonder clearly is the Tukiangyien irrigation diversion and flood control system from the Min River, established some 2,250 years ago! The system has controlled and eliminated devastating floods that used to occur every year from the Min River, and it continues to irrigate more than a half million acres of fertile Chengtu plains in the province of Szechwan.

Lowdermilk and his team were invited to witness the annual ceremony of the opening of the waters at Kwanhsien. The last photo I have included here from Lowdermilk's story is from that ceremony. I am sure that in the 70-plus years since that photograph was taken, modern construction materials like concrete, steel, and timber likely do the job those ancient materials did for over 2,000 years. I am fairly certain, however, that the system likely still operates as it has for over 2,000 years with newer materials doing the same job.



For more than 2,000 years these handmade headworks on the Min River at Kwanhsien have prevented floods and famine from occurring.

The scope and complexity of the work undertaken by the SCS team is truly hard to comprehend. Over 6,000 miles were traveled and more than a year's time spent on this effort in China. Walter Lowdermilk was truly an exceptional leader and conservationist.

Doing a little research, I discovered there is an excellent write-up on Lowdermilk's entire career doing conservation work and I highly recommend looking at it. This write-up was put together by our own SCS retiree **Doug Helms**. As you know Doug contributes regularly to our newsletter with great historical articles.

For those who would like to learn more about Lowdermilk's amazing career including more about this specific assignment to assist China simply search the web with the following specific article title: ***Walter Lowdermilk's Journey: Forester to Land Conservationist***

Now to move on to the next fascinating document regarding Conservation Technical assistance to China via **Oliver Todd's** work: ***"The China that I knew" written by Oliver Todd and copyright 1973.***

This 180-page document did an outstanding job of describing Oliver Todd's 20-plus years working in China as a civil engineer on a broad array of Natural Resources Projects to benefit the Chinese in areas of erosion and flood control, irrigation, transportation, food production and others. It also did an excellent job describing the Chinese people, their culture and the challenges they faced.

Oliver Todd was an American who served in the US army during World War I doing engineering work and referred to himself as an "Engineer Officer." Upon release from the Army, he was recruited by **John R. Freeman**, a prominent engineer, to be part of a team of American engineers to go to China and do engineering work. One of the team's first assignments was associated with rehabilitation of the Grand Canal, the longest canal/channel in the world, over 1,100 miles long!

Todd arrived August, 1919, and ultimately worked in China a total of 23 years. As a civil engineer, his work included field investigations, surveys and construction, river control, irrigation, erosion control, and road construction. One of his responsibilities for many years was that of "Chief Engineer of the China International Famine Relief Commission," with this work requiring many thousands of Chinese workers.

In 1927 he met and married an American missionary doctor there. They had four children who were born in China. One of his children was Hew Todd who ultimately had a long and successful career as an engineer with the Soil Conservation Service in northern California.

Todd's manuscript included numerous chapters or sections on important people who had a significant impact on his work in China. One such person was Walter Lowdermilk who some 10-plus years after his initial cooperative studies and work with Oliver became our agency's Assistant Chief. Todd referred to Lowdermilk as a "friend and fellow traveler and outstanding man who was respected and worked well with all he came into contact with."

With the Japanese invasion of China in 1937 and 1938, Todd and his family left China and came back to California. After the war was over, he was called back to China initially to lead engineering work to divert the Yellow River back to its original course after it had been diverted in 1938 to stop the advance of the Japanese invasion.

This short narrative just scratches the surface of the fascinating information in "The China that I Knew" by Oliver Todd. Unfortunately, there is no electronic link I can provide here to share more about Oliver Todd, a giant among engineers. And finally now we move on to an update on Oliver Todd's son Hew Todd.

An Update on SCS Retiree Hew Todd: I had a real nice conversation with Hew prior to finalizing this write-up. He confirmed several basic facts with me. He was born in China along with his three siblings. He returned to the US in 1938 when he was about 5 years old. He graduated from Cal Poly and immediately got an engineering position with SCS in 1955. He had a very successful 33-year

career as a field office engineer. Hew worked in Morgan Hill, Corning, and then Redding where he retired. Hew said he never had any desire to “move up” to the State Office or take any kind of management job. He just loved field office engineering. Hew has six kids and five grandkids.

These days his hobbies include “playing on or with the Stock Market,” on which he says he spends several hours a day. Hew was pretty modest, but from his comments and those of his close friend Jack George, he does real well and I asked him if he “gave lessons.” Hew works out at a gym six days a week to stay in shape, a great example for all of us.

He shared a couple other very interesting facts with me as well. At some point prior to starting college, his father invited Walter Lowdermilk to come to their home for dinner. As a result, Hew had the opportunity to meet Lowdermilk, while not really knowing who he was at the time.

Hew also shared with me that his Father, Oliver Todd, like Lowdermilk also wrote a feature story published in the National Geographic Magazine. His father's article came out in the February 1942 issue of National Geographic. Searching the internet, I found a picture of the cover of this issue and Todd's article was titled “Taming the “Flood Dragons Along China's Hwang Ho, with 26 Illustrations and maps.” Men like Walter Lowdermilk and Oliver Todd were truly giants in their field with no fear!

Hew sends his regards and best wishes out to all those SCS retirees he worked with and knew him. Many thanks to **Jack George** and Hew Todd for providing me all this fascinating information for California's report for the newsletter.

Best Wishes to all our retirees across the country!

COLORADO

Ivan Wilkinson, ARCSE Representative

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From **Wyn-Nelle White**: Some of you may remember **Cec O'Rourke**, an SCS employee for many years. She passed away in December. She was 91. She was the mother of **Jane O'Rourke Gibson** and **Michael O'Rourke**. When I met Cec (in the 1980s) she was on the State Conservationist's staff. At that time it was still SCS, and the State Office was located at Diamond Hill. I think the State Conservationist was **Bob Halstead**, then **Sheldon Boone**. **Celine Courtney** was the State Conservationist's secretary before I had that position. Before that, Cec had worked on the Soils Staff with **Dale Holden** and **Bob Dansdill**, and others. I'm attaching an article I did for the SCS newsletter about her. I'm sure none of the new NRCS employees will have heard of her, but almost all of those on your CC list will—if they are still alive!

IDAHO

Sharon Norris, ARCSE Representative

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**Submitted by Mark and Nancy
Weatherstone**

The following retired Idaho NRCS employees recently took an early spring backpack trip into the Craters of the Moon National Monument: **Kim Golden**, Panhandle Lakes RC&D Coordinator; **Bob Tribelhorn**, Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations; **Dan Pierce**, Clearwater RC&D Coordinator; and **Mark Weatherstone**, Assistant State Conservationist for Technical Services.

The monument is jointly administered by the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management and encompasses 750,000 acres of lava flows, sagebrush, volcanic cinder cones, and lava tubes and caves. In 1969 the area was used as a training location for the Apollo Astronauts. Local, state, and national movement is currently underway to change the designation of the area into what could become Idaho's only National Park.



Echo Crater Backcountry Campsite



Upper left to right; Kim Golden, Mark Weatherstone, Dan Pierce, and Bob Tribelhorn. Craters of the Moon Selfie.



Trail break along the Craters of the Moon Wilderness Trail. Left to right: Dan Pierce, Kim Golden, and Mark Weatherstone

IOWA

Mark Jensen, ARCSE Representative [NEW]

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The Montgomery County SWCD in southwest Iowa celebrated their 75th anniversary on June 10th in Red Oak. Montgomery County was the first county in Iowa to become a Soil Conservation District on a county-wide basis. Several current NRCS staff attended the celebration, as well as retirees **Erwin Aust, Gary Smith, Tom Burkhiser, Brian Peterson, and Lyle Asell**. Lyle was a Soil Conservationist in the Red Oak office in the early 70s. As one of the speakers, he told some interesting statistics. In 1940, Montgomery County had 1,700 farms. The Census of Agriculture showed there were about 500 farms in the county in 2012. In 1940, 91% of the farms had cattle, and 83% of the farms had hogs. These numbers are significantly lower now. Lyle talked to one contractor who bought his first dozer in 1946. That contractor is 92 years old and still runs a dozer. Another contractor who lost his arm when he was 17 years old is currently 85 and still running a dozer.

Brian and Kathy Peterson celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on May 24th. Their daughter **Kara** from Dallas Center and sons **Jeremy** from Clarinda and **Geoffrey** from Mexico City, Mexico, along with their families, helped Brian and Kathy celebrate. They had family pictures taken by Lake Icaria north of Corning. Lake Icaria is a multiple purpose reservoir that was constructed through the PL-566 Watershed Program as part of the Walter's Creek Watershed Project. Brian retired as the State Grassland Specialist. He currently assists the Extension Service with forage meetings in southern Iowa and is active with the Iowa Forage and Grassland Council and Southern Iowa Forage and Livestock Committee.

In April, **Ann and Mark Jensen** vacationed in Kansas, Colorado, and Utah. They especially enjoyed seeing sights and reading history about some of the “wild west” characters, forts, and cattle drives. In Colorado and Utah, they visited the Sand Dunes National Park, Mesa Verde National Park, Canyonlands National Park, and the Black Canyon National Park. I found out that my system reacts differently than it used to when I stand at the edge of a canyon and look almost straight down for several hundred feet!

Sue and Jerry Long traveled to China for two weeks in April. They visited Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, the Heavenly Garden, the Summer Palace, the Hutong district, the Great Wall, and the 2008 Olympic Park in Beijing. They also got to experience the worst dust storm in the recent history of Beijing on their first night in China. They weren't sure what they had gotten themselves into, but the next day was clear and sunny, so all was good! In Xian, they visited the terra cotta warrior excavation site. In Chongqing, they went to the zoo and saw Ling Ling, the panda bear. They saw about 4 panda bears who were avidly chomping on bamboo. They boarded a cruise ship in Chongqing and sailed down the Yangtze River, through the Qutang, Wu, and Xiling gorges, to the Three Gorges Dam. Each of the 5 locks drop 20 meters in about 10 minutes. Their last stop was Shanghai, the most modern city architecturally. They visited a silk factory and saw the process of making silk thread, from the worms eating mulberry leaves to unwinding the cocoons. There are 5,000 feet of silk in each cocoon. One of the highlights was meeting the people and learning that they love their country just as much as we love ours. Many of the people from the rural areas had never seen Americans, so Sue and Jerry were asked to pose with them in many pictures. Overall, it was a once-in-a-lifetime trip, and the memories will last a long time.

Lyle and Charlotte Asell recently traveled to North Dakota with some friends to visit an old high school friend of Lyle's. Along with storytelling, one of the interesting aspects of the trip was observing the oil well activity in the state. One day they saw a large crane with a 125-cubic- yard bucket being used to remove overburden from a site. The next day when they went by the site, the 13 million pound crane had tipped forward into the hole. The crew expected that it would take up to 10 days to get the crane set upright again.

The NRCS in Iowa has maintained a very good working relationship with our state partners. One of these partners is the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Several of our retirees, or in some cases, persons from Iowa or who worked in Iowa, have taken on positions with DNR. Following is a listing of some of these folks: **Paul Johnson**, former NRCS Chief, was the Director of DNR from approximately 1999 to 2001; **Jeff Vonk**, former State Conservationist, was the Director of DNR from approximately 2001 to 2007; **Lyle Asell**, former Assistant State Conservationist, was the Special Assistant to the Director for Agriculture and Environment from 1999 to 2008; **Bruce Trautman**, former Assistant State Conservationist, Field Operations, for Area 5 is the current Deputy Director of DNR; **John Chenoweth**, former Hydraulic Engineer, **Dick Hall**, former Area Engineer, and **Larry Dorgan**, former Project Engineer, all have performed dam safety inspections for DNR; and **Dave Rohlf**, former Agricultural Engineer, has done a lot of wetland design work for DNR.

We received a letter from **Lee Neal**, retired District Conservationist from southwest Iowa, with the sad news that his wife, **Dot**, had passed away last winter. They had been married for 67 years. Lee retired in 1986 and has lived in Largo, Florida, for the past 29 years.

KANSAS

Deanne Lull, ARCSE Representative

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What a spring we have had in the Salina, KS, area. Last year my flowers were dying in the pots because of the drought conditions we were experiencing. This year my flowers are dying in the pots because of all the rain we are receiving. God really has a sense of humor. Finally there were several days without rain, and I was able to work a raised flower bed and plant my husband's favorite flower—zinnias. That night we received a 5-inch gully washer that washed all the seeds to the edge of the bed and many out into the lawn. Several retirees have travelled to foreign countries this past year. **Harley and Vi Heskett** traveled to Ireland; **John and Linda Ourada** visited Hawaii and Italy; and **Mary Shaffer** went to France and Ireland.



Dan McClaskey at the Korean War Memorial, Washington, DC

Dale McClaskey completed his “bucket list” with the Canada by Rail Adventure. He advises to do this trip before you are 85! He also relates that the Veteran's Honor Flight to Washington in May was a truly memorable event. We were welcomed everywhere we went like we were a winning sports team. We were greeted at all the airports by current service men and women plus hundreds of others eager to shake our hands and give us a special thank you. When we arrived at the Mall to make our visits to the war memorials, we were greeted by all of the Kansas congressional members, including **Bob Dole**. A special event of laying a wreath at the Korean War Memorial by a high-level military delegation from Korea was being held. When it was learned we were Korean War veterans, there was a lot of hand shaking and picture taking. Dale said this was

the first time he had a picture taken with a Lieutenant General! The return to Wichita, KS, was also very special. Over 1,000 people welcomed us home with active military members and the patriot guard on hand to assist. Dale said he was also able to visit three grandchildren both evenings he was in the Washington, DC area.

Several have joined our retiree ranks this spring. Retiring as Soil Conservationists were **Thomas F. McGuire** on March 31, 2015, from the Columbus Field Office; **Dwayne W. Kersenbrock** on April 18, 2015, from the Lyons Field Office; and **Arthur A. Hastert** on May 2, 2015, from the Lyndon Field Office. **Brian D. Lang** retired on April 30, 2015, as a Construction Engineer on the Engineering Staff in the Kansas State Office in Salina.

Several retirees have celebrated milestone anniversaries this spring: **Richard and Jeanne Jones**, 63 years; **Robert and Dorothy Gerdes**, 68 years; and Thomas and **Elaine Badger**, 50 years. Celebrating in late summer will be **Luther** and **Lorraine Gaskell**, 65 years; and celebrating 55 years in the fall will be **Lawrence** and **Phyllis Wetter** and **Ron** and **I**.

Our sympathy goes out to the **Miller** family. **Arthur W. (Roundy) Miller** passed away on May 29, 2015, at the age of 96. **Art** retired in 1974 as the District Conservationist in the Fredonia Field Office. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, **Patricia**.

KENTUCKY

Billye M. Haslett, ARCSE Representative

Email: bchaslett@aol.com

On May 28, 2015 the NRCS State Office held their annual spring fling, also known as "the men cook for the women" event in the back parking lot of the State Office in Lexington, KY. This year there were more retirees in attendance than State Office employees. A good time was had by all.



NRCS State Office "Spring Fling" participants, May 28, 2015. Left to Right: Peggy Smith, Ret. HR Officer; Sylvia Lyons, Ret. Budget Specialist; Richard Meyer, Ret. ASTC Admin.; Connie McKinney, Ret. Contracting Officer; and Cassie Pyle, Ret. STC Sec.



NRCS State Office "Spring Fling" participants, May 28, 2015. Left to Right: Joe Davis, Ret. State Engineer; Paul Howell, Current NRCS Geologist; Joe Roberts, Ret. Engineer; Barry Rankin, Ret. Engineer; and Beecher Hines, Retired Watershed Staff, State Office.

NRCS held a Soil Health Field Day at Berea College, Berea, KY on May 15, 2015. **John Graham**, NRCS employee, conducted the training. Several NRCS retirees attended, including **Billye Haslett**, retired SAO; **Jimmy Marcum**, retired DC; and **David Stipes**, retired ASTC. All three are now Conservation District Supervisors. **Billye Haslett** is a supervisor with the Fayette County Conservation District. **Jimmy Marcum** and **David Stipes** both serve on the Madison County Conservation District. The Field Day demonstrated the importance of cover crops and minimal tillage to ensure optimum soil health, and cost avoidance for chemical applications. Berea College is dedicated to sustainability.

Billy K. Benson, retired DSTC, reports that he no longer has email. He is doing "real good" but doesn't move around as good as he used to. Still mows his yard.

New email addresses: **Steve Durrett**, retired SCT, jsdurrett@gmail.com; **Randy Giessler**, retired STC, mtngiessler1@gmail.com; **Mark Waggoner**, retired SRC, derbysailor@gmail.com.

Beecher Hines, retired SO WS staff, reports that he's doing ok. Beecher says, "There is a pill for everything."

Richard Myers, retired ASTC for Admin., reported that he has a new email address: 1richmir@twc.com. His home address and phone number are the same. He is doing well and enjoys visiting his seven grandkids in Alabama and Raleigh, NC. He did ask if we were going to have another breakfast, lunch or some kind of get together anytime soon. He was sorry to have missed the last one.

Rhuben Donald (Don) Bingham, retired Soil Conservation Technician, passed away May 27, 2015 at age 88. Don worked in Carroll and Gallatin Counties in Kentucky. Condolences may be sent to his wife of 66 years: **Fredricka Bingham**, 420 Sugarcreek RD, Dry Ridge, Kentucky 41035.

MAINE

John Simon, ARCSE Representative

Email: balnengr@tds.net

The second Tuesday of the Month regular breakfast for May: Last Tuesday's breakfast on 5/12/2015 was attended by **Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon, Charlie Boothby, Ray Voyer, Louise and Bob Lagassey, and Noreen and John Simon**. Weather was muggy in the AM, but the PM turned out great. We all had a great time.

Heard from **Susan Watson** who indicated that she is now a Town Selectman for the town of Garland. That along with her farm, her elderly Dad, grandkids, and an active member of the Wayside Grange, keep her very busy.

All are reminded that family and friends are invited and encouraged to attend all ARCSE functions. If you know of someone not on the list above, give them a call. They may want to attend. Some are not on the list but may enjoy the annual events.

The second Tuesday of the month annual Noon Luncheon for June: We had a great turnout at our yearly noon luncheon at the Coach House in Brewer last Tuesday (9th). In attendance were **Lois and Larry Long, Judy and Charles Boothby, Lola and John Ferwerda, Gary Hedstrom, Sally Butler, Paul Hersey, Ellie and Joe Bertolaccini, Mary Thompson, Pauline Pare', Noreen and John Simon, and Ray Voyer**.

Larry Long had his 86th birthday on June 8th, and come to find out **Gary Hedstrom** also had his 72nd birthday on June 8th also! **Ray Voyer** showed John how he does laminating on furniture. He had lots of pics on his iPhone 6. Beautiful looking furniture.

Lola and John Ferwerda both turned 90 in May: Lola on the 11th and John on the 18th. They very much enjoyed seeing us all again. They are doing well for their age for sure. The newly retired in attendance (**Sally, Paul, Mary, and Pauline**) are all enjoying retirement but keeping busy with new part time work. The sixties are really too young to stop work completely.

Joe Bertolaccini indicated that he went on a fishing trip and came back with a sore neck (can't turn his head), so he is letting **Ellie** drive him around for now. Hope you get over the stiff neck soon, Joe! Lousy way to spend a summer! Add that to black flies and mosquitos and you have a miserable situation for sure.

I hope you all got my note on the Passing of **Art Dearborn**. Art was the state engineer for many years in Maine; and **Ray Piper**, who was an RC&D coordinator down east in the 1970s. Both their obituaries were on the same page of the BDN. They were good friends and both Masonic lodge members. While **Noreen** and I were attending Art's wake, I ran into **Dana Nelson**. He agreed to have his name added to our breakfast email list. Welcome Dana.

This brings up the point that if you know of a retired SCS/NRCS person who is not on the above list and have their email address or phone number, let me know and I will contact them for approval to be added to the list. I do not take emails off the list when someone passes unless the spouse asks me to, or they change their email address.

Next month in July we have both the regular Tuesday breakfast (14th) at 9AM and a noon luncheon at Cole Farms restaurant in Gray on the following day, Wednesday (15th). I have not heard from anyone in southern Maine who plans on attending. I'll wait 'till the week before, before I cancel the luncheon if nobody plans on attending.

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

MISSOURI

Dave Rastorfer, ARCSE Representative

Email: daverastorfer@aol.com

Bill Riggs has sent word that **Harold Townsend** has passed away. **Harold** had a long career with the SCS watershed program in Missouri and spent many years in the state office as an engineering specialist. Obituary at the following link:

http://www.newspressnow.com/obituaries/article_ba1bcc6e-12e3-5d38-b5aa-52318d33a207.html

Jess and Phyllis Epple completed some "Bucket list" items the first week of June. We went to Nashville/Franklin to see our Tennessee family and new great-grand-son. Our K.C., MO daughter and son-in-law accompanied us and went through Columbia to see **James and Kari Hughes** and great grand-children on the way to TN. Returning to K.C., we went through Charleston, Sikeston, and Perryville, MO. When we transferred from N.M., this is the area where **Jess** worked and **Phyllis** attended college at Cape Girardeau. After a while, **Jess** went from Soil Scientist to D.C. and moved to Perryville, Dec. 1967. We were pleased to find our old house in very good condition. We also found the school my oldest daughter, **Debra**, attended. Later, we plan to visit places we worked in N.M. In May we spent several days in Branson having a great time with our K.C. and Columbia families. It is now time to start working cattle and cutting hay. There is very little rest for old ranchers!

From **Dennis Shirk**: Hello Folks, Our summer has gone about as planned. We have our 3 trips to Illinois behind us. **Lois** thoroughly enjoyed her 50th high school class reunion. I hope to have several one-day rides before it gets into the heat of summer. Still feeling well and blessed and enjoying our wonderful retirement system. See y'all down the trail!

From **Layne Thurman**: Not much happening down here but rain, and even that has stopped for a little while. Went down to the lake last week and again today, not much luck at all, only caught two short ones today. The water has a lot of color to it, and visibility is way down to about a foot or so. Fish just aren't cooperating with me at all. I will be down there for about a week on the 21st and camp at Indian Point. Our Springfield retiree group has not met this year at all. We will probably have a fall meeting and get a speaker to come. Maybe this will get the group out again.

From **Mike Blaine**: The Blaines are vacationing at Hilton Head Island in SC as this is written. We do this every other year with all our kids and grandkids. We rent a big house and all stay together and have a good week. There are 16 of us here this time. At home, the garden is looking good. **Mike** planted the last of it before we left on the trip. The hay crop looks really good this year. It may be the best year ever if we continue to get rain at the right time. We hope the summer is going well for all.

Lyle Noblitt reports that long-time SCS employee **Dale Mitchell** (now retired) was featured at the opening game of the Kansas City Royals baseball game this spring by throwing out the first pitch. **Dale** was the District Conservationist at Bethany for years and trained many of Missouri's Soil Conservationists. Below is the news article from the "Pathway," a Missouri Baptist Convention newspaper.

Unbroken: WWII POW's pitch opens Royals' season

BETHANY – Dale Mitchell took the mound at Kauffman Stadium in front 40,085 roaring fans. Opening Day, 2015: The defending American League Champion Kansas City Royals vs. the Chicago White Sox. Squinting through sunglasses, his cap pulled low, Mitchell cocked his arm back and let his pitch fly.

If you don't remember Mitchell's name from the KC starting rotation, it's because at 90 years old, Mitchell had the honor of throwing out the ceremonial first pitch at Kauffman Stadium for the Royals' home opener. A former high school second baseman, he and a grandson practiced the pitch on Easter and the next day it was the Royals' star third baseman, Mike Moustakas who was on the receiving end.

"I wasn't nervous. I knew I was throwing it to a young guy," Mitchell, a member of First Baptist, Bethany, said. "I knew he'd run after it if he needed to. I told my Legion and my VFW posts that I hoped I represented them well."

From his fellow veterans to his church in Bethany to his family (they nominated him for the Buck O'Neal Legacy Seat at Kauffman only to see him throw out the first pitch instead), it's hard to imagine anyone not being proud of Mitchell. Most of the heroes that sacrifice their youth and lives for their country never get the recognition they deserve. Mitchell got that recognition, but it came 70 years after his B-17 was shot down over Austria.

Nearly 80 years ago, Mitchell accepted Christ at a little country Baptist church when he was 12 years old.

"I was a Christian all during my military service," he said. "Being with the Lord, I can honestly say I never had any fear during any of it."

Mitchell graduated high school in 1943. Saying he wanted a challenge and was not afraid of heights, he said goodbye to his high school sweetheart, Doris, and joined the U.S. Army Air Force. After boot camp, he was assigned to be the bottom turret gunner in a B-17 Flying Fortress. Inside the transparent bubble, Staff Sergeant Mitchell would man twin .50 caliber machine guns to defend the bomber from German interceptors.

"We had excellent gunner's sights," he said. "You just lined it up."

His job was easy, Mitchell said, and he and his crewmates were well-trained. But the Flying Fortress's 13 machine guns were no defense against well-aimed anti-aircraft fire. Mitchell and his crew found this out on an unusually warm winter day after they dropped their 8,000 pounds of bombs on railroad marshalling yards in Vienna, Austria. They took heavy anti-aircraft fire coming in, and even heavier fire as they winged their way back to Italy. It was Mitchell's fifth bombing run of the war.

"Every time we went on a mission, the chaplain came out and prayed with us," he said. "I wasn't afraid for our safety or our success. They always told us that if we made through five missions, we had paid for our training. See, by that

time we had pretty well taken control of the sky. The Germans never challenged us much with their planes, but they had pulled back all their anti-aircraft guns from all the countries they'd been run out of into and put them all in German and Austria. And golly, they just let us have it."

The B-17 took hits to its engine and fuel tanks and caught fire as they neared the Yugoslavian border. The navigator kept telling the crew that if they could just keep the plane in the air 15-20 more minutes, they would be able to bail out knowing they'd be returned to the Americans a day or two later.

"I guess we almost made it through that fifth mission," Mitchell said. "If we hadn't caught on fire, we would have made it back to Italy."

The pilot stayed with the plane the longest as everyone else bailed out. While the pilot made it close enough to the border that he was picked up by friendly forces, seven of the crew – including Mitchell – were less fortunate as they bailed out.

"I lit right in the middle of a Hitler Youth school," he said. "Right on the lawn in front of the whole class."

They were taken by train to a camp near Berlin, and it was on the way Mitchell said he had his only true moment of fear during the war, the only time he "cried out to God," sure he was going to die. It was a case of friendly fire.

"Our Air Force attacked the German train I was on," Mitchell said. "I thought death was certain, and I cried out to God to take me to Heaven."

Death wasn't certain then, but surviving as a prisoner of war (POW) wasn't certain either. Soon he and others were transferred to Stalag VII-A near Moosberg, the largest German POW camp. Instead of transfer by train, Mitchell and thousands of others were forced to march the 300 miles to the new camp.

"Everyone knew that Germany had lost the war, so we were treated much better than the POWs that were captured earlier," he said. "We slept on the ground rolled up in a blanket. There was just one tap for water, and the line never went down, day or night. We never faulted the Germans much for not giving us food, because they didn't have any food either. I was blessed to stay healthy. I was young and grew up on the farm. I guess I handled it well."

Four months later, on April 29, 1945, Patton's Third Army rolled through Bavaria in their Sherman tanks and liberated the camp, setting Mitchell and 110,000 other Allied prisoners at Stalag VII-A free.

Once home, Mitchell married Doris and graduated from the University of Missouri's agriculture school in 1949. He worked for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service until he retired 30 years ago.

Seventy years removed from war, Mitchell now enjoys time with Doris and the four generations of his family, worshipping at First Baptist, and cheering the Royals in their recent resurgence – though it is usually from the comfort of his own home instead of the pitcher's mound.

Almost as if he was looking down his sights, Mitchell's pitch on Opening Day flew straight, and one-hopped to the plate and into his target, Moustakas's glove. The crowd cheered even louder.

For the rest of the opener, Mitchell handed the pitching duties off to Kansas City's ace Yordano Ventura. The Royals won the April 6 game against the White Sox 10-1.



KANSAS CITY – (Left, Pathway photo) Dale Mitchell, World War II veteran and POW survivor, stands beside a B-17 bomber. (Right, photo courtesy of KC Royals) The Kansas City Royals kicked off the season with Mitchell throwing out the ceremonial first pitch.

<http://www.mbcpathway.com/2015/05/13/unbroken-wwii-pows-pitch-opens-royals-season/>

Great story, thanks for submitting this Lyle.

Just a reminder. Save the date of September 10th for the annual retiree's luncheon. Location pending, but probably in Columbia at the Senior Center again.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!!

MONTANA

Dick Gooby, ARCSE Representative

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Montana Big Sky Report:

Joyce Swartzendruber Report. Nothing exciting to report this time. I've been volunteering at the restored Ellen Theater, planting flowers, and hiking the trails around Bozeman. **Jim** and I visited family in Seattle area, and I finally got to have lunch in the space needle. We really enjoy **Dale Chihuly's** glass art, and his gallery at the base of the space needle was a treat. Jim and I got to see US women beat Nigeria in the FIFA Women's World Cup match in Vancouver.

Scott Hoag, Jr. Report. **Scott and Nancy** arrived back in Bozeman on April 18th from four months in Yuma and a couple of weeks on Bainbridge Island. We sold our RV, so we're out of full time RV'ing and going down the road, building on behalf of Habitat for Humanity. Scott continues to volunteer locally, and we're talking about purchasing a small pull-behind trailer for pleasure travel. Scott signed on as a consultant with OCCAM|EC, Inc., out of Albuquerque, NM to provide economic analysis of three watershed rehabilitation projects in Butler County, KS. Nancy continues to write on assignment for a number of Christian publications and a "throw-away" paper in Virginia, and has four manuscripts entered in the Writer's Digest Annual Competition.

Gooby Ranch Report: We have so many ground squirrel in the fields, they are stirring up the ground worse than a moldboard plow. **Mary Ann** has been serving ground squirrel three meals a day. For breakfast she has ground squirrel sausage or smoked ground squirrel. They taste great. For lunch she has ground squirrel hamburgers or meat loaf. For supper Mary Ann has roast ground squirrel. She puts six on the spit when she roasts them. She also fries ground squirrels, so we have a variety. Some days she makes ground squirrel soup.

According to my scientific calculations, we can only eat about two acres of ground squirrels in a year. So what do we do with the rest of the ground squirrels? I've been working to improve my efficiency of harvesting. I got out NRCS Management Level 3 to figure out the best way to do the time-in-motion study. I got the timer out and went through the steps to harvest the animals. Then I did a time study of each step in the process of harvesting the animals. It was obvious that the most time was spent putting the cartridges in the gun clip. I did time-in-motion practices 'till I was blue in the face, but I only made very minor improvements in my timing to fill the clip. I got to thinking that Management Level 4 said to make a big difference you need to think outside the box. Then it hit me: if Mary Ann was to fill the gun clip while I was harvesting ground squirrels, it would really save a lot of time. Actually it would save 52% of the time it took to fill the gun clip and harvest the ground squirrels. With Mary Ann's help, we have more than doubled our daily harvest. Mary Ann is so pleased.

Every evening after getting all of her other work done, Mary Ann heads to town with freshly harvested ground squirrels. Between her lemonade and ground squirrel stand she does well. Twin Bridges has a requirement that in order to sell from a stand you have to have a permit and can only sell on certain days and times. However if you have a stand where you sell lemonade, you don't have to have a permit or time limit. This is so kids can sell lemonade whenever they want. By Mary Ann selling lemonade we don't need a permit and have no sale time limits. She wears a little pink bonnet and kid's clothes, so the locals don't question her right to be selling off-hours. She did have to give the sheriff a free glass of lemonade last trip. It also works great for me, too, since I don't get any interruptions when watching my favorite TV programs while Mary Ann is selling the ground squirrels. Of course, if I want a cup of tea or something I have to get it myself.



Mary Ann and Dick Gooby on the Gooby Ranch. Dick is timing Mary Ann's performance in digging post holes.

NEBRASKA

Norman Kempf, ARCSE Representative

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SCS/NRCS breakfast meetings were held on May 20th and June 17, 2015. President **Steve Scheinost** opened the meetings. There were 21 people attending the May meeting on a rainy morning, and 14 people attending the June meeting.

Gary Muckel reported that his wife, **Nancy**, surprised him with a party on his 70th birthday. He said that he was totally gupped. **Norm and Linda Helzer** went on their annual Sand Hills birding trip in western Nebraska. They tallied 120 species on the trip. The **Paul Bartletts** are back from a 49-day cruise around South America, which included Trinidad, the Falklands, and Brazil.

Jim and Susie Harder visited South America, and included a visit with a former exchange student in Columbia. **Steve and Jan Stover** wintered in Surprise, AZ. Steve had to admit that he, a Kansas State grad., cheered for Nebraska when their baseball team played there.

Bob MacLauchlan visited family in the southern states. He told us that even though he was from Maine, his late wife was from South Carolina, and he worked in six states with SCS. Most of his grandchildren and great grandchildren live within driving distance of Lincoln.

Steve and Jan Stover attended their annual all school gathering in Kansas where they have the record of the longest continuous event in the state. This was their 100th year, and it included alumni from 1940 to 1966 and from 10 different states.

Pete and Doris Jensen spent time in Enterprise, Kansas doing some genealogy research and enjoyed eating at a local Mennonite establishment. **Joe Calder's wife, Flo**, has been having heart problems and has recently undergone surgery to install a combination pacemaker and defibrillator. She had some complications including a collapsed lung following surgery, but is now doing fine.

June, of course, is a popular wedding month and several people were celebrating an anniversary.

Lou and Evelyn Buller, their 60th;
Norm and Sylvia Kempf, their 52nd;
Gus and Donna Dornbusch, their 18th;
Steve and Jan Stover their 52nd;

Others didn't speak up, but a records check found that **Kay and Lyle Westerman** have recently celebrated their 68th.

Norm Kempf, Jim Culver, Tom Keep, and four other friends went fishing at Lac Suel in Ontario, Canada. Norm says they got 50 fish each per day while there. Big fish for the week were a 27.5-inch walleye and a 38-inch Northern pike. A great time was had by all as the weather was beautiful. **Steve Scheinost** and family fished at Harlan County dam near Alma, Nebraska. While not the quantity that the Canada fishers had, they did have some 28- and 29-inch walleyes.

Dean Semin of Ulysses, NE passed away on May 26, 2015. He worked as a soil conservation technician and retired in 1994.

NEVADA

Liz Warner reporting, ewarner130@aol.com

Nevada retired conservation service employees have met three times, and it appears there is enough interest to continue meeting. Attending the third luncheon, held on June 2nd, were **Joe Chiaretti, Deb Prevost, Steve Slusser, Bill Pellersels, Chuck Houston, Cub Wolfe, Liz Warner, and Connie Ihringer with her husband Ted. Dave Pickel, Bill Daily and his wife Marlene, Marilyn Loring and her husband Greg, Vada Hubbard, Nick Pearson, and Terri deTullio, Dave's widow**, have also attended one of the luncheon meetings.

We held a going-away luncheon for Nevada STC **Bruce Petersen** in March, before he transferred to Hawaii. It is quite a change moving from the driest state in the Union to Hawaii. We wish him luck!

Jim Doughty reports that he and **Gloria** are on the first leg of their journey to Italy to visit Gloria's family and to do some sightseeing. They are joining up with son **Dave** and his wife **Starla** in Gardnerville to fly out of San Francisco on June 17th, arriving in Milan on June 18th. The rest of the family--**JD, Tracy, Casey, Mike and Jake, and Linda and Eric**--will arrive in Milan on different flights. They will all be spending some time in Val di Non north of Milan in the Dolomite region of northern Italy where Gloria's mother and father were raised. They will be returning to San Francisco on July 10th.

In May, we were saddened to learn of the passing of **Sylvia Cyr**, Chief Information Officer, who retired in 1981. Her son **Bobby** says she had fond memories of her years working for **Bill Hunt**.

NORTH CAROLINA

Jim Canterbury, ARCSE Representative

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On May 14th, 53 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 PL-566 watershed project.

Two Senior Conservationists, **Elwood Guthrie** and **Lawrence Matheson**, who are 91 years old, were in attendance. Other Senior Conservationists attending were **Arlie Culp**, **John Garrett**, and **Leonard Kilian**. Matheson and Culp are also WWII veterans.

Mark Berkland, President of the Soil and Water Conservation Society, gave a report on the upcoming SWCS International Meeting that will be held in Greensboro, NC, July 26-29. **Dale Threatt-Taylor**, President of the Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter was also in attendance to promote the SWCS meeting. Mark encouraged attendance at the annual ARCSE meeting which will also be in Greensboro on July 27th.

Attending the picnic were **Mark and Brenda Berkland**, **Jim and Becki Canterbury**, **David Clapp**, **Nancy Clary**, **Albert and Susan Coffey**, **Dr. Maurice and Nancy Cook**, **Arlie Culp**, **Donald Joyce**, **Tommy Cutts**, **Ray and Debra Dorsett**, **Frank and Loretta Evans**, **Howard and Peggy Garner**, **Ruth Parker**, **Dick Gallo**, **Coy and Barbara Garrett**, **John Garrett**, **Charlie Godley**, **Angela Green Gragg**, **Melanie Brooks**, **Melisa Jessup**, **Susanne Jordon**, **Elwood Guthrie**, and **Mitchell Guthrie**. Also attending were **Bill Harrell**, **Boyce Harvey**, **John and Maggie Hill**, **Kayla Hudson**, **Leonard Kilian**, **Roger and Becky Leab**, **Harold Lile**, **Lawrence Matheson**, **Margaret White**, **Phyllis Pate**, **Cecil Settle**, **Wayne and Alice Short**, **Larry Stephenson**, **Clara Raynor**, **Dale Threatt-Taylor**, **Rex Tracy**, **Talmadge and Marjorie Wiggins**, and **Lisa Taylor**.



North Carolina Retirees' Picnic, May 14, 2015



Senior Conservationists Lawrence Matheson and Elwood Guthrie. Both are 91 years old.

OKLAHOMA

Randy Freeland, ARCSE Representative

Email: randy.freeland@suddenlink.net

On April 24th, 2015, the Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees met at the Golden Corral Buffet Restaurant in Oklahoma City, OK. Thirty-nine people were in attendance: **Lester Brockman, Steve Chessmore, Everett and Helen Cole, Duane Crider, Robert Dukes, Wayne Fjeseth, Randy Freeland, Jim and Roberta Frie, Harry Fritzler, Chuck Grimes, Sandy Hafner, Sandra and Terry Hough, Winnie Jaques, Bill Johnson, Otho Lamar, Jim McCampbell, Lowell and Minnie McMasters, Gordon Moebius, George Moreland and guest Betty Gilbert, Nelson and Mary Mueller, Glen and Eunice Mullen, Stan Rice, Dan Runnels, Chris Shepherd, Jim Smith, Bob and Milly Smith and guest Vicki Nachtigall, Norm and Jane Smola, Gene Spurlock, and Andy Tucker.**

Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees President, **Dan Runnels** asked that everyone keep **Nickey Lambeth** in their prayers. He has a foot problem and was told by his doctor to stay off of it. **Bob Day** spent this past weekend in the Oklahoma Heart Hospital. He has returned home and is resting.

First time attendees were asked to introduce themselves: **Andy Tucker** lives in Okemah and retired two years ago. He is involved in a lot of community work around Okemah and does property management work on Okemah Lake Property. **Sandy Hafner** worked in a field office, area office, and state office before retiring in 1994. She retired again in 2014 and lives in Tulsa. **Robert Dukes** retired two years ago after working in El Reno and OKC. He is currently employed by OERB and runs a few cows. **Harry Fritzler** retired in January from the State Rangeland Specialist position. He was the Resource Conservationist at Pauls Valley TSO prior to that. He is now helping his wife (**Beverly**) in her veterinary business from time to time.



Winnie Jaques and Andy Tucker

Glen and Eunice Mullen still live in the Southern Plaza Retirement Community in Yukon, OK. They care for a raised flower bed in the courtyard at the residence. **Nelson and Mary Mueller** announced that they will be grandparents for the 1st time in November. An "Alaskan Cruise and train tour from Seward to Anchorage and on to Denali National Park" should be on everyone's bucket list according to **Duane Crider**. He and **Jan** had a most memorable experience doing that last year. He runs and walks every day and has four grandkids within a quarter-mile of his house.

Chris Shepherd is about to do some major travel since retirement. He runs cattle, plays dominoes, and fishes at Ft. Cobb and Foss Lakes. **Bobby J. Smith** is still quite active in the ministry since his retirement. **Chuck Grimes** and his wife **Beverly** travel quite a bit to see children and grandchildren. He is still active in the native grass seed business as well as making and selling Grasslander Seeders. He also has taken up raising Registered Texas Longhorn cattle.



Sandy Hafner, Norm and Jane Smola

Lowell and Minnie McMasters will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary in June. **Minnie** is teaching a knitting class once a week and enjoying it very much. They have given up on traveling and sold their travel trailer and are just concentrating on grandkids (nine grandkids and two "great" grandkids, with one on the way). **Steve Chessmore** said his new job is just "chasing" grandkids.

Lester Brockman said he is a native Oklahoman but never worked here. He retired to the home farm in Kay County near Ponca City and runs a few cows. He does whatever he wants and travels some.



Lester Brockman and Wayne Fjeseth

President **Dan Runnels** read a list of recent retirees: **Debi Carnott**, Central North Canadian River Conservation District, Geary, 26 yrs. 12/14; **Harry Fritzler**, State Rangeland Specialist (State Staff) Norman, 34.5 yrs. 01/15; **Tom Lucas**, RC&D Coordinator (retired as Public Affairs Specialist), Woodward, 01/15; and **Leota Burnett**, SCT, Miami FO, 02/10/15.

Sandra Hough read a list of retiree deaths: **Joe Nichols**, 81, Soils, Fort Worth, retired in 1993, 37 yrs. service (10/21/14); **O. B. Boyd**, 64, SCT, Holdenville (11/18/14); **John Ensminger**, 85, Watershed Party Chief, Duncan, retired in 1993, 32 yrs. service, retired from Pauls Valley but worked in Marlow and Davis (11/22/14); **Charles (Chuck) Nuttle**, 77, Watersheds, Perry, retired in 1993, 34 yrs. service, retired from Claremore and then worked 20 yrs. for Oklahoma Conservation Commission in Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation (12/6/14); **Dale Davis**, 69, Ag. Economist, Marlow, left in 1980's for Halliburton (11/30/14); **Marcus Harjo**, 30, Hughes County Conservation District Engineering Aide, Holdenville, died in car accident (1/2/15); **Edward L. (Eddie) Day**, 85, Soil Conservation Technician, Clinton, retired from Weatherford in 1987, 30 yrs. service (1/12/15); **Michael Scott**, 50, Soil Conservationist, Hobart, worked at Taloga for three yrs. and Anadarko five yrs. at the time of his death; **Virgil Miller**, Ada, father of retiree **Lanny Miller**, (1/18/15); **Tom Perryman**, 94, Area

Conservationist at Duncan, retired in 1982, also worked as DC in Cheyenne and Area Conservationist at Woodward (2/6/15); **Mike Thralls**, 64, Billings, retired after 17 yrs. as Oklahoma Conservation Commission Executive Director (2/10/15); **Fern Lambeth**, 101, Okemah, mother of retiree **Nick Lambeth** (2/15/15); **William Hunt**, Boley, former State Conservationist died in Minnesota (2/22/15); **Erik Friend**, DC at Vinita (3/18/15); **Beverly "Jeanie" Brewster Edwards**, 69, retired District Secretary Mayes County Conservation District at Pryor, 30 yrs. service (4/13/15); **Donald Lady**, 79, retired Construction Inspector Okmulgee Watershed Office, living in Morris, OK (4/15/15). A moment of silence was observed, and **Stan Rice** offered a prayer.

Randy Freeland announced that **John Beard**, retired Area Conservationist from Hugo, has put together a reunion of all former Area 9 employees for June 16th at noon at the Western Sizzlin' Steak House in McAlester. Everyone is invited to attend.



Bill Johnson and Gene Spurlock

Randy Freeland played a recording of a song composed several years ago by two SCS employees who were attending a training session. The song was titled "The Battle Hymn of the SCS" and contained the acronyms used by the agency. **Randy** and **Gordon Moebius** then lead the group in SCS/NRCS Trivia Time. A list of 20 questions was passed out, and everyone was given a short amount of time to read through the questions. Everyone participated in responding aloud to the questions. A proposed answer sheet was then given to those in attendance. Several questions posed different responses as to the correct answer. Most were resolved without fist fights in the crowd!

New officers for the Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees Organization were installed for the coming year: **Gordon Moebius** will be President, **Dan Runnels** will serve as Vice-President, and **Sandra Hough** as Secretary-Treasurer.

The 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. Special thanks to **Bill Porter** for his work in keeping the website up to date.

Everyone was challenged to personally contact retirees who have not been attending the meetings and invite them to attend our next meeting or even better yet, bring one or more with them to the next meeting. Current addresses are needed for **Eugene Martin**, Altus; **Mary Lou Chaney**, Jefferson City, MO; and **John D. Cooper**, Prague.



Terry Hough, Duane Crider, Everett Cole, and Chuck Grimes

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 23rd, 2015, at the Golden Corral on MacArthur Boulevard in Oklahoma City. Everyone is welcome, and no reservations are required.

OREGON

Don Stettler, ARCSE Representative

Email: don.stettler@comcast.net

As of June 1st, only one of Oregon's 81 SNOTEL stations recorded any snow remaining. That is unheard of! For this reason Oregon is bracing for a long hot dry summer. Expected are low stream flows and an extended fire season. Despite all this, the summer quarter retiree lunch will be held at The Old Spaghetti Factory at Tanasbourne on July 22nd. Watch your email for details. If you don't hear from me, please call.

PENNSYLVANIA

Bill Bowers, ARCSE Representative

Email: wbowers@comcast.net

Sent by Tim Murphy.

The Pennsylvania SCS/NRCS retirees will hold our annual meeting on September 21st at Grey Towers, the ancestral home of **Gifford Pinchot**, former governor of PA and first Chief of the U.S. Forest Service. Grey Towers is administered by the Forest Service as a National Historic Site and is used as a venue for conservation education and conferences. It is located in Milford, PA in the northeast corner of the state. A block of rooms has been reserved at a nearby motel for those planning to arrive on September 20th. There will be a meet-and-greet social hour at the motel that evening.

Here is our planned agenda for September 21st:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 9-10 AM | Registration and Meet and Greet with refreshments |
| 10-11 | Tour of Grey Towers Mansion (all 3 floors) |
| 11-12 | Business meeting, NRCS update, and group picture |
| 12-1 PM | Catered lunch |
| 1-3 | Program on Gifford Pinchot's legacy of conservation and a tour of the mansion's gardens and grounds. |

Registration information will be sent out in The PA Bugle in the near future. We look forward to a great meeting in Milford. See you there!

TEXAS

Arnold King, ARCSE Representative

Email: arnolddking@hotmail.com

Twenty-three people attended the April 17th meeting: **Earl Blakley, Dennis Gaster, Dave Drennan, Joyce Petty, Barbara Gillum, Clyde Goodman, Bernie and Maxine Owen, Tom Hodges, Don Kapalka, Mark Boysen, Douglas Seibel, Bill Kuenstler, Betty Sisson, Anita Plummer, Dave Stockbridge, Bernelle Baxley, and Dennis Erinakes.**

The meeting was called to order and presided over by Vice President **Dave Drennan**. **Maxine Owen** gave updates on several members:

Harland and Anita Dietz are moving to Topeka, KS, to be closer to their son and **Harland's** sister. They put their house on the market on April 7th and had several offers by April 14th. Their move is scheduled for May 15th. They will be at home at: 4712 SW 6th Avenue Apt. 165, Topeka, Kansas 66606.

Elaine Davis is recovering well from her knee surgery, which was done in late March. She goes to rehab 3-4 times a week, and is planning to attend the next meeting. She said her doctor told her she is healing like a teenager, and she was "off her walker" as of our meeting date! **Elaine** had been able to attend a special concert at their church. She was looking forward to going to their great-granddaughter **Hope LeAnn's** first birthday party and meeting their great-grandson, **Zane Michael**, who is **Curtis's** son.

Don Deal has a new email address: dandsdeal@yahoo.com. He said they are in good health and are helping raise their granddaughter. They have been traveling, including a river cruise throughout Europe. **Don** said the drought in California is extensive. It takes five gallons of water to produce one walnut, and the cut-back on watering is damaging the nut crops.

Del Rockenbaugh's daughter is retiring the end of May, and **Del** is looking forward to attending Nancy's retirement party. **Frank Richardson** is still going to rehab after his recent surgery, but he is doing okay. **Barbara Holland** has moved to Sunset, TX, which is near Bowie. **Mark Boysen** said that he is planning a Mediterranean cruise in early September.

Bill Kuenstler told about his trip to Ciudad Guzman and Guadalajara, Mexico in March. He and **Jerry Lemunyon** were invited by Juan Manuel Osorio, a seed corn producer in Mexico and a friend of Jerry's, to make presentations at a conference in Ciudad Guzman on corn production in the state of Jalisco. Their growers are exploring ways of reducing the cost of corn production because they currently don't compete well in the world market. **Jerry** gave a presentation on soil health, and **Bill** gave a presentation on using cover crops in crop rotations.

Over Memorial Day weekend **Maxine and Bernie Owen** will be attending her 2015 High School Reunion in Bennington, KS, an every-five-years' event. The end of June they will be back in Kansas for the annual Kansas SCS Retirees Meeting where **Bernie** is giving a talk on the current tax happenings. They will stay in Salina a few days to help celebrate her sister and brother's special birthdays. **Bernie Owen** cautioned members that there has been a big increase in scams related to IRS. Do not give information to anyone over the telephone, because IRS will always contact you first by regular mail.

Barbara Gillum stated that she has recovered well from her heart surgery, and is "doing better than I deserve to be doing." **Don Kapalka** went to his second reunion of transplant patients at UT-Southwest Hospital in Dallas. He is doing well. **Joyce Petty** is still active as a volunteer for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Hill and McLennan Counties. CASA volunteers act as advocates for children in foster care. **Merl Glasscock** indicated that she and **Lovell** are both doing well.

Tom Hodges is getting bamboo flooring installed in his house, with the work being done by his grandson. The house is a mess while the work is being done! **Dennis Erinakes** said his grandson **Ethan** will be commissioned as a second lieutenant on May 7th at the University of Oklahoma.

Dave Stockbridge has a batch of beer brewing in his bathtub, and has a batch of wine brewing in some other container in his house. **Doug and Jane Seibel** are planning a trip to Kansas soon. **Jane** is doing better and feels well enough to travel.

Clyde Goodman's wife **Marla** is making slow progress through physical therapy. She has an inherited degenerative nerve condition that has also affected other members of her family. She has had numerous surgeries over the years, the most recent being back surgery in November, from which her doctor said recovery will take at least a year.

Dennis Gaster visited his cardiologist about two weeks ago. The stents that were put in about eight years ago are still doing their job. **Dennis** reported that Boy Scout Troop 68, with which he is associated, will be celebrating their 86th anniversary this year. They were chartered in 1929.

Dave and Jean Drennan are leaving for Hawaii the week of April 20th. They will fly to Honolulu and make a side trip to Hilo on the island of Hawaii and visit the Kilauea volcano. The week of May 7th **Dave** and his brother plan to go to Austin for the Texas Relays.

Nine people attended the May 15th meeting: **Earl Blakley, Joyce Petty, Bernie Owen, Bill Kuenstler, Rita Kuenstler, Don Newman, Anita Plummer, Doug Seibel, and Bernelle Baxley.**

The meeting was called to order and presided over by **Bernie Owen**. He read a letter from **Marion Porter**, giving a summary of the SCS Alumni meeting/reunion in New Braunfels, TX, in April. There were 84 members and guests in attendance. The raffle raised \$3,395.00, which money goes toward scholarships.

Bernie and Maxine Owen will be going to Kansas over Memorial weekend for **Maxine's** all-school high school reunion in Bennington, KS. Their granddaughter, **Michelle**, will graduate from Mansfield Summit High School in June. She plans to move to College Station, TX, this fall and attend Blinn College.

Anita Plummer said that she had sent a get-well card to **Marla Goodman**, who is gradually recovering from back surgery that she had late last year. **Marla's** brother **Robert E. Ross** passed away May 10th, 2015 at his home in Plainville, KS. We sent the family our condolences.

Proud grandfather **Don Newman** announced that his youngest granddaughter will graduate from Burleson Centennial High School this year. She has been accepted into the veterinary medicine program at Texas A&M University. His grandson, who is a junior at Burleson Centennial, is a pitcher on the varsity baseball team.

Doug and Jane Seibel made a trip to Newton, KS, to visit **Jane's** alma mater, Bethel College, a Mennonite liberal arts school. Jane has funded a scholarship there, and they had the opportunity to meet the first recipient of the scholarship.



WASHINGTON, DC, NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

John Peterson, ARCSE

Representative

Email: jwpeterson@cox.net

John Peterson, our man in Washington, DC.

Warren and Barb Lee flew their kids and grandkids to Reno in June for a family reunion and celebration of my sister and brother-in-laws 50th wedding Anniversary.

John Miner sends, "**Anne and I** are not newsworthy, so with that in mind I'll continue. Thankfully we are in good health and our primary activity works to that end. With temperatures of 100 degrees **Anne** has a tough time putting in her two to four hours working outside. The lawn looks great! I have continued working out at the gym, moving from free weights to machines reduced the chance of injuries. The neighbors think I'm crazy to work out between 6 and 7:30AM. I should add my family is in agreement. I'm the birdman in neighborhood maintaining a couple of feeders. We have lots of birds of many varieties. Along with the birds we have every day visits from five squirrels, two rabbits, and four Mallard ducks. The irregular visits of deer have made me halt planting a garden.

We have enjoyed our relocation to South Carolina. We were lucky that our kids promoted the move, or we would still be waiting for traffic to clear on 123. We live near **Kathy, Tim, Brit and Timmy**. They helped us get acquainted with Columbia and Blythewood. Locating the medical services, we seem to need was made simple by Kathy and Tim, since both have worked in the medical field. Timmy (grandson) is mowing the lawn this year, and doing the general handyman stuff. Our location is on the Windermere golf course, and Kathy's family is just across the 14th tee. Very convenient! We have found ourselves to be the target of many long ball hitters and some just hitters. In good golfing weather we find an average of 20 abandoned balls in a week. We've had one ball sail through the kitchen window and several into the screened-in porch. Passing golfers, if they see **Annie**, will stop and suggest she wear a helmet." Thanks for checking in, **John**.

From **Joan Albertella**, "Hope all is going well. Just got back from Montreal, Canada where I attended the FIFA World Cup Soccer Games with two of my children and their families. Quite an experience as we learned to navigate the metro system there with 23 to 43 thousand fellow soccer fans! Had great seats, the same for all the games we attended. However, on the way home, just 15 minutes from our rental home, my daughter's car was hit by a deer. Thank goodness **Dana** and her husband knew the drill on what to do with the insurance company. We were lucky that the tow truck driver and the Ford "fix it" manager spoke English. They say you should learn new things as you get older to keep your brain from deteriorating. Well, I think I have reached my "MDL!" Thanks **Joan**. I would have liked to join you for the soccer games.

John and Ruth Stierna traveled to San Francisco, California in early June to visit our daughter and her family and also enjoyed a side trip to Sacramento and another to Sebastopol and the art scene. Well, now we have decided to move to California and have found a new home at the upper end of the NAPA valley. After 45 years in Northern Virginia, it will be hard saying goodbye to all our friends, but we feel that now is the time. AFT has indicated that they would still like me to work with them, remotely. That means that I will still be around the conservation policy issues at least for a while yet.

The spring luncheon of the Washington, DC National Capital Area retirees was held on Thursday, May 7th, at the Fort McNair Officers Club. Attending were **John and Blanche Peterson, Paul Benedict, Jerry Bernard, Bill Boyer, Tom Christensen, Roger Cronshey, Bill Irwin, Bob Kohnke, Ross Lahren, Lennie Losh, Ron and Ann Marlow, Diana**

Morse, Barbara Osgood, Mike and Blanche Anderson, Dave Ralston, Marc and Kendrick Safely, Lee Shields, Peter Smith, and John Stierna.



Washington DC National Capital Area, Spring Retirees Luncheon, May 7, 2015. Left to Right, Front Row: Diana Morse, Bob Kohnke, John and Blanche Peterson, Blanche Anderson. Middle Row: Lee Shields, Ann and Ron Marlow, Lenny Losche, Barbara Osgood, Kendrick and Mark Safely. Back Row: Jerry Bernard, Roger Cronshey, Dave Ralston, John Stierna, Peter Smith, Paul Benedict, Ross Lahren, Bill Irwin, Mike Anderson.



Fort McNair Officers Club, Washington, DC

NRCS Associate Chief for Operations Tom Christensen was our guest speaker. He handed out a copy of the new NRCS Organization Chart, dated March 10, 2015. Below the Office of the Chief are the Associate Chief for Operations and Chief Operating Officer, the Associate Chief for Conservation, and four Regional Conservationists. Money, people, and information are under the purview of the Associate Chief for Operations, while technology and programs are under the Associate Chief for Conservation. **Tom** handed out a copy of **Chief Weller's** FY 2015 Priorities, summarized as:

1. Deliver excellent and innovative service
2. Strengthen and modernize conservation delivery
3. Enhance and expand NRCS's scientific and technical capabilities
4. Broaden our reach, customers, and partners

He mentioned that there is an opportunity to move the Nebraska State Office, National Soils Center, and Soil Mechanics Center to new offices on the campus of the University of Nebraska, and possibly name it the **Hugh Hammond Bennett Center**. **Tom** also updated the group on the Conservation Delivery Streamlining Initiative, with the USDA Client Gateway being released as the first element.



He also mentioned that the financial audit of the agency continues, which has been ongoing since 2008. The objective is to get a "clean balance" by the end of CY 2015. The next step would be to earn the rating of a "clean audit" by 2017. The soonest that the audit can be completed is 2020. It's important to note in all these audit results to date, no fraud or theft on the part of the agency has been found.

Tom also discussed a NRCS multi-year commitment to conservation planning called the National Conservation Planning Partnership. Its purpose is to reinvigorate conservation planning as the foundation for voluntary conservation delivery. So far the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA), the National Association of RC&D Councils, and the National Conservation District Employees Association (NCDEA) have joined the partnership.

Bill Boyer arrived after the group picture was taken. He retired 1/3/2014 and was diagnosed shortly thereafter with pulmonary fibrosis. He was fortunate to receive a lung transplant on Dec. 2, 2014. He said that his recovery is proceeding very well, and he does not require supplemental oxygen any more. We all enjoyed seeing Bill healthier again.



Bill Boyer

WASHINGTON

Gerald Richard, ARCSE Representative

Email: glr52pdr@aol.com

Present at our March and April luncheons at the Timber Creek Grill and Buffet in Spokane were **Jud and Karen Melton, Harry Riehle, Lennie and Florence Husa, Ralph Schmidt, Larry and Jean Edmonds, Gary and Elinor Johnson, Hans and Kathryn Krauss, Lenn and Fran Dompier, Jerry and Phyllis Richard, Carl Vennes, Ken Kaul, and Phil Schauble.**

Tina Kaul had a bad fall in downtown Spokane and broke her upper arm. **Chet Jahn** has some serious health issues. We all hope for speedy recoveries for both Tina and Chet. Talked to **Bob Olson** and he had just returned to his retirement home from a shopping trip and lunch with his kids.

Dick Porter reports a recent visit to Cortez, CO to spend some quality time with two brothers and a sister, and he also celebrated Father's Day with his two daughters and their families. Thank goodness for families. We enjoyed having **Lenn and Fran Dompier** join us for their first time. Lenn has been a Bloomsday runner legend for our group. He has run in 36 Bloomsday Runs (7.46-miles) and has finished in the top 4 or 5 finishers for his age group many times. **Ralph Schmidt** also participated in the race this year and has completed the race 34 times. Bloomsday Races started in 1977.

We will not have a luncheon in July but will be having our **Jerry Richard** spent a couple of days with Wetland Specialist **Joni Sasich** on timbered property owned by son **Dale**. Joni had previously worked as a soil scientist with the US Forest Service and was a Project leader for two National Cooperative Soil Surveys. Jerry enjoyed helping Joni do some soil descriptions, wetland species vegetation and wetland delineations.

Gary Johnson brought a book to our May luncheon that goes back to the beginning days of the Soil Conservation Service titled "Elements of Soil Conservation" by **Hugh Hammond Bennett**. yearly afternoon BBQ at **Jud and Karen Melton's** home along the Spokane River at Post Falls on August 3rd 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 3, 2015 and plan to spend an afternoon of good food and companionship. Call Jud at 208-773-1349 or Jerry at 509-747-5039 for any questions or more information.



Joni Sasich and Jerry Richard at wetland plot



June Luncheon-Spokane, Front Row: Hans Krauss, Elinor Johnson, Florence Husa, Katie Krauss. Back Row: Jud Melton, Lennie Husa, Jean Edmonds, Gary Johnson, Ken Kaul, Larry Edmonds, Karen Melton, Carl Vennes, Phil Schauble, Harry Riehle, Jerry Richard

WEST VIRGINIA

Peg Reese, ARCSE Representative

Email: pegreesewv@gmail.com **Glen Betler**, former District Conservationist in the Union Field Office, passed away on June 18, 2015. More information can be read in the Obituary section of this newsletter.

Mike Mullinex, Soil Conservationist in the Elkins Field Office, retired on May 30th.

Jim and Gail Piper's travels in 2014 included an 8-week journey to National Parks, historic sites, and World Heritage sites. From Cahokia Mounds in Illinois, they followed much of old Rt. 66 through the southwest to California, then stopped at all of the National Parks in CA, OR, and WA, before heading to Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons on their way back to Ohio. Travel plans for 2015 include a tour of the northeast US and into Canada to Nova Scotia. While at home, Jim enjoys turning hand crafted pens, pencils, and other small items on a lathe, as well as trying his hand at carving small caricatures. Gail's hobbies include quilting and singing Barbershop with the Sweet Adelines. Jim worked in OH, FL, and WV. **Alan Staddon** was Bass fishing near Bancroft, Ontario Canada the week of June 8th thru 12th, 2015. Here is a photo of the "One That Didn't Get Away."

Commenting on the hacking of OPM records, **Judy Fairbanks** reported that "My bank called me in April to let me know that my checking account was on the list. Although nothing was taken from my account they changed my numbers and sent me a new card and password. Banking at a small bank is a plus."



Alan Staddon with a very nice Largemouth Bass caught in Ontario, Canada.

WISCONSIN

James Enlow, ARCSE Representative

Email: ljenlow@att.net

The Wisconsin retirees met for lunch and fellowship on June 11, 2015 at Wayne's Family Restaurant in Oconto, WI. **Greg Rebman** was the host. Those retirees attending and their spouse or significant other included **Joe Waukechon, Terry Huffman, Herb Tauken, John Campbell, Bob Plawski, Greg rebman, Bob Weihrouch, Leon Janowski, Gene Nimmer, Dave Omernik, and Kim Georg**. Everyone enjoyed the luncheon and fellowship.

The next luncheon is scheduled for August 13 at Langford's Pub & Grill, Green Lake, WI. **Erv Lesczynski and Steve Prissel** will be the hosts.

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.

Elton W. Askew, Jr.
Rodney (Rod) Harner
Niles A, McLoda
Edwin L. Minnick
Allen L. Newman

Edenton, NC
Lincoln, NE
Richmond, VA
Walnut Creek, CA
Temple, TX

SENIOR CONSERVATIONIST CHRONICLE

Marc Safley, Chronicler, Senior Conservationist

Senior Conservationist

Allen Lee Newman

Allen was born Feb. 12, 1930 in Duncan, OK, the first of nine children born to **Wesley and Pearl Newman**. He was raised on the family farm where cattle, hogs, poultry, corn, cotton, small grains and hay were produced. He attended several small elementary schools before graduating from Velma-Alma High School in 1948. Allen graduated from Cameron Junior College in Lawton with an Associate Degree in Agriculture. He then graduated from Oklahoma A&M College (now Oklahoma State University) in 1953 with a B.S. degree in Agriculture, with a major in agronomy and minors in soils and botany.

He served in the U.S. Army (Artillery) for two years and in the Reserves (Engineering Construction) for four years, attaining the rank of Master Sergeant in 1957.

Allen began working with SCS in the fall of 1955 in Littlefield, TX, as a Soil Scientist. In a few months he became party leader of Lamb County Soil Survey. He was Area Soil Scientist for the Lubbock Area from 1959 to 1961 and Area Soil Scientist for the Uvalde Area from 1961 to 1963. He also authored the soil surveys of Lamb, Cochran, and Kinney Counties.

In 1963 he was promoted to Field Specialist Soils for the eastern fourth of Texas with headquarters in Nacogdoches. In 1967 he was transferred to Temple, TX and became Assistant State Soil Scientist in 1970. He retired from SCS on January 2, 1987.

Allen received numerous awards during his career, including five Certificates of Merit signed by four different state conservationists and one signed by Mel Davis, SCS Administrator.

After retiring, he contracted with municipalities and several lignite mines to do soil surveying and sampling. He also contracted with NRCS to prepare soil surveys for digitizing. He completed 33 digitizing contracts and 14 technical edits of soil survey manuscripts. He retired from contracting in November 2003.

In 1951 Allen married **Maxine Pierce**. They have two sons, seven grandsons, six great-grandsons, and two great-granddaughters. Allen and Maxine are active in church work. He has taught Sunday School for more than 50 years and has been a deacon for more than 45 years.

Since 2005 one of his hobbies is preparing a six-page, quarterly, family newsletter that goes to about 120 households. He has also been a purple martin landlord for more than 25 years, usually fledging more than 100 martins yearly.

Allen is especially fond of having had a part in training more than a dozen young scientists, several going on to be Regional Soil Scientists, State Soil Scientists, State Conservationists, and to other places of service. He also wrote a book, published in-house, titled Vertisols in Texas. It is basically a handbook for use in Texas. He is also proud of having written a draft of the Aridic Subgroups that later became a part of Soil Taxonomy. He likes to say, "I had the privilege of working alongside outstanding men and women in most disciplines in SCS".

OBITUARY INFORMATION

Ron Marlow, Secretary–Treasurer

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

Surname

In Memoriam

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

Please email Ron Marlow at arcse@cox.net to report recent notices for In Memoriam.

- Abbott** **Virginia Law Abbott** of Bryan, Texas passed away on July 23, 2014. She was born in in Vienna, MO. She married William Law in 1943. **Virginia** considered her greatest accomplishments in life to have been raising three wonderful children, six grandchildren, and one great grandson. She was raised in Vienna, Cedar City, and Jefferson City, MO. In 1985 Virginia married ARCSE Member **Everett Abbott** of Bryan, Texas who retired from SCS in 1979 as an RC&D Coordinator. They traveled extensively enjoying their love of their motorhome and square dancing.
- Andrews** **John W. Andrews** (72), Greensboro, NC, died June 20, 2015. John retired as District Conservationist, Greensboro Field Office with over 35 years of federal service. He graduated from N.C. State University. A veteran of the US Army, he served our country in Korea. John was a lifetime member of the V F. W. Post #7726. He was a generous, kind, and loving man and enjoyed outdoor pursuits with his sons, Ward and Bryan. He is survived by his beloved wife of 45 years, Patricia Potter Andrews, sons, Jonas Ward Andrews of Greensboro, William Bryan Andrews and wife Mindy of Greensboro; brother, Jerry Andrews and wife DeAnna of Charlottesville, VA and granddaughters, Lilia Erykah Andrews and Ella Harper Andrews.
- Bassett** Honorary Member and Senior Conservationist **Lawrence B. Bassett** of Gainesville, Florida passed away on November 13, 2003, the day after his 92nd birthday. **Lawrence** retired from the Soil Conservation as an engineer in 1972. His wife **Charlotte** predeceased him by five years. She died on July 6, 1998. **Lawrence** and **Charlotte** are survived by their four children and numerous grandchildren.
- Betler** **Glen Arnold Betler** (89) of Union, West Virginia passed away on June 18, 2015 at Peyton Hospice House in Fairlea, WV following a long illness. **Glen** was a U.S. Army World War II Veteran. He saw action in Northern France and Belgium where he became a Prisoner of War during the Battle of the Bulge. He received several ribbons and the Bronze Star Medal. After the war, he enrolled in West Virginia University where he graduated in 1951. Following graduation, **Glen** was employed by the West Virginia Conservation Commission and the USDA Soil Conservation Service, retiring as the District Conservationist in the Union Field Office after 31 years of service. **Glen** was a member of the Union Presbyterian Church where he served as Deacon, Elder, and Treasurer. He also served on the Bluestone Conference Committee. Survivors include his loving wife of 61 years, **Patricia "Pat" Smith Betler** of Union, WV; and one son, **Mark D. Betler** of Union, WV; one sister and three brothers. In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations of sympathy be made to the Union Presbyterian Church C/O Bob Miller Union, WV 24983. Those wishing online condolences may do so by visiting www.grovesfuneralhome.com
- Bingham** **Ruben Donald Bingham** (88) of 420 Sugarcreek Road, Dry Ridge, Kentucky passed away May 27 at home. **Don** was born in Grant County, KY and retired on April 30, 1984 from the USDA Soil Conservation Service as a Soil Conservation Technician after 24 years of service in Carroll and Gallatin Counties. He proudly served his country during World War II in the United States Army and he entered service in Ft. Hayes, OH. on Nov. 1, 1946 and was honorably discharged from Camp Stoneman, CA. on May 6, 1948. **Don** was a longtime member of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church where he served as deacon and was a Sunday school teacher for 60 years. He formerly served as moderator, clerk and treasurer for the Ten Mile Baptist Association and was a member of the Gideons. **Don** leaves to mourn his passing his wife of 66 years: **Fredericka Ferrell Bingham**, two daughters: **Garlene Glacken-Haley** of Dry Ridge, KY., **Gracella (Gerald) Morris** of Cullowhee, NC., one son: **Harold Ray (Debby) Bingham** of Warsaw, KY., eight grandchildren, twelve great grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren. Memorial contributions if desired may be directed to the Gideons or to the Mt. Zion Baptist Church Building Fund.
- Cyr** Member and Senior Conservationist **Sylvia Cyr** (91) of Sparks, Nevada passed away in May 2015. **Sylvia** retired from the Soil Conservation Service in 1981 as Chief Information Officer.
- Dearborn** **Arthur G. Dearborn III** (77) of Holden, Maine, passed peacefully on June 8, 2015, surrounded by those he loved. **Art** was born in Bangor, Maine and is survived by his "guardian angel" of 56 years, **Frances M. Dearborn** of Holden. He is also survived by three children **Arthur "Chip" G. Dearborn IV** of Holden, **Deborah L. Dearborn** of Holden and **Trevor L. Dearborn** of Bangor, two grandchildren, one great-grandson, and a step great-grandson. **Art** was predeceased by a son, **Mark C. Dearborn**. **Art** was a graduate from the Orono ROTC, UMO, and received a BS in agricultural engineering. He entered the Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, in 1960 as first lieutenant and was discharged in 1964 as Captain to return to his roots. **Art** dedicated 35 years of his life to the USDA Soil Conservation Service, at the Orono office, 30 of those years as a Maine State Conservationist Engineer. He retired in 1996. Those who wish to remember **Art** in a special way may make gifts in his memory to the Eastern Maine Dialysis Unit, C/O EMHS Foundation, P.O. Box 931, Bangor, ME 04402-0931. Condolences to the family may be expressed at www.BrookingsSmith.com.

- Edwards** **Beverly "Jeanie" Brewster Edwards** (69) of Pryor, Oklahoma passed away on April 13, 2015. She was the retired District Secretary for Mayes County Conservation District at Pryor with 30 yrs. of service.
- Helmey** **Marilyn Howe Helmey** (78) of Raleigh, North Carolina passed away on May 20, 2015. Born in Salina, Kansas, she was a homemaker and former nursery school teacher. At the time of her death she was a member of St. Philip Lutheran Church of Raleigh, In Athens, GA, she was a member a member of the St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary giving more than 2000 hours of service She is survived by her husband **Edgar Lebey Helmey** of Raleigh, NC who retired as the Deputy State Conservationist in Athens, Georgia. Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, **Donald and Julie Helmey** of Raleigh, NC, **Brian and Kim Helmey**, and four grandchildren. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to St. Philip Lutheran Church of Raleigh, NC, Holy Cross Lutheran Church of Athens, GA, or a [charity of your choice](#).
- Lady** **Donald Lady** (79) of Morris, Oklahoma passed away on April 15, 2015. Donald retired from the Soil Conservation Service as a Construction Inspector Okmulgee Watershed Office. He is survived by his wife **Sylvia**.
- Larsen** **Royce L. Larsen** (91) of Neillsville, Wisconsin passed away April 21, 2015, nine days before his 92nd birthday. Following H.S graduation, he entered the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCCs), which sparked his love for the outdoors and the beauty of Wisconsin. His passion was helping to preserve forests, water, and soil. **Royce** was drafted into the Army during WWII, serving from 1943–1946. For 18 months he was stationed in Hawaii as a radar specialist. He then attended U.W. River Falls, earning a B.S. in agriculture. **Royce** enlisted in the Army Reserves and served two years during the Korean War, stationed in Germany. Following college and military service, he spent most of his career (28 years) working for the Soil Conservation Service in Neillsville and Stratford. **Royce** is survived by his wife of nearly 67 years, **Dorothy**, along with their three children, **Tana (Frank) Schimberg**, Brentwood, CA; **Rhonda (Rudy) Forjan**, Eustis, FL; and **Jay (Mary Jo) Larsen**, Cottage Grove, MN. He is also survived by six grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. He was a member of Calvary Lutheran Church in Neillsville.
- Lieske** Senior Conservationist **Robert John Lieske** (94) of Ripon, Wisconsin passed away May 26, 2015, at Prairie Place surrounded by family. **Robert** married **Dorothy Schlaack** in Pickett, WI, February 20, 1943. He and Dorothy farmed at home on Cork Street until 1958 and then **Robert** began his employment with the Department of Agriculture as a Soil Conservationist for Outagamie and Fond du Lac Counties. He retired in 1980. **Robert** was a member of Our Savior's United Church of Christ and served on the Council. He loved music and sang for the Appleton and Ripon Choirs. He was a member of The Harmony Kings Barber Shop Choir and in 1985 was Barber Shopper of the Year. He is survived by his children, **Gary (Cheryl) Lieske** of Ripon, WI, **John Lieske** of Neshkoro, WI, and **Jim (Lynnette) Lieske** also of Ripon; nine grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren. **Robert** is preceded in death by his parents, his wife, **Dorothy** in 2008, one son and one daughter. A memorial is being established.
- Miller** Senior Conservationist **Arthur Wallace "Roundy" Miller** (96) of Fredonia, Kansas passed away May 29, 2015. He graduated from Dunlap High School in 1936. **Arthur** enlisted in the U.S. Navy in September 1941 and served in the Pacific Theater in World War II as a Pharmacist's Mate First Class and as a Second Class Hospital Corpsman. He made the invasions of Guadalcanal, Guam and Vella Lavella. He was honorably discharged in December, 1945. **Arthur** enrolled at Kansas State College, now KSU, and was then recalled to the Navy, where he served two years aboard the aircraft carrier USS Saipan in Guantanamo Bay and in the Mediterranean Sea during the Korean War. He was finally discharged in 1952. He received his bachelor's degree in Agronomy in 1955 from Kansas State College. **Arthur** was a district conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service and retired in 1974. He was a member of the Lions Club and First Christian Church, and a lifetime member of the VFW. He loved to play softball, and played in three Senior Citizen World Series tournaments in Arizona, Kansas City and Des Moines. He played short stop and was the designated runner. He would substitute out once a runner reached first base. Nicknamed by one umpire as "Twinkletoes," he once ran in 22 runs in one game. He last played organized softball at age 84. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, **Patricia**, of the home; his three daughters, three grandchildren and three step grandchildren. Online condolences may be left at www.countrysidefh.com.
- O'Rourke** **Cecile O'Rourke** (91) of Denver, Colorado passed away on December 13, 2014. She was born in Webster, ND and was a long time employee of the Soil Conservation Service. **Cecile** is survived by her daughter **Jane (Dick) Gibson** and son **Mike (Jody Catoraso) O'Rourke** and grandson **Jameson O'Rourke**. Additional information is in the Colorado news section of this newsletter.
- Patterson** **Alice Margaret (Leslie) Patterson** (81) of Portland, Oregon passed away on April 22, 2015. **Alice** was the great granddaughter of **Esther Short** who homesteaded part of what is now Vancouver. She attended Oregon State University where she met and married the love of her life, **Peter V. Patterson** who retired in 1992 as an engineering geologist with the Soil Conservation Service. They were happily married partners for 56 years. **Alice** was an avid skier and hiker. She is survived by her five children; 20 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. Remembrances may be made to OHSU Layton Aging and Alzheimer's Disease Center.
- Piper** **Raymond A. Piper** (71) passed away on June 7, 2015 at his home in Mapleton. He graduated from UMO in 1967 with a degree in Economics. He served in the Army, and then retired from the Air National Guard after 20 years. He was a District Conservationist with SCS in the Skowhegon field office. He owned and operated an insurance business, Raymond A. Piper Insurance Co. in Presque Isle. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, **Paula (Reynolds) Piper** of Mapleton, two daughters, and two grandchildren Online condolences may be shared at www.duncan-graves.com

- Semin** **Dean J. Semin** (79) of Ulysses, Nebraska passed away May 22, 2015. He graduated from Ulysses High School in 1953 and enlisted into the U.S. Navy Jan. 4, 1954, and honorably discharged on Feb. 7, 1956. **Dean** then enlisted into the U.S. Army Feb. 8, 1956, where he served in the Special Services, and was honorably discharged Jan. 4, 1962. Sep. 16, 1960 **Dean** began working for the USDA Soil Conservation Service in 1965, as a Soil Conservationist Technician, retiring in 1994. He was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Ulysses. Survivors: wife of 54 years, **Marie** of Seward, relatives and friends. Memorials: Donor's Choice. Condolences: www.zabkafuneralhome.com
- Townsend** Life Member **Harold B. Townsend** (90) of St. Joseph, Missouri passed away May 9, 2015, at Mosaic Life Care. He was born in Bolivar, MO and grew up in Orrick, MO and graduated from the University of Missouri with a degree in engineering. He worked throughout Northwest Missouri for over 30 years as an engineer for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, retiring in 1980 as the State Construction Engineer. **Harold** proudly served in the U.S. Army during WW II and the Korean Conflict. He was a member of and a very active volunteer at the First Christian Church. He enjoyed gardening and woodworking. Surviving family include his wife of 62 years, **Wava Townsend** of the home; two daughters, **Debra Howard**, St. Joseph and **Susan Arrow (Alan)**, Houston, Texas; son, **Mark Townsend (Sue)**, Wilmington, N.C.; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. The Family has requested Memorials, in lieu of flowers, be made to Camp Quality of NWMO or the American Cancer Society.
- Uhrig** **Jeannine E. Uhrig** (78) of Black River Falls, Wisconsin passed away on June 18, 2015 at Mayo Clinic Health System in Eau Claire. Her husband **Robert** survives and retired in 1999 as a District Conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service. There will be a Memorial Service on Tuesday July 7th at 2PM with a visitation at 1PM at the United Methodist Church here in Black River Falls and a dessert type lunch following the service. **Jeannine** liked Bagpipes so a piper will be there to play several numbers during the service and during the lunch.
- Williams** **Norris L. Williams** (80) passed away on June 11, 2015. Memories of **Norris** will be kept alive by his wife of 57 years, **Sandra Williams**; children **Kristi Williams**, **Kevin (Eva) Williams**, **Kendra (Michael) Paul**, **Kyle (Kristen) Williams**; and six grandchildren. **Norris** was a graduate of The Ohio State University. He worked as a soil scientist for the state of Ohio for 32 years before starting his own soil consulting service. **Norris** and his family also owned and operated a Christmas tree farm in Middlefield, Ohio. He proudly served in the U.S. Army as a medic while stationed in Germany from 1957-1959. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Legacy House hospice at 9505 SW 110th St, Ocala, FL 34481 or to the charity of your choice. A memorial service will be announced at a later date.



Reflection Pond, Denali National Park, Alaska.

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



Seagulls, Occoquan, VA

www.arcse.org

-----Cut off and insert into 2015 ARCSE Members Directory-----

Changes to the 2015 ARCSE Members Directory received since distribution in May, 2015.

Everette L. Abbott	24802 Kingsland Blvd., Apt 107, Katy, TX 77494 (no phone) (wife deceased)
Shirley Austin	304-413-0434
Louis C. Barber	715-653-2360 lkbarb@centurylink.net
Kenneth E. Benham	417-626-8695
Paul Calverley	208-853-1586
Harland Deitz	4712 SW 6 th Ave., Apt. 165, Topeka, KS 66606
Randy Giessler	mtngiessler1@gmail.com
James Krider	864-650-3819 Cell is only number
Ralph Mashburn	ralphmashburn@gmail.com
Ned McGill	gillstarr@wctel.net
Ron Moreland	520-818-1649
William R. Parrish	spelling: Ebensburg , PA 814-749-8403
Keith Schmude	703-272-8398
Daniel A. Smith	509-682-9653
Donald L. Stettler	Zip 97078-2949
Martin Vavra	979-703-4799
Tom Weber	Remove P.O. Box 187