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# NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter for Retired SCS and NRCS Employees

Vol. 41, No. 4 July/August, 2014

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## NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

*John Stierna*

**Agricultural appropriations**—Efforts to enact the annual appropriations bill for agriculture have slowed again. Although scheduled for floor time in June for both the House and Senate, each chamber delayed action in part due to pending amendments. With a relatively few legislative days until the August recess, unless floor action occurs in July, it is very possible that agricultural appropriations will be bundled with other appropriation bills into an omnibus package for September. A last resort could be a **continuing resolution** that would simply continue current funding levels.

In the committee approved Senate bill, NRCS **conservation operations** for FY 2015 would be funded at \$849.3 million. The House committee provided \$843.1 million for conservation operations. The 2014 Farm Bill provided mandatory funding of \$250 million (to remain available until expended) for **watershed rehab work** and authorized additional appropriations. The Senate barred any watershed rehab work from mandatory funds and did not provide any discretionary appropriations, while the House about doubled the 2014 appropriation to an even \$25 million for FY 2015 and capped mandatory funding at \$92 million. The appropriators capped **EQIP** at \$1.35 and \$1.39 billion for the Senate and House, respectively. The House appropriators went on to cap the new **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program** at about 85 percent of the level in the Farm Bill. **CSP** was capped as well, but the actual amount of available acres to enroll is a little unclear, since the cap was expressed in “aggregate dollars” while the program authorization is in “acres.”

**Beginning Farmers and Ranchers**—USDA announced new support for beginning farmers and ranchers and unveiled a new website where it is possible to explore a variety of initiatives designed to help them succeed. One of the new avenues for support is eliminating payment reductions under the **Conservation Reserve Program** for new and beginning farmers that will allow routine, prescribed, and emergency grazing outside the primary nesting season on enrolled land, consistent with approved conservation plans. Waiving the usual 25 percent payment reduction will provide added support for new and beginning farmers during times of emergency situations like drought and other natural disasters.

USDA also announced that retiring farmers enrolled in **CRP** could receive incentives to transfer a portion of their land to beginning, disadvantaged, or veteran farmers through the transition **Incentives Program**. This program provides two additional years of payments for retired farmers and ranchers who transition expiring CRP acres to socially-disadvantaged, military veteran, or beginning producers who return the land to sustainable grazing or crop production.

**Pollinators**—The President directed USDA to create a federal task force to promote the health of honey bees and other pollinators. Part of this effort would be to develop best management practices to enhance pollinator habitat on federal lands and use USDA's conservation programs to increase the acreage and forage value of pollinator habitat. USDA already had provided \$8 million through CRP to producers in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and the Dakotas to establish new habitat for honeybees and \$3 million through EQIP in the Midwest to support bee populations.

**RCPP**—A lot of buzz is occurring right now about the Regional Conservation Partnership Program that was created in the 2014 Farm Bill. NRCS has issued an Announcement of Program Funding (APF) and invited interested and eligible entities to submit pre-proposals for conservation projects to address identified resource concerns. This is a partnership program where NRCS would work with selected partners to focus financial and technical assistance and leverage resources to address resource problems. Several webinars have been presented to provide further information to prospective partners. Pre-proposals are due on July 14<sup>th</sup>.

**ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES**

**CSP renewals**—NRCS has announced an opportunity for producers with expiring Conservation Stewardship Program contracts to renew and add conservation activities that will fine-tune their conservation plans. The sign-up is from July 11<sup>th</sup> to September 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Waters of the United States**—A lot of controversy has been swirling around a proposed rule issued jointly by the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers concerning the jurisdiction of the **Clean Water Act** (CWA). While EPA and the Corps are saying that it provides clarity on what waters are covered by the CWA, other interests, including the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), argue that it amounts to regulatory over-reach. One aspect of the proposed rule is that 56 NRCS conservation practices are exempt from CWA jurisdiction when applied according to NRCS standards and specs. A Senate bill has been introduced that would block EPA and the Corps from finalizing the proposed rule. The CWA jurisdiction is likely to ultimately be decided by the courts.

**WRRDA**—The President signed into law the Water Resource Reform and Development Act on June 10<sup>th</sup>. While the bill was a challenge for both chambers of Congress to enact, it now provides the authority and funding to implement many projects to improve the nation's water infrastructure and restore some of our significant ecosystems.

**FSA office closure**—Another attempt to close some FSA offices is running into opposition on Capitol Hill. Agriculture appropriations bills have riders that essentially block the Administration from implementing any office-closure plan.

**Targeting Conservation Efforts**—The World Resources Institute (WRI) has issued three reports focused on certain aspects of targeting conservation assistance to address water quality. The reports lay out quite a case for improving metrics to better guide conservation efforts and to direct conservation funding to where it can have the greatest benefit. More information is available on WRI's website: [www.wri.org](http://www.wri.org).

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Warren M. Lee, [wandblee@comcast.net](mailto:wandblee@comcast.net) We hope you have made your reservations in Chicago for the ARCSE annual luncheon on Monday, July 28, 2014. If not, it's not too late, but I encourage you to act quickly. ARCSE holds this annual luncheon in conjunction with the Soil and Water Conservation Society's Annual Meeting. They are meeting at the Hilton Lombard Hotel, 70 Yorktown Ctr., Lombard, IL 60148. Many of our members belong to both groups. Join in and stay informed. Check the SWCS website for details on hotel accommodations. To register for the ARCSE Annual Luncheon, download the form at: <http://www.arcse.org/index.html>

We continue to be in need of a web master. I know that many of you have the skills and talents to do an outstanding job. Give it a try if you have an interest. It allows you to

maintain your skills, use your artistic talents, and keep involved with your former colleagues.



*A new Web Master is still needed for the ARCSE web site.*

If you would like to volunteer, have questions or recommendations, please contact either: **Warren Lee**, [wandblee@comcast.net](mailto:wandblee@comcast.net); **Ron Marlow**, [arcse@cox.net](mailto:arcse@cox.net); or **Jerry Bernard**, [jbernard.nrcsret@gmail.com](mailto:jbernard.nrcsret@gmail.com).

## A BIT OF HISTORY

**Douglas Helms, Historian**

Email: [douglas\\_helms@verizon.net](mailto:douglas_helms@verizon.net)

***Fiftieth Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.***

**DEADLINE FOR  
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2014  
NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS  
IS AUGUST 25**

As I contemplated a subject for this month's history section of the newsletter, events once again provided the idea. Events leading to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, signed July 2, have been much in the news, since the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that Act nears. For a little reminder, the Civil Rights Act of 1965 addressed voting rights, whereas the act of 1964 had major provisions on desegregation of public schools, prevention of discrimination in public accommodations, and prevention of discrimination by government agencies that received federal funds.

In 1990 the Soil Conservation Service cosponsored a history conference at Florida A&M University on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Act authorizing the 1890 land-grant schools. Below is the link to an article written for that conference in which I tried to recount not only SCS's response to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, but also the experience of Blacks employed by SCS before 1964. Looking back on that time reminds me of the pleasure of meeting and interviewing some of these SCSers.

[http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/about/history/?cid=nrcs143\\_021380](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/about/history/?cid=nrcs143_021380).



*President Lyndon Johnson and Martin Luther King at signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Source: Lyndon Baines Johnson Library.*



*Chester Durley (left) and Thomas Baskins (right) of SCS discuss conservation plan with Lawrence Richards near Marion, Arkansas, September 25, 1964. Ark-62244, RG 114, National Archives.*

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

*by Ron Marlow, Secretary Treasurer*

Please welcome the following new members to the ARCSE:

Morrow, Ellis	SC
Young, Samuel	PA
Nestoss, Jon	MN
Harvey, Boyce	NC
Johnson, Rodney	NC
Short, Wayne	NC
Thompson, Mary	ME

### 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

## ARIZONA

**Karl Klingelhofer, ARCSE Representative**

**Email:** [krklingel@aol.com](mailto:krklingel@aol.com)

**Marion Strong, Tempe, AZ**—I have made a couple of trips this year. In March I was selected by Honor Flight, Arizona, to make the trip to Washington to view the war memorials. There were 39 WWII vets who made the trip. There were a number of "Guardians" who went with us to help us get around, such as pushing wheel chairs. It was a three-day trip. We were in Baltimore two nights. From there we went by bus to DC. It was a very memorable trip. We were accorded substantial applause in the airports as we went to and from the planes.

I traveled to Seattle in June for my grandson's high school graduation. He was Salutatorian of his class and achieved several honors with his diploma. He was an Honor Society designee for three years, class President four years, and a four-year letterman in football. Needless to say, I was proud of him. I am planning a short trip to Indiana and Michigan late next month.

**Albert "Bob" Addison, Portal, AZ**— I spent some time with my wife, Jeanne, on June 19<sup>th</sup>, at her nursing home, celebrating our 71<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary. Doesn't seem possible, but there it is!

**Warren Fitzgerald, Sun City, AZ**—This June, Rita and I celebrated our 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. We were married on June 15, 1949 in Osman, WI (Manitowoc County). The next day we drove to Madison, where I was interviewed by **Marv Schweers**, State Conservationist and hired that same day. He said, "Most people get a job before they get married." The following day, I graduated from the Univ. of Wis., and the next day after that I was Best Man for my roommate's wedding.



That was a busy week! The day after that, we left on our honeymoon to Minocqua, WI. All our children and grandchildren from Urbana, IL, Overland Park, KS and Tucson, AZ joined us to help celebrate.

I worked for the SCS from June, 1949 until my retirement in December, 1981. My assignments took me from Wisconsin, to Illinois, to Michigan, to New York, to New Jersey and then back to Illinois, where I retired as State Conservationist. We have lived in Sun City, AZ since 1988.

**Ron and Barb Moreland, Tucson, AZ**—Ron and Barb Moreland are now settled in for the summer at their Hamilton, MT home. “Our trip north from Tucson took us through the Tetons and Yellowstone just as that area was awakening from winter. We saw many bison and many, many bison babies. We did see wolves, lots of elk and a brand new elk baby. The prize was seeing a mother black bear with three rollicking and darling cubs.”

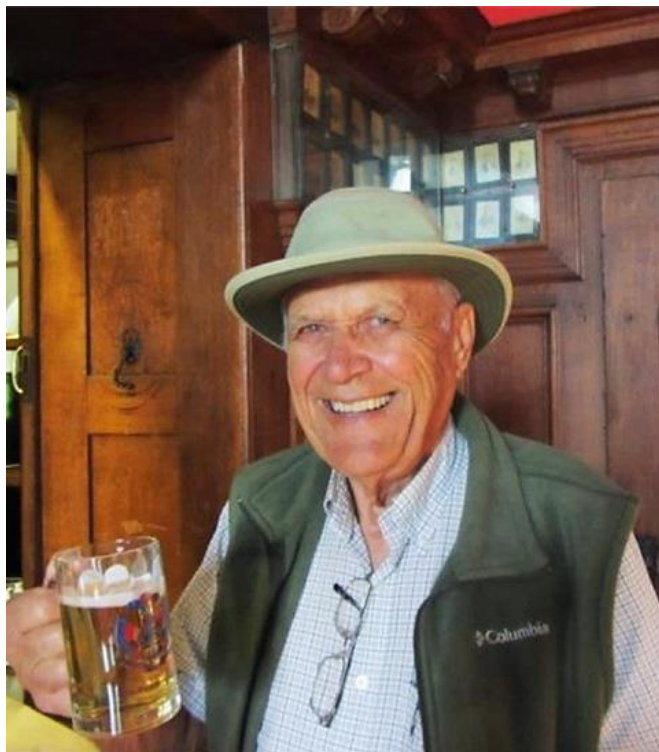
**John Hedlund, Tucson, AZ**—I’m in North Dakota, enjoying mid to lower 70s with a little rain about once a week.

**Chris Williams, Chandler, AZ**—Has a new E-mail address that is [cpaulwilly@gmail.com](mailto:cpaulwilly@gmail.com). He is a life member of the organization. “I have not been very regular in attending AZ retiree events in the last few years because only a couple of the people I worked with ever attended. Also, no one knows my new wife and she has been reluctant to attend.”

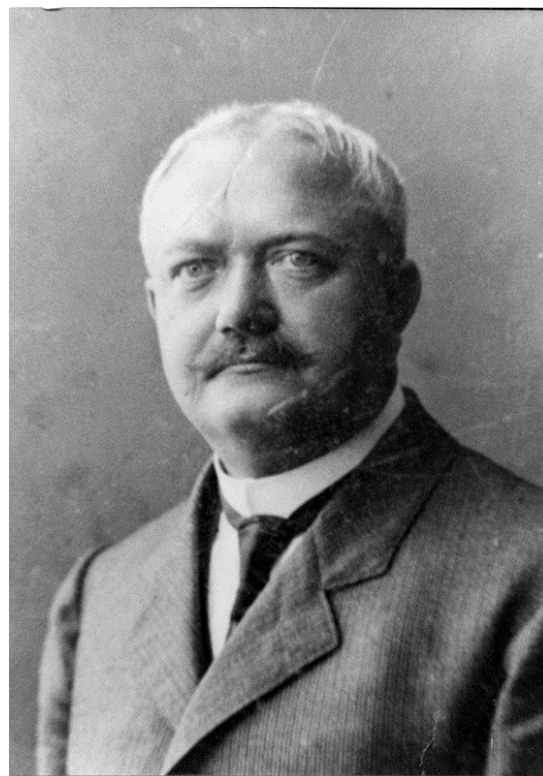
**Verne Bathhurst, Scottsdale**—He is having trouble with his computer and my request to him was returned. So I called him. He said they are not traveling and staying pretty much in Scottsdale.

**Karl Klingelhofer, Tucson, AZ**—Still traveling. Made a weekend trip to CA to celebrate my son’s 63<sup>rd</sup> birthday before I left for a European trip. The Klingelhofer’s have a name reunion every three years. Have been several times before, but my other son and family from Maine met me there. It was their first Reunion, and they found it very interesting. The Reunion was held in Marburg, Germany, where my grandfather went to the University and where my Aunt lived for a number of years. My father’s home town is about 10 miles from there. I visited the Teutonia Fraternity that my grandfather belonged to in the late 1800s when he studied for his medical degree. They knew I was going to stop in, and I was treated royally and was served a beer at their bar. Having my pretty granddaughter, age 22, with me was probably an asset.

Grandfather’s picture was on the wall along with other past members. We had two cars and went on to Austria. I drove 1,000 miles in two weeks. On the return I stopped off in Chicago and visited U. of Wisconsin in Madison and my hometown area in the Peoria, IL area.



**Karl Reinhard Klingelhofer at Grandfather’s fraternity in Marburg, Germany**



**Reinhard Klingelhofer III, Karl’s Grandfather. Notice the scars on the side of his face from fencing. The boys at the fraternity in Marburg, Germany, told Karl that they still fence and have no protection on their face except for eyes.**

## CALIFORNIA

**Bill Ward, ARCSE Representative**

**Email: [bluegrassbillward@gmail.com](mailto:bluegrassbillward@gmail.com)**

Hello from California to all our fellow SCS and NRCS retirees across the nation.

California State Conservation Engineer, **John Harrington**, retired effective May 30<sup>th</sup> after 31 years of federal service. John Started his career in Arizona, spent eight years working in the National Office and had eight years combined time as State Conservation Engineer in Nevada and California. A considerable amount of John's retirement time will be spent enjoying his passion for flying his own small plane between Colorado, where he has family property; Arizona, where he has a second residence; and California, which is his primary residence at this time.

Our California retirees continue to enjoy a first Wednesday of the month lunch and a third Wednesday of the month breakfast for folks to get together and catch up with the latest on what is going on in our group. The photo below shows the 10 people who made it to the June 4<sup>th</sup> lunch.



**California Retirees at June 4<sup>th</sup> lunch.**

**Helen Flach**, former Deputy State Conservationist in California, retired 2006, continues to do some real world traveling. Since April, she has spent two weeks in Morocco, 25 days touring nine countries around the Baltic Sea, and is now in the US Virgin Islands for two weeks. She will then head to the Big Island of Hawaii until early July. Here are a couple photos from her travels.



**Helen's Camel Driver in Morocco**



**Helen Flach in Hanoi, Viet Nam**



**Bill Ward** and his band, Western Lights, had a big performance on May 4<sup>th</sup> playing a dance for the Sacramento Western Swing Society (Sac. WSS). For a band that loves providing music for dancing there is nothing quite like seeing folks continue to circle the dance floor with big smiles, giving you a thumbs up and just having a grand time doing what they love. It was really an honor for Western Lights to join a long list of great Western Swing bands that have performed at the Sac. WSS over many years for the purpose to "promote, preserve and enjoy the American art form known as Western Swing Music." Here are a couple photos from then event followed by a slide show of our music to photos taken by the Sacramento western Swing Society photographer **Dennis Ford**.

Have a wonderful summer and best wishes from all the California retirees!



*Dancers doing what they love to!*



*Western Lights Band on the Sacramento WSS stage. Bill Ward second from right. This web site is a nice photo slide show of the dance set to music by Western Lights: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TDg5wUxIBmM>.*

## COLORADO

**Ivan Wilkinson, ARCSE Representative**

**Email: [giwilk@estesvalley.net](mailto:giwilk@estesvalley.net)**

Retired plant materials specialists **Curtis Sharp** (WV), **Bob MacLauchlan** (NE), **Larry Holzworth** (MT), **Fred Gaffney** (NY), **Wendell Hassell** (CO), **Wendall Oaks** (CO), and **Jack Carlson** (CO) convened in Sacramento, CA on March 16<sup>th</sup> for their 7<sup>th</sup> "For the Love of Grass" **botanizing trek**. Over the next six days they identified plants and pondered ecological conditions at sites within and surrounding the Sacramento Valley: Pardee Reservoir, Pine Hill Ecological Reserve, Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Center, North Table Mountain Ecological Reserve, Gray Lodge Wildlife Area, Black Butte Reservoir, Bear Creek Botanical Management Area, McLaughlin Natural Reserve, Stebbins Cold Canyon Reserve, Jepson Prairie Preserve, and Consumnes River Preserve. Despite the severe drought, recent rains had germinated the annual grasses and forbs at most sites, and the wildflowers were spectacular at North Table Mountain. The team also spent a morning touring the Lockeford Plant Materials Center, where manager **Margaret Smith-Kopperl** provided an update on



pollinator and soil health studies. Those interested can read more detail about the trek at [www.conservationplantsblog.com](http://www.conservationplantsblog.com), including ruminations about the botanical nightmare star-thistle encountered during the week. The group plans to reconvene in Spokane in late June, 2015 for their 8<sup>th</sup> trek, this time covering the steppes of the Columbia Basin/Plateau and the valleys of old Lake Missoula.



*Retired Plant Material Specialists at North Table Mountain near Sacramento, CA: Wendall Oaks, Jack Carlson, Larry Holzworth, Curtis Sharp, Mark Testerman (former SCS employee), Wendell Hassell, Bob MacLauchlan, and Fred Gaffney.*

## IDAHO

**Sharon Norris, ARCSE Representative**

**Email:** [snorris0889@hotmail.com](mailto:snorris0889@hotmail.com)

We are saddened to report that our good friend **LeRoy Zollinger**, retired State Conservation Engineer, died May 15, 2014, at his home after a long struggle with bladder cancer and just four months after the passing of his wife Sharon. LeRoy was born Aug. 16, 1934, in Rexburg ID, and earned his degree in civil engineering from Utah State University. His entire career was spent in Idaho.

Attendees at our May luncheon included **Jerry and Carol Larson, Jim Cornwell, Paul and Harriet Calverley, Darrell Gallup, Gene and Bev Chrisman, Don and Maxine Stewart, Amos Garrison, Paul Malone, and Sharon Norris**. We will take a three-month break for the summer and resume our luncheons in September. Happy summer to all!

## INDIANA

**Harold Thompson, ARCSE Representative**

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Submitted by **Dan McCain:**

Check out the latest Canal Update attached above for our current project called the Gray Bridge.



*Back in 2006 as you can see we mobilized the sawmills and had Oak logs donated by Pike Lumber Company out of Carbon, IN with about 50 people volunteering that day.*



*Our MWF volunteers learned techniques of "riveting" as an example of what skills we have learned.*



*Final product 7 years ago, called the Blue Bridge, looked like this when we finished the decking.*



*The repeat of what we did years before came to us at our Spring Workday this year as when we decked an even longer restored iron bridge in Canal Park.*

## KANSAS

**Deanne Lull, ARCSE Representative**

**Email: [rlull2@cox.net](mailto:rlull2@cox.net)**

*My goodness, computers are going to be the death of me yet. When I was prompted to compact my disk, I clicked OK only to later find it had most certainly done that and a lot more. All my in-box e-mails and a number of folders where I temporarily store e-mails were gone. A technician found most of them in the recycle bin and spent over a week using several different programs trying to retrieve them with no success. New computer ordered and installed! In the meantime I had to re-gather my news items for the newsletter.*

In April the Kansas Farmer published a very nice article regarding State Conservationist **Eric Banks'** recovery from a stroke that a year ago turned his life upside down. At the age of 43 he had to re-learn how to talk, walk, write, and do daily tasks. Following three months of rehabilitation, he returned to work finding that he was unable to recognize many of his staff and agency team members. In time, with help from co-workers, he re-learned their names. **Eric** says he didn't let a stroke slow him down and has now reached a point that he would call "normal."

In May **Harold and Sandra Compton** celebrated 60 years of marriage. Harold retired in March, 1987 closing his career as a Soil Conservation Technician in the Hill City Field Office with 32 years of service. Sandi retired from the U.S. Postal Service as the postmaster in Palco in May, 2000 with 30 years of service. They stay active with Harold painting houses and Sandi with church activities. They have two children, four grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Several new retirees recently joined our ranks. **Don D. Newell**, Soil Conservation Technician, at the WaKeeney Field Office retired on May 3, 2014, with 35 years of service. Don started his federal career in February, 1979, as a Soil Conservation Aide in the WaKeeney Field Office. He plans to spend some quality time playing golf, continuing to coach the high school golf team, and spending time with his grandchildren.

Three retired on May 31, 2014: **Timothy B. Gogolski**, **Jeffrey L. Gross**, and **Michael W. Waite**. **Tim**, supervisory District Conservationist at the Lyndon Field Office, retired with 31 years of service. He started his career as an Engineering Aide in 1978, working out of the Wakarusa Watershed Project Office in Overbrook, KS. During his career he worked in a number of locations in Kansas and as the Deschutes Basin Team Leader in Redmond, OR. He enjoys bee-keeping, mountain-biking, trail-running, and kayaking. **Jeff**, Assistant State Conservationist for water resources, retired from the Kansas State Office in Salina, with 35 years of service. He worked 24 years in Kansas and 11 years in North Dakota. He will keep busy on the farm and is planning a fall trip to Hawaii to meet a new grandchild. **Michael**, District Conservationist in the Mankato Field Office, retired with 30 years of federal service. During his career he worked for the Department of the Interior, the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (now Farm Service Agency), and SCS/NRCS in the Minneapolis, Hill City, and Mankato Field Offices. He plans to spend time spoiling the grandchildren and attending their activities.

Last month I learned that **Edsel Lee King** passed away September 17, 2013. Edsel completed his 33-year career, retiring as the District Conservationist in the Syracuse Field Office. His wife, **Carole**, preceded him in death.

One retiree, **Alvin M. Kennedy**, passed away June 9, 2014. Alvin retired as a Civil Engineering Technician from the Hutchinson Area Office in 1993. He is survived by his wife, **Lois**.

Two spouses have passed away: **Betty Haug and Irma Glover**. Betty passed away on April 19, 2014. She is survived by her husband, **Gilbert**, who retired in 1993 as a Soil Conservation Technician in the Cottonwood Falls Field Office. They had



just celebrated 60 years of marriage in January. Irma, the wife of **Robert Glover**, passed away on June 9, 2014. Robert retired in 1981 as a Resource Conservationist in the Dodge City Area Office. He preceded her in death in January, 2013.

## KENTUCKY

**Billye M. Haslett, ARCSE Representative**

Email: [bchaslett@aol.com](mailto:bchaslett@aol.com)

Southeast ARCSE Retirees gathered in Kentucky.



*Kentucky retirees, left to right standing: Warren Lee, Frank Scudder, Barb Lee, Hershel Reed, Barbara Reed, Bob Halstead, Billy Milliken, Ernie Todd, Peggy Todd, Peggy Murphy, Ronnie Murphy, Carolyn Glasgow, Niles Glasgow, Deloris Nelson, Ed Nelson, Barbara Garrett, Coy Garrett, and Dennie Burns. Sitting: Sue Halstead, Betty Milliken, Mary Nell Scudder, and Lee Frederick.*

On May 21, 2014 the State Office held their annual "Spring Fling," a cookout in the parking lot. **Barry Rankin**, retired Engineer from the State Office was the "Guest of Honor." Barry retired January 3, 2014, but elected to wait until the Spring Fling to be recognized.

Barry started and finished his engineering career in the State office, after 39 years of service. Barry is a graduate of the University of Kentucky. He's married and has three sons and one granddaughter. Several retirees who worked with Barry were in attendance: **Bill Craddock, Bob Eigel, Billy Hartsell, Billye Haslett, Shirley Hill, Marcia Kelly, Glenn Kelley, Cassie Pyle, and Sandy Welch.**

**Gregory K. Johnson**, retired NRCS Division Director, NRCS National Headquarters (2011) was selected as the new Commissioner of the KY Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR), the eighth commissioner in the KDFWR's 70-year history. The KDFWR is responsible



**Barry Rankin, Retired Engineer- Guest of Honor at the Spring fling**

for the conservation of fish and wildlife resources and for boating safety in the state of Kentucky. The Department has an annual budget of \$50 million and employs 500 people. Greg's quotes from the press release include "I'm a lifetime hunter, angler and outdoorsman. Kentucky's hunting and fishing heritage is among the richest anywhere. I'm excited to become a part of that. The Department's wildlife and fisheries successes are well recognized among professionals everywhere, and I am looking forward to continuing and building upon those traditions."



**Billye M. Haslett**, Retired State Administrative officer, was sworn in on June 13, 2014, as a Supervisor of the Fayette County Conservation District Board in Lexington, KY. Billye is filling the vacancy created by Greg Johnson, to fulfill the remainder of his term, through December, 2016. Greg was required to resign after being appointed as the Commissioner of the KY Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. Billye appreciates all the help from retirees who assisted with getting signatures on the petition required to fill the vacant Board position.



**Bill Craddock, Retired State Soil Scientist and Mark Stevens, IT Specialist**



**Barry and Sandy Welch (State Office Retiree) talking to Steve Crabtree, NRCS GIS Specialist**

**Roy Toney**, President of the Kentucky SCS/NRCS Retiree Association, has announced that the annual meeting of the association will be held at Natural Bridge State Park on October 7, 2014. See the following web site for reservations, or call Toll free 1-800-325-1710:

<http://parks.ky.gov/parks/resortparks/Natural-Bridge/default.aspx>

A block of 20 rooms has been reserved at a cost of \$98.96 per night. This is a fall meeting when the park is very busy, so Roy recommends that reservations be made early for those who plan on an overnight stay.

**Doug Hines**, son of retiree **Beecher Hines** has advised us that Beecher is suffering from a serious blood disorder. If you would like to send Beecher a card or give him a call, his address is: Beecher J. Hines Phone: (859) 987-5179, 497 Sialis RD, Cynthiana, KY.

Kentucky has lost three retirees since the last newsletter. In Memory:

**Robert B. (Bob) Nance**, retired CET from the former Somerset Area Office. Bob passed away May 15, 2014.

**Donald B. Nelson**, retired DC Lebanon, KY. Don passed away May 29, 2014 at age 80.

**Arlin J. Barton**, retired Soil Scientist, Russellville, KY. Arlin passed away June 13, 2014.

## MAINE

**John J. Simon, ARCSE Representative**

Email: [balnengr@tds.net](mailto:balnengr@tds.net)

**Charlie Boothby** has plants growing in his cellar, under grow lights, that are three inches tall. He also has started planting stuff in his greenhouse.

**Dotty and Larry Laber** sent a note to say Hi to all. She and Larry were visiting her sister in North Carolina.

**Earland Morrison's wife Elizabeth Morrison** passed away on April 3, 2014. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Morrison family. Earland and "Betty" had three sons, one who lives locally in Alfred, ME. Elizabeth was 82 years old.

My mini-split has been humming along since January 13<sup>th</sup>. It costs from four to eight times less to run than the oil furnace. The efficiency of a heat pump varies with the temperature and relative humidity. I have a computer on the furnace and a separate watt meter on the mini-split. I have been sharing my data with the installer for sales purposes. I am their only customer who has a separate watt hour meter for their mini-split. I can't wait for the summer as the mini-split is also a very economical air conditioner. First time ever for me at 75 years old! June, July, and August won't be so bad this year for me as I do not like hot weather.



The break-even temperature for heating with oil is at about minus 5 degrees average daily temperature, so it is not worth fooling with. We have very few days that cold. The quiet fan is always running and keeps the upstairs quite even in temperature. Also I learned to direct the fan towards the floor and the floors in the LR, DR, and KIT are warm, unlike when the oil is on.

On February 28, 2014 **Phyllis Drake Ritchie** passed away. She was the wife of the late George Ritchie, a long time Conservation Technician in Aroostook County, ME. Phyllis was 91.

Our breakfast on the May 13<sup>th</sup> was not that nice a day but we still had six friendly faces show up. Those present were **Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon, Joe Bertolaccini, Ray Voyer, Tom Smith, and John Simon**.

Tom was our guest of honor as he drove all the way up from Portland! On his way back home, Tom will stop at his mother's farm in Winslow where the natural gas folks are drilling under the Kennebec River with a new large 10-inch diameter gas line. They are crossing under the river from the Smith farm over to Thomas College. Tom indicated that the gas companies have the right of eminent domain. They do compensate the landowner, but you have no rights to stop them.

Tom's family is doing well. **Connie** is still working as a librarian at a local school. Tom is working part time (full time during tax season) for an accounting firm and says he loves it. When Tom and I were working together in Lewiston, he was taking courses and got a degree in accounting.

We had three birthdays of members (that I know of) in May. **Charlie Boothby's** birthday was on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Happy birthday Charlie! **Phil Christensen's** birthday is on May 22<sup>th</sup>, and **Bob Lagassey's** birthday is on May 23<sup>th</sup>. Full disclosure, my birthday is on May 28<sup>th</sup>. I will be 75 years old, can you believe it. Because Charlie and Bob were unable to attend the breakfast we had to forgo the muffin and candle routine at Dysarts, boo hoo.

I saw **Dottie and Larry Laber** at the Brewer Hannaford market the other day. Both look good. They indicated they enjoyed the trip to N. Carolina to visit Dottie's sister. It gives them a winter break.

**Bill Moulton** emailed me that he and **Pat** just returned from their trip on May 4<sup>th</sup>. They went to Europe and took a long boat trip down the Rhine. They saw lots of history and attended lots of German beer festivals. They had a good time. Bill indicated that his leg is healing well but some nerve damage is slowing him down. He indicated he will be in Physical Therapy for three more months. Bill also says his strawberry patch is looking good this year. Just hope deer and other critters that like strawberries don't show up! Bill says he is planting his strawberries on plastic sheets as per the recommendation of **Vaughn Rasar** (deceased DC and RC&D coordinator), who raised them for many years. Bill also noted that he is busy doing genealogical work for several lawyers, and that keeps him real busy.

I saw several posts of **Dave Musselman** on Facebook. He is going on up to Moosehead in late May to enjoy his spring fishing with **Peter Tidd**. Welcome back to Maine Dave! Dave Musselman turns 73 on June 12<sup>th</sup>. So a belated happy birthday to you Dave from all of us retirees and we hope you have many more to come! Dave Musselman indicated that he now makes extensive use of a CAPO when playing his guitar. It helps him to find a key that fits his voice range.

We had our annual Noon luncheon at the Coach House restaurant in Brewer on June 10<sup>th</sup> with 10 retirees in attendance. Included in the lively group were: **Lola and John Ferwerda, Ellie and Joe Bertolaccini, Pat and Bruce Champeon, Dave Musselman**, newly retired (June 1<sup>st</sup>) **Mary Thompson**, and newly retired (June 1<sup>st</sup>) **Lew Crosby**, and long retired **John Simon**. Everyone enjoyed the lunch and good food. I heard no complaints, but lots of lively conversations. Many were eligible for the 10-percent discount for those over 65!

Both Dave and Joe have recently returned from fishing trips and indicated good catches. They both insisted that they left many fish in the waters for others to catch.

**Dennis Erinakes** sent me an email about upcoming legislation at the national level for doing away with our health insurance benefits and rolling us all over to Obama Care. The house bill is HR 1780. NARFE is heavily involved in lobbying against this legislation. If you are not a member, consider joining as they do lots of good stuff for all of us. If you are interested in the outcome, contact your representative. Dennis Erinakes also celebrated his birthday on June 6<sup>th</sup>. My records show Dennis turned 74.

**John Malley** sent an email about the death of **Virginia Day** whose obituary was in the Portland Press herald on June 8<sup>th</sup>. She was 103. She was the wife of deceased S Von Day who was a DC in Portland in the 1960's and then the first RC&D coordinate in Presque Isle. I knew Von when he was in Portland as a DC. John Malley (an ex-Navy man) mentioned that Von was an ex-Navy man who took part in the June 6<sup>th</sup> invasion of Normandy as part of the D-Day invasion. Virginia's Obit indicated that Von passed away in 1989. Some of the older folks in Maine will probably remember Von.

I mentioned to **Lew Crosby** that Von had a truly great technician named **Ken Warren**, with whom I loved to work. He used to pronounce "culvert" as "cul-le-vert," which would bring a smile to my face. We often went to sites to inspect or design a new "cul-le-vert" as part of a conservation plan. Just great memories of all the years working with SCS.

We lost one of our retirees on June 17<sup>th</sup>. **Jeffery Theborge** was the contract specialist and purchasing agent at the Orono S.O. for many years. Jeff was 76. He was born in Anson, ME on January 12, 1938. We will miss his friendship and robust

laugh for sure. At Jeff's wake I learned that he was a catcher for his high school team in Madison, ME, and his twin brother **Edwin** was the pitcher. His oldest brother was a teacher and coach of the baseball team! Jeffery comes from a family of 13 children. Jeffery was a talented violinist and played on a combo with his older brother **Ernest** who played the guitar. They played at many functions. Jeff had a great voice for singing. He also was a cantor at his local Church.

I am attaching a photo (taken on June 10<sup>th</sup>) of the group at the June Luncheon for you to refresh your memories. Till next issue, take care and God bless you all--John Simon.



*Maine Retirees' June 10<sup>th</sup> Luncheon. From left around to right are: Mary Thompson (new retiree), Dave Mussulman, Joe Bertolaccini, Lew Crosby (new retiree), then John Ferwerda (hidden), Lola Ferwerda, Ellie Bertolaccini, and Pat and Bruce Champeon. Photo taken by John Simon.*

## MASSACHUSETTS

**Jim Wesolowski, ARCSE Representative**

**Email: [jim.wesolowski@gmail.com](mailto:jim.wesolowski@gmail.com)**

Well, it's been a quiet two months here on the edge of the frozen tundra. The longest day of the year has come and gone, and it's all downhill from here. Days are getting shorter; winter's fast approaching. Some eager farmers are already into their second cutting of hay--five bucks a bale this year. Baby birds and squirrels are in abundance, and a bear has come by to decimate **Betty's** bird feeder. Strawberries are ready for picking; asparagus is almost over; and the birds are already eyeing the green blueberries.

I was saddened to hear of the passing of **Chet Konieczny**, retired Conservation Technician retired Conservation Technician, who worked in the Hampshire County, MA field offices, died at the age of 81, on May 14, 2014. **Chet's** obituary is in the In Memoriam section.

Conservation Technicians are a rare breed today. Everybody wants to be a planner. **Chet** took pride in doing stuff (surveys, layouts, inspections) that had some instant gratification of seeing something get installed. It was said at **Chet's** retirement party that he never saw a wetland that couldn't be drained or a field that couldn't be cropped. It's probably a good thing that swamp-busting and sod-busting came in the door as **Chet** was walking out that door.

Before I was rescued by **Karl Klingelhofer** and **Ralph Wadleigh** to join the Watershed Staff, I can remember many a sweltering day driving to some mosquito-infested area in **Vern Johnson's** green sedan-delivery for a day of surveying with Chet. There was never a question of what we would do at lunch: eat lunch and play cribbage (fifteen-two, fifteen-four, and eight's a dozen). Really more like play cribbage and eat lunch was Chet's priority order. Inside-days meant **Jeff Hubler** got dragged into the game. **Vern Johnson**, the W.U.C., would come whistling up the stairs with some inane question if the game extended beyond 12:31pm

*This next bit has nothing to do with Mass. retirees but I was fascinated by it. Count every F in the following text:*

**FINISHED FILES ARE THE RESULT OF YEARS OF SCIENTIFIC STUDY COMBINED WITH THE EXPERIENCE OF YEARS**

*How many did you count? Everyone I've asked said "three". Some refused to accept that there are really six of the little devils. Has something to do with that little word being pronounced "ovh" without an F sound.*



## MISSOURI

**Dave Rastorfer, ARCSE Representative**

Email: [daverastorfer@aol.com](mailto:daverastorfer@aol.com)

**George Simmons** has been in and out of the hospital twice in the last 3 weeks or so with each stay being 4-7 days. His son **Mark** told me it was congestive heart failure. He was released Tuesday of this week and moved into Meyer Care Center at Higginsville, which is associated with the John Knox Apartment complex where he lived. Mark does not believe he will be able to live alone again. I know George would love getting any notes, cards, etc. that anyone might be interested in sending him. So, I'm providing you with the address and hoping maybe you could pass the information along: George T. Simmons, 1201 West 19th St. - Apt 206C, Higginsville, MO 64037.

## MONTANA

**Dick Gooby, ARCSE Representative**

Email: [inca@3rivers.net](mailto:inca@3rivers.net)

### Montana Big Sky Report

**Jim Johnson Report:** We're traveling this month and did not make the breakfast, so I have nothing to report. Jim tried to phone in his report but there aren't any phone booths with pay phones anymore.

**Gordon Decker Report:** May and June have been busy months for the Deckers. We went to the ranch in Eastern Montana in May to open up for the season and see if everything still works. The well still pumps methane-enhanced water, electricity still OK, but no telephone. Drove to the neighbors to report that, as there is no cell-phone service. June took us to Stevensville for a High School Graduation and an Eighth Grade Promotion, then back to the ranch to deal with noxious weeds--had to spray in-between rain showers. Also documented hail damage, broken windows and screens, hail-pitted siding and lots of hay damage. Broadleaf plants (alfalfa, clover, etc.) were pretty well stripped, but the upside is that it curtailed broadleaf weed growth. Back from the ranch to head to Las Vegas to visit my niece and watch my grand-niece dance in the "Rockshow 2014 Dance Recital and Choreography Showcase." Back home, then off to Dickenson, ND to watch a grandson play football in the Badlands Bowl (MT and ND all-star teams).

**Scott Hoag Jr. Report:** **Scott and Nancy** travelled to Columbia Falls, MT for two weeks in May to help build Habitat for Humanity (HfH) homes. The Flathead Valley Affiliate is building a 16-unit townhome community in Columbia Falls. We and the other Care-A-Vanners worked on four of the units, finishing sheetrock in two and framing two others, while Nancy and two of the women painted siding. Scott continues to volunteer with HfH, building a home in Belgrade, hanging sheet rock. Nancy is writing and publishing. They met **Felix and Maggie Spinelli** this past winter. Felix is a recent retiree from NRCS NHQ. They moved to Bozeman for family, and both Nancy and I are very much enjoying meeting them for breakfast, dinner, and pie.

**Gooby Ranch Report:** We are in the middle of calving. **Mary Ann** has to go out every two hours, day and night, to check the cows. Luckily for me she is still able to get my meals ready on time. Once a calf is born and has had a chance to nurse and dry off, Mary Ann has to weigh the calf and tag it. The calves' mothers are very protective and don't want anything bothering their babies. It takes both hands for Mary Ann to weigh a calf. She has to hold the scales with one hand, put her sling around the calf, and hook the scales to it, then lift the scales over her head to be sure the calf is off the ground and not touching anything. She usually has to be standing on her tiptoes like a ballerina to get the calf off the ground.

The mothers don't take too kindly to their babies being in a sling. The cow's stomping the ground, snorting and thinking about running over Mary Ann. With both hands raised over her head trying to get the calf off the ground to weigh it, there is not much she can do to protect herself if a cow decided to run her over. When I can, I go out with Mary Ann when she weighs and tags a calf, but a lot of times I'm watching my favorite soap opera and can't go out with her.

After several cows over the years butted her and tried to kill her, Mary Ann decided to try something else. She took the pickup out and lifted the calf into the bed of the pickup and closed the tail gate so the cow couldn't get at her. This worked fine, except for the damage the cows kept doing by butting dents in the side of the pickup. Every year we had to take the pickup to the body shop to get fixed, and our vehicle insurance rate kept going up, so I had to stop that calf-weighing methodology.

The next two calves Mary Ann weighed while back on the ground method she got butted into the air and run over by the cow. That method didn't work too good. That's when I decided to hold a staff meeting to get everyone's inputs like they taught us in NRCS Management level two. **Mary Ann, two dogs, a cat and I** sat around the table and tried to come up with a safe effective way she could safely weigh and tag the calves. The cat kept having input but neither Mary Ann nor I could understand him.

Then Mary Ann got the idea to build a portable calf weighing station. She built a box out of 2 by 6's that is four by eight feet square and six feet high. Mary Ann built a pair of suspenders out of one-inch rope so she can carry the portable calf-

weighing station. She has all the items she needs to take care of the calf in the station. The first time Mary Ann tried the new cow-safe calf-weighing station I watched to see if I could see any efficiency measure I could suggest to her.

Mary Ann took the station out and lifted it over the calf and sat it down. The cow was not happy but didn't butt the station. When she got through with the calf, Mary Ann lifted the station to let the calf out, and the cow came into the station. Luckily, once the cow saw the calf was alright, she didn't attack Mary Ann. We now have a small door in the station to let the calves out. That's when we figured out that the cat was saying "you need a calf door."

## NEBRASKA

**Norman Kempf, ARCSE Representative**

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SCS/NRCS breakfast meetings were held on May 21, 2014 with 14 people attending, and on June 18, 2014 with 23 people attending. The meetings were called to order by President, **Gus Dornbusch**.

Wedding Anniversaries: **Dana and Cindy Snyder** are celebrating their 41<sup>st</sup> anniversary, and **Val and Darlene Bohaty** their 57<sup>th</sup> in May.

The June wedding syndrome materialized as retirees celebrated big anniversaries this month. **Paul and Sharon Smith, 56<sup>th</sup>**; **Norm and Sylvia Kempf, 51<sup>st</sup>**; **Steve and Jan Stover, 51**; **Gus and Donna Dornbusch, 17<sup>th</sup>**; **Lou and Evelyn Buller, 59<sup>th</sup>**; and **Kay and Lyle Westerman, 67<sup>th</sup>**. Way to go Kay and Lyle!

**Joe Kuenning** is at home following surgery for cancer and will be starting radiation and chemotherapy later in June.

**Dana Snyder** celebrated a June birthday, but wasn't telling which one!

**Bill Hance** attended the National Prison Ministries convention in Cincinnati. He took a side trip to Michigan where he visited the Henry Ford Museum and his daughter's new place of employment at a Simulation Center in Ann Arbor.

**Tom Keep, Jim Culver and Norm Kempf** went fishing in Canada. Jim got a 28+ walleye, Norm a 26+. The fishing was so good they quit taking pictures of walleyes less than 22 inches long. For the first time in 13 years of fishing in Canada, the wind did not blow, it did not rain, and they were treated to shirt-sleeve weather every day. Tom also wants to report that he caught 54 inches of fishes. There is a "Paul Harvey rest of the story" that must be added. Tom caught a 16-inch walleye, and before he could get it in the boat a 38-inch northern pike grabbed on, and his son managed to land both fish.

On the move: **Lorn and Cecilia Dunnigan** are moving to the Grand Lodge at the Preserve.

## NEW YORK

**Nancy Lee, ARCSE Representative**

Email: [mlee0006@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mlee0006@rochester.rr.com)

**Harry and Sharon Potter**, Watertown, NY report they are well and busy. We attended a granddaughter's college graduation in Lincoln, NE in early May, spent time with family there and back to Aurora, IL for time with oldest son and his wife. Luckily we missed any tornadoes and settled for thundershowers. Traveled via Amtrak, as in years past--26 hours Syracuse to Omaha. **Sharon** continues as part time church secretary, enjoys a book group, and a couple other women's organizations. **Harry** stepped down from the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District board after serving for 16 years but still carries on as chairman of the Town of Pamela Planning Board. We occasionally have opportunity to meet and chat with **Lee and Brooke McDowell** and **Ken and Joanne VanDoren**, who live in the area.

**Fred Gaffney** writes: A few retired Plant Material Specialists gather each year for the past seven years to explore grasses and other plants in some region of the western US. We compile a report, Love of Grass (LOG) with lots of photos of plants. This year's draft report (which may also be the final) is on our website, <http://conservationplantsblog.com> for those who would like to read it or just review the pictures. **Jack Carlson** does much of the trip preplan while **Wendall Oaks** is our "official" photographer. Our trek was to Sacramento, CA area and northern valley to foothills of Sierras this past March. Four of the seven attending this year worked part of the careers in NY. **W. Curtis Sharp** (WV), **Jack Carlson** (CO), **Wendall Oaks** (CO), and myself. Others included **Bob MacLauchlan** (NB), **Larry Holzworth** (MT) and **Wendell Hassell** (CO). Some of you may remember **Mark Testerman** (CA) who worked at Big Flats PMC and State Office for a couple of years in the early 1980s. The group met up with Mark and some family members one evening. Mark was able to join us in the field for half a day. It was wonderful catching up on their activities and family growth. The trek always spends 8-12 hours each day in the field identifying plants followed by relaxing and exchanging thoughts and solving all the world problems (with the aid of Jim Beam!) and enjoying local foods. A great time and experience with good friends was had by all.

**Bob Hartrick** writes: By now you have probably heard that **Mike Shinnik**, Area One Engineer stationed in E. Aurora passed away this past week. Mike had suffered from heart problems for quite some time and believe he may have passed away from an aneurism. He is survived by wife, **Cindi** and stepson, **Dylan Delgado**. There were no calling hours but notes and cards of condolence can be sent to Cindi Cegielski and Dylan Delgado, 5 Little Lane, Cheektowaga, N.Y. 14227.



No luck turkey hunting this spring, but have a trip planned for this September to Newfoundland to hunt Moose. We drive to Newfoundland then take a float plane trip into what's referred to as the bush. Three other friends and I will be making the trek north and hope to each bag a big one. It's a week-long hunt fully guided and meals and camp cook and lodging included in the package.

Had a successful fall hunting bagging three deer with two doe and what would have been a record-book buck, but he had shed his left antler the last week of turkey season in a snowstorm. I shot a nice tom turkey in the woods out back of the house so kept my string going of at least bagging one turkey per year every year since I started hunting them in 1980. Up to around 80+ birds so far since then.

I am hosting our Class of 1969 High School Class Reunion this Sunday, Father's Day. Will have about 25 or so classmates and spouses here to enjoy the country living lifestyle, swim in the pool and chicken BBQ then campfire at dusk. Several friends are coming from Alaska, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia and Arizona, plus several locals who happened to stick around home areas.

After a busy spring/summer so far, coating decks, maintenance around house, putting on a new deck, etc., after the reunion we are leaving for Mass. to visit our daughter and grandsons in Norton, MA. Have not seen them since we were all together in Myrtle Beach back in April of this year. The boys keep asking when are we coming to visit, so glad they miss us. We will be in party mode again the second weekend in July for a family reunion for Sue's family and some of our friends, so back to the grill to make chicken for around 35-40 folks. We call it the July/July celebration since my young grandson, when we started this shindig, could not say Fourth of July Party. So now we refer to it as the July/July celebration.

**Nancy and Mel Lee** will be attending Nancy's Booth family reunion in PA in late July, along with walking in her nephew's Ben 5K memorial race on the same weekend. They are still enjoying spoiling grandson, **Carter**, who will be celebrating his first birthday in July.

**Eric Swanson**, District Conservationist in Troy, Rensselaer County, is retiring at the end of May 2014. Keep us posted on your retirement!

**Save the date:** Annual Retirees' Picnic on July 16<sup>th</sup> at Dorchester Park, Whitney Point, NY from 11am-3pm.

## NORTH CAROLINA

**Jim Canterbury**, ARCSE Representative

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On May 8<sup>th</sup>, 58 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. **Ron Marlow**, Secretary Treasurer for ARCSE, and his wife **Ann** came, as well as **Mark Berkland**, Past President of ARCSE, who now lives in North Carolina.

Three Senior Conservationists who are 90 years old were in attendance: **Ed Brewer**, **Elwood Guthrie** and **Lawrence Matheson**. Other Senior Conservationists attending were **Arlie Culp**, **John Garrett**, **Leonard Kilian** and **Dick Phillips**.



*North Carolina Retiree's Picnic, May 8, 2014.*

Attending the picnic were **John and Trish Andrews**, **Ed and Betty Brewer**, **Lipe and Renda Barrier**, **Don Basinger**, **Mark Berkland**, **Bobby Brock**, **Jim and Becki Canterbury**, **Albert and Susan Coffey**, **Dr. Maurice Cook**, **Arlie Culp**, **Carman Marteniz**, **Tommy Cutts**, **Howard and Peggy Garner**, **Ruth Parker**, **Coy and Barbara Garrett**, **John and Mildred Garrett**, **Charlie Godley**, **Elwood Guthrie**, and **James Guthrie**. Also attending were **Stanton Harrell**, **Boyce Harvey**, **Hubert and Jamie Hawkins**, **John and Maggie Hill**, **Dwane Hinson**, **Ed Holland**, **Jerry and Gladys Hughston**, **Rodney Johnson**, **Joe Kenyon**, **Leonard Kilian**, **Harold Lile**, **Lawrence Matheson**, **Janice Lilienthal**, **Ron and Ann Marlow**, **Phyllis Pate**, **Dick Phillips**, **Lane Price**, **Dora Richardson**, **Cecil Settle**, **Wayne and Alice Short**, **Horace Smith**, **Bob Tennant**, **Plummer Vines**, **A. B. Whitley**, **Manly and Peggy Wilder**.

## NORTH DAKOTA

**Robert “Bob” Bird, ARCSE Representative**

**Email: [Rajmbird@aol.com](mailto:Rajmbird@aol.com)**

I was at a Wednesday Retired Men’s Breakfast recently, and the speaker was **Kim Christianson**, who presented a talk on “Remembering A Veteran.” The veteran was his father, **Russell Christianson**, a World War II veteran, and retired SCS/NRCS Conservationist who worked in Milnor, Edgeley, and Jamestown, ND. Russ died March 23, 2001 and is buried at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery south of Mandan, ND. Here is Kim’s story about his father, Russ:

On November 11, 2011, a museum exhibit opened in the Czech Republic detailing an air battle that took place over the skies of Jindrichuv Hradec, Czechoslovakia on August 24, 1944. The exhibit includes pictures and write-ups of the battle, along with artifacts and pieces of the wreckage of German fighter planes and an American B-24 bomber. The names of the 11 B-24 crew members are listed at the exhibit, with the notation that two of the crew perished in the battle, while nine others were captured and taken prisoner. One of those nine surviving crew members, the Navigator, was 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Russell Christianson, Kim’s dad.

Kim was born in 1951, a handful of years after the end of WWII. Like so many battle-scarred veterans, his dad seldom talked about his wartime experiences while Kim was growing up. When he was 24 years old, they were on a hunting trip on their farmland near Cleveland, ND. Neither were serious hunters, but it was a beautiful day and Kim started asking Russ questions about the war and his experiences as a Navigator on a B-24 bomber during WWII and his time as a POW.

Russ grew up on a farm in the Upham/Bantry area, north and east of Minot. He was the fifth of 10 children and was born on December 21, 1918 in Upham. He graduated from Upham High School in 1937 as valedictorian of his class of six, received an Associate of Science degree in Forestry from the ND School of Forestry in Bottineau, ND in 1940 and attended one year of the ND Agricultural College (now NDSU), but soon realized he would be drawn into the war. So in May 1942 he enlisted in the Army Air Corps. For the next year, he went from Ft. Snelling to the SAC base in San Antonio, to pre-flight school in the Houston area, to flight school at San Marcos, TX to Clovis, NM and finally to McCook, NE. During that time, he was encouraged by an advisor to train as a Navigator, because they would be in great demand after the war. (Actually, with the advent of new technology, navigators were, in fact, not in demand after the war.) He also had a period of leave time, which resulted in Kim’s oldest sister being conceived. In February, 1944 his crew received word to go overseas to Italy. Kim had a side note that the B-24 bomber had a very high casualty rate during the war including, a high number of accidents during training stateside.

So when they were called to go overseas, Russ’s crew flew from Lincoln, NE to West Palm Beach, FL and then on to Trinidad. He always recounted how, on the way to Trinidad, his crew faked engine trouble so they could land in San Juan, Puerto Rico and stock up on inexpensive rum and Canadian whiskey. From Trinidad they flew to Brazil where they fueled up and flew overseas to Dakar, Africa then to Marrakech and finally to a base in Tunis. They flew practice flights there for 2-3 weeks and finally flew to Italy in early April, 1944 to join the 465<sup>th</sup> combat group. It was two weeks before their first combat mission to Yugoslavia. They met almost no resistance, with a little flak far below their flying altitude, and returned to their base unharmed. According to Kim, Russ thought “Well, this isn’t so bad,” but it got much worse. Their 4<sup>th</sup> mission was to the oil fields near Ploesti, Romania. They didn’t have much of a fighter escort on that mission and ran into major anti-aircraft flak that was pin-point accurate. Their #2 engine was hit and caught fire, but they were able to shut the fuel off and flew home by themselves. For whatever reason, the German fighters in the area did not attack them when they dropped out of formation, and they made it back to their base. The plane had over 200 holes that needed patching, but nobody was injured.

They flew a steady grind of missions, mostly in the Baltic countries, southern Germany, and southern France. One of the worst was to Blechhammer, Germany where four out of the eight planes in their squadron were shot down. His crew was one of very few in their combat group who came within reach of finishing their maximum mission quota of 50 during this time, and many replacement crews were reporting for duty. Russ’s crew had successfully completed 49 missions and so had some say in choosing their final mission. Kim says, just like a Hollywood script, his dad was approached by the Squadron Exec. Officer, a fellow he’d known from the beginning, who asked if he would join his crew as lead Navigator for a mission to Pardubice, Czechoslovakia. At a special briefing, they were told to expect very little anti-aircraft fire and little fighter resistance, so Russ agreed to join the other crew. They would fly as the deputy group leader in a plane called the “Sans Souci” which translates to “without care” or “carefree.”

For some reason, for this mission they were going to bomb their target from a higher altitude. They usually did so at 22-23,000 ft., but in this case they were going to do so at 25,000 ft. They had an excellent escort of P-51 fighters, but as they approached the target, the flak was intense, so the group leader ordered the planes to ascend another 1,000 ft. A lumbering B-24 bomber with a full load of bombs struggled mightily to climb, and in their case, they pulled so much manifold pressure that they blew the head off one of their engines. They had to fall out of formation and before they knew it, German fighters were all over them. The final blow was from a damaged German fighter plane flying out-of-control whose left wing hit their right tail rudder and sprayed them with fuel, which ignited in fire. They were down to one engine that was running wild when the pilot came over the intercom and said “Let’s get the hell out of here!” The pilot lowered the landing gear, which was a signal to German fighter planes to leave them alone, and Russ and the back-up navigator bailed out of the nose wheel opening.

There is much to say about the harrowing parachute ride down, his capture, and beating at the hands of a local “home guard” group, the interrogations he endured, 12 days in solitary confinement, and a particularly frightening and lengthy trip in a cramped railroad car full of American prisoners--but that’s another story. Approximately three weeks after Russ’s plane had been downed in Czechoslovakia, Russ and the other prisoners arrived at Stalag Luft 1 near Barth, Germany where they became guests of the



Third Reich. When they first arrived, they were delighted to see other crewmembers from their squadron who had been shot down in earlier battles and feared lost. He was assigned to compound 3B, which was relatively new, and shared a 24'x16' room with 15 other men. Initially, they received 1 Red Cross parcel on a weekly basis, which they considered a real blessing, good food and scrap materials they utilized for many uses. In a very short time that was reduced to 1 Red Cross parcel every other week and by the end of the year when the SS took over management of the camp, the Red Cross parcels were cut out altogether. The number of prisoners at the camp steadily increased and their room became home to 20 men and eventually to 24.

Kim says that Russ never complained of mistreatment by the German guards, but he and the others were nearly starved. Their diet consisted almost entirely of small quantities of bread, dried rutabagas, potatoes, and very occasionally, soup made with horsemeat. After a time, all they could think and talk about was food. Russ noted that with all these young men, many of whom were newly married, you'd think the main topic would be women, but in their state, they instead discussed recipes and made plans for opening restaurants when they returned to the states. They were miserable and weak, and by the time of their liberation, there were few men that cleared 100 lbs.

The months dragged on, and they were initially optimistic that the war would soon end with an Allied victory until disturbing news from the Battle of the Bulge greatly dampened their spirits. Towards spring the news got better and their optimism returned. Then in early May of 1945, everything changed for the prisoners of Stalag Luft 1. There is more to this story if your editor wants me to write about a news article that Russ Christianson wrote for the Jamestown Sun about his thoughts towards the end of the war. This is great that Kim gathered all this information before his father died and should serve as an excellent example that everyone should interview their parents and older relatives to get some real stories about your family.

The North Dakota Retirees are still looking to have our reunion on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in September.

IN MEMORIAM: **Walton A. Person**, 85, died May 2, 2014 at St. Gabriel's Community Care Center, Bismarck, ND. He was the husband of **Vi Person**, who worked in the SCS/NRCS Administrative Section in the Bismarck State office for many years. He is survived by his beloved wife of 63 years, Vi; a daughter Susan (Wallace) Hopkins, Seminole, FL; a son Kerry Person, Shakopee, MN; two grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, a sister, two brothers-in-law and two sisters-in-law.

## OHIO

**Larry Tornes, ARCSE Representative**

Email: [LarryTornes@aol.com](mailto:LarryTornes@aol.com)

**Dave Brooks** called this evening to let me know **Jim Bennett** passed away in Florida this morning (May 5) at the age 94. Jim worked in a number of positions in Ohio and retired as State Conservationist, I believe, in West Virginia. We have been told that Funeral arrangements are being held by Rutherford Funeral Home in Worthington. I will send you more information as it becomes available. Jim was the ASTC when I was on the RB staff in Ohio. **Ray Brown** was the STC, then **Bob Quilliam**—John Peterson.

## OKLAHOMA

**Randy Freeland, ARCSE Representative**

Email: [randy.freeland@suddenlink.net](mailto:randy.freeland@suddenlink.net)

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014, the Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees met at the Golden Corral Buffet Restaurant in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Thirty-nine people were in attendance. They were: **Ken and Kay Awtrey, Steve Chessmore, Everett and Helen Cole, Wayne Fjeseth, Fred and Gayle Fortney, Randy and Bonnie Freeland, Jim and Roberta Frie, Gayle and Mary Goforth, David Haggard, Odos and Dianne Henson, Sandra and Terry Hough, Otho Lamar, Nick Lambeth, Jim McCampbell, Gordon and Minnie Carol Moebius, Nelson and Mary Mueller, Glen and Eunice Mullen, Stan and Fredia Rice, Dan Runnels, Tom Sebert, Jim Smith, Betty Todd, Keith and Phyllis Vaughan, Dickey Welch, and David and Susie Wells.**

Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees President **Dan Runnels** reported that **Becka Redding** (retired State Conservationist's Secretary) had been diagnosed with breast cancer. She also had back surgery and is currently taking radiation and chemo. She appreciates the prayers and is doing better and hopes to join us at a future meeting. **Bob and Betty Day** were not able to attend the meeting due to health issues.

**Sandra Hough** reported that she has 324 addresses on her Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees mailing list. Most are current addresses but we appreciate knowing when addresses are changed. The Oklahoma SCS/NRCS retiree website ([www.cyber-shack.net/nrcs/](http://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.

**Ken Awtrey** introduced himself and his wife **Kay** as first-time attendees. They currently reside in Nacogdoches, TX. **Ken** had worked in various locations in Oklahoma before leaving the state for Hawaii, as well as other locations. He continues to consult with a couple of RC&D Councils in the area and plays golf once or twice a week. **Kay** babysits grandkids, quilts, and sings with the **Sweet Adelines**.

**David Wells** also introduced himself and his wife **Susie**. They currently reside in McAlester, OK. **David** retired from the McAlester TSO where he was an agronomist. He does vegetable gardening, home remodeling, and occasionally driving a mail truck for his neighbor who contracts with the USPS. They travel often to Iowa to visit their daughter and her family. **Otho Lamar** introduced his guest, **Dickey Welch**, son of **Archie Welch**, deceased Area Conservationist.



*Ken and Kay Awtrey*



*David and Susie Wells*

**Fred Fortney** read a list of recent retiree deaths: **Mary Lou Crider**, mother of **Duane Crider**, retired DC at El Reno, 11/6/13; **Cliff Corbin**, husband of **Wanelda Corbin**, retired IT Specialist at Clinton TO, 12/2/13; **Billy Wayne Fenton**, father of **Audra Fenton**, Sallisaw FO, 12/9/13; **James Betchan**, father of **Jay Betchan**, SCT at Enid FO, 12/13/13; **William Carl Nelson**, retired Engineer, Geary, OK, 1/30/14; **Dr. Roy Mack Gray**, Retired Deputy Under Secretary in USDA and Acting Chief SCS, 2/2/14; **Carl Mackey**, 90, retired DC at Purcell FO, 2/15/14; **Jackie Sandy**, wife of state office retiree **Gayland Sandy**, 2/24/14; **Larry Poindexter**, retired Water Quality Specialist at the State Office, 3/18/14; **Jackie Henslee**, retired construction inspector and father of **Stacey Mathis**, DC at Atoka, 3/25/14; **Vivian Ankle**, wife of **David Ankle**, retired Area Range Specialist at the Perry TO, 4/10/14; and **Margie E. Adams-Anderson**, 93, mother-in-law of **Julie Adams**, Cartographer/GIS Specialist at the State Office, 4/21/14. A moment of silence was observed and **Fred** offered a prayer.

Retirees since our October, 2013 meeting include: **Susan Baggett**, former ASTC F.O. in Zone 3, State Resource Conservationist, Texas, 38 years, 11/2013; **Andy Tucker**, State Office and RC&D Coordinator, 35 years, 1/2014; **Tracy Potter**, CET in Design Section in State Office, Stillwater, 35 years, 1/13/14; **Rich Olson**, Program Assistant, State Office, Stillwater, 3/28/14.

**Randy Freeland** presented a slide show, "Do You Remember" to the delight of those in attendance. The slides he presented were furnished to him by **Lowell McMasters** who unfortunately was not in attendance.

**Randy** asked those in attendance to "jot down" on an information sheet something he could include in the next newsletter. Here are a few of the comments he received:

**Stan Rice** said he was doing contract work with ASCOG, doing some church work, traveling, and following grandkid's activities. **Nelson Mueller** volunteers two days a week at the Arbuckle Hospital and two days a week at the Senior Citizens Center. **Otho Lamar** lives on a farm in Bray, OK. His granddaughter is 18 and graduating from High School. He said he still owns a few cattle but NO BIRD DOGS! (Must be more to the story here).

Planning a cruise and land tour of Alaska in June is on the agenda for **Keith and Phyllis Vaughn**. They also spend quite a bit of time on the road to Grapevine, TX and Palo Alto, CA visiting children and grandchildren. **Glen and Eunice Mullen** say they spend all their available time keeping up with great grandchildren and their sports activities. **Jim and Roberta Frie** volunteer at the Stillwater Hospital. He remarked that they just returned from San Diego, CA, where they visited with their granddaughter who had her third child two days "after" they returned to Stillwater. Their children (twin boys and a girl) have been quite successful. The two boys are named **Brett** and **Bart**. Remember the old western **Maverick**? That's who they were named after.

**Wayne Fjeseth**'s oldest granddaughter will graduate in May and has a golf scholarship at a university in Missouri. He plans to take a fishing trip this summer to Canada. **Steve Chessmore** visited Alaska to see his daughter and son-in-law. He enjoys his time with a granddaughter and grandson. **Nick Lambeth** says he very much enjoys his retirement. Fishes some, church activities, American Legion, and NARFE keep him as busy as he wants. He also serves on the Cross Timbers RC&D Board and delivers cars for a local car dealer.



**Jim McCampbell** is the President of the Norman NARFE Chapter. He is member of the Norman Greenbelt Commission and has been involved with the Norman Land Conservancy District in buying up development rights.

**Sandra and Terry Hough** love spending time with their children and grandchildren. They are just "enjoying" retirement for now going on "Ten Years!"

**Jim Smith** retired in April, 2002. He is active with a sportsman's club since 1994 and enjoys hunting at leases throughout the state. His wife, **Terry**, still works as a pharmaceutical sales rep and has the states of OK, MS, AR and LA in her territory. He sometimes travels with her while she calls on hospitals in her sales territory. They have been able to travel to Europe twice, and went on an Alaska cruise since his retirement. They also enjoy playing golf and visiting with friends. They are also big OSU sports fans and have both season football and basketball tickets.



**Terry and Sandra Hough**

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 24, 2014, at the Golden Corral, 520 South MacArthur Blvd. in Oklahoma City. It is located between I-40 and Reno behind the Shell Station. Take Exit #144 off I-40. Go north on MacArthur Blvd. Please join us sometime. Out-of-staters are always welcome. We even let a Texan in this month!

## OREGON

**Don Stettler, ARCSE Representative**

Email: [don.stettler@comcast.net](mailto:don.stettler@comcast.net)

The summer quarter lunch will be held at The Old Spaghetti Factory at Tanasbourne on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Watch your email inbox for details. If you don't hear from me, please call.

I recently had a call from **Don Westom**. He had inadvertently tossed his copy of the newsletter in the recycle bin and asked me to replace it. It was my pleasure to do that. Don said he had just turned 90 and that he and his wife **Theresa** are doing well. Good to hear from Don. We go way back.

## PENNSYLVANIA

**Bill Bowers, ARCSE Representative**

Email: [wbowers@comcast.net](mailto:wbowers@comcast.net)

A late cool spring and now a wet June; that combination sure makes things grow! We want to welcome three recent PA NRCS retirees: **Donna Via, State Office; Bill Weaver, Indiana FO; and Lou Pearce, Bedford FO**. Welcome to the world of retirement and especially to the PA Retirees' group! Another retirement to note is that of **Lenora Jordan**. Lenora spent many years in PA in contracting and finished her career as contracting officer in New Jersey. I understand Lenora has returned to PA to enjoy retirement and be near family. Congratulations to each of you!! We hope to see you at our events and read your stories in The PA BUGLE. (from **Bill Bowers, President**)

Please circle September 15<sup>th</sup> on your calendar for the PA RETIREES' annual outing—this year to the **McKeever Environmental Center**, located in Sandy Creek watershed, Mercer County! **Harvey Pinkerton** and committee are planning a great event with lots to see and hear. It will be our first trip to northwest PA in quite a few years, so we expect to see all of you northwest folks. There may even be an added slide show tour of PL-566 and RC&D dams recently visited by current and retired NRCS folks. Stay tuned to see how these structures are holding up!

From **Bill and Mary Ann Bowers**. When spring finally arrived, **Bill** was busy with the garden, yard and his master gardener activities. He reports the sugar peas, lettuce and spinach are plentiful, cucumbers and zucchini are growing, peach branches are hanging full, the blueberries are netted (we don't share with the birds), and the deer are eating the apple trees (and little apples). In March we visited daughter **Amy** in Corpus Christi, TX. **Mary Ann** is keeping busy in her new kitchen. We have a vacation planned for Lake Placid in August. Life is good!

**John Akers** says it was a long and cold winter and cool spring, so just really getting out and doing all the jobs around the house and yard that I thought would have been done by now. **Ann** and I did take a day trip with the Fulton Co. Historical Society to Winchester, VA in May. We got to see the Natural History Museum which had a lot of early history and Civil War events that took place there. In addition we toured the Patsy Cline house, who grew up in Winchester. Ann and our youngest daughter **Janice** spent a hot week at Ocean City, MD enjoying the ocean here in June. I went that week to see my son **Jerry**, who lives at Big Island, VA about 20 miles north of Lynchburg. We took a day trip to see the Cyrus McCormick museum on the farm where he perfected the reaper to cut grain. One day we went to the Appomattox battlefield where Generals Grant and Lee ended the Civil War.

All over the country **Larry Staley** writes, I haven't written for so long because my routine remains pretty much the same. I continue to spend my winters in Stuart, FL and my summers somewhere north of the Mason-Dixon Line. My default location is in Butlerville, OH, where I am the Maintenance Mgr. for a not-for-profit org. that trains dogs for handicapped persons. Then I leave for Dallas, PA to house-sit for my daughter and her three dogs (one in diapers) while she and her husband tour Ireland. What we won't do for our kids! Later in the fall I plan to visit Pittsburgh, PA for my 65<sup>th</sup> High School Class reunion and then out through the Dakotas on my way to Oregon for a repast with another daughter and her family. While in South Dakota, I will get my driver's license renewed for another five yrs. (a residual left over from my full time RVing days). I still retain my SD residency. I will return from OR by way of Terre Haute, IN for Thanksgiving with my stepdaughter and her extended family, usually about 45 in attendance. I begged off last year because of an early winter, but don't think that excuse will fly this year; then on back to FL and the balmy breezes off of the intercostal waterway.

**Don and Shirley Lindsey** have been busy lately celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Enjoying hearing from old friends and collecting their comments for our "Memory Album." If anyone wants to contribute any remarks, just send to [shirleylindsey580@gmail.com](mailto:shirleylindsey580@gmail.com).

From **Bill Brannigan**: On July 8<sup>th</sup>, I turn 85 and on the 10<sup>th</sup> my wife, **Robin** and I will celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. On July 4<sup>th</sup>, we will be visited by our granddaughter, who we do not see very often because she lives in Utah. She will bring her daughter (a great granddaughter, age 18) who we have never met. Those two will be accompanied by our grandson, also from Utah, and his year-old son (great grandson) who we will be seeing for the first time. Altogether we have four great grandkids. Needless to say, we are very excited. After that excitement, I will be getting a knee replacement on July 16<sup>th</sup>. I should need the rest of the month to rest.

**Bob Heidecker** writes: **Carole** and I have been in a struggle since March 4<sup>th</sup> of last year when Carole had a hemorrhagic stroke which affected her right side and ability to speak. This happened in Florida, so I had to stay there until June 1<sup>st</sup> of last year when I moved her back to PA. We have been in and out of many facilities trying to get her stabilized. Recently I moved her home and I am attempting to care for her. With the Lord's help she is making improvements. She gets home care nursing and therapy twice per week. She would like to hear from her friends. She can read cards and receive visitors.

**Norina Barber**, 91, died on Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, at the Forest Park Nursing Home in Carlisle. She will be remembered as a clerk in the Harrisburg SCS State Office her working career. She is survived by two brothers and a sister. Private graveside and burial services were held at the convenience of the family in the East Harrisburg Cemetery.

**Geneva Blanch (Fordemwalt) Gingrich**, 90, passed away at home on Friday, May 9, 2014.

The following is information on the memorial service for **Wayne Ray**, former DC in Susquehanna County and Endless Mountains RC&D Coordinator. The memorial service and lunch will be held at the Methodist Church in Kingsley, PA at 11am on Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>. Phyllis asks that friends who wish to attend contact me no later than two weeks in advance so that she can plan accordingly. I can be contacted at [suscon2@epix.net](mailto:suscon2@epix.net) or [lilytheo33@gmail.com](mailto:lilytheo33@gmail.com). Non-users of email may contact me on my cell, 607-372-0205.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

**Byron Thompson, ARCSE Representative**

**Email:** [landmgmtinc@wctel.net](mailto:landmgmtinc@wctel.net)

A note from the Thompson's activity: I continue working, doing landscaping activities, although I have sold the Lawn Business for the third time. **Mary** and I plan to vacation at Myrtle Beach the last week of July with family and attend the Association of Counties County Council meeting in Hilton Head the first week of August.

**Patsy and Hugh Caldwell** spent the first weekend in June on Tybee Island attending and helping with the wedding of a good friend's son. He is married to a granddaughter of the late **Bill McClure**, former District Conservationist at Walhalla many years back. I worked with Bill at Gaffney in 1966 on the Thickety Creek watershed. The world gets smaller! Our family will be vacationing at Myrtle Beach the last week of June. **Patsy** and I will be attending the SE NACD meeting in Louisville, KY July 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> as an Associate Commissioner of the Lexington SWCD. The first week end in August, Patsy and I will be in Locust Grove, VA, attending her sister's granddaughter's wedding, which Patsy will be directing. Looking forward to a busy summer!

**Niles and Carolyn Glasgow** made a trip across the pond. The trip took us to Edinburgh, Scotland; Newcastle and London, England. While on the trip, we visited my sister and brother-in-law in Newcastle. They are on a six-month sabbatical at Newcastle University. They are PHD Sociologists at Cornell. From Newcastle we traveled by train to Edinburgh and finally to London. We had an enjoyable visit at each stop; and since my family originated from Scotland, the trip gave me an idea of my roots. Now we are back in Columbia dealing with hail damage to one of our cars and the roof of our house. Even in retirement there is always a challenge.

**Grady Adkins** is currently in Arkansas where we plan to make a large concrete placement over the next 48 hours. **Marcia** officially retired from Director of Sharing God's Love in January and is full-time chasing projects for me to catch up on.



**Grady III**, first son, got married in April at Pawleys Island, where he and **Karla** are now building a house. I am still working at Rizzo, but on a part-time basis. New home e-mail is [grady.adkins2@gmail.com](mailto:grady.adkins2@gmail.com)

## TEXAS (NORTH AREA)

**Arnold King**, ARCSE Representative

Email: [arnolddking@hotmail.com](mailto:arnolddking@hotmail.com)

### MAY 2014 Texas Alumni News

**Dave Drennan** presided over the April business meeting. Twenty-three persons were present for the April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting: **Dave Drennan**, **Earl Blakley**, **Dennis Gaster**, **Elaine** and **Billy Don Davis**, **Bonnie McKee**, **Joe Nichols**, **Bernie** and **Maxine Owen**, **Arnold** and **Willeene King**, **Douglas Seibel**, **Joyce Petty**, **Don Kapalka**, **Harland Dietz**, **Jim** and **Jere Rickman**, **Don Newman**, **Wes Fuchs**, **Barb** and **Dave Stockbridge**, **Dennis Erinakes**, and **Don Shanklin**.

At the April meeting, **Jim** and **Jere Rickman** made a very informative and enjoyable presentation on their recent trip to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands. The photographs were outstanding and the commentary very entertaining. **Jere** also reported that they made a trip to Schulenberg and visited several of the Painted Churches.

**Dave Drennan** reported that his family would be having a big gathering at Easter. He enjoys watching his grandsons play baseball. **Doug Seibel** recently had cataract surgery. He still volunteers some time at the office.

**Dennis Gaster** spent some time working on a new campsite for his Boy Scout troop. He commented that for some unexplained reason, chainsaws get heavier the more you use them during a day of clearing cedar trees. **Dennis** will miss the May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting since he will be on the "TX/LA Reservoir Inventory and Cricket Count" (Annual fishing trip to Toledo Bend Reservoir). **Bernie Owen** graciously agreed to take notes for the June newsletter.

**Arnold King** noted that **Dennis Erinakes** will be giving a presentation to the club at the June meeting. **Willeene** is going to have knee surgery in the near future. **Dennis Erinakes** reported that his son is involved in a foundation that provides funds for Johnson County first-responders. They provided \$3,000 checks to ten families who lost fire fighters and EMTs in the explosion in West, Texas. Texas reservoirs are at about 64% capacity when they should be at 86%. **Dennis** recently participated in a special snow goose hunting season in Nebraska and his dog "Ranger" completed his Master's degree in retrieving.

**Don Kapalka** urged members who live in Arlington to support the AISD bond issue in the upcoming election. **Dave Stockbridge** recently hosted his 7<sup>th</sup> beer tasting party. He enjoys the fine art of home-brewing, and the 8<sup>th</sup> batch is underway. He is still running in 5K races in the "elderly gentlemen's class." He will be missing the next club meeting (fishing at Toledo Bend) and the June meeting (fishing in Canada). **Barb Stockbridge** reported that Dave's two sisters recently visited them. **Barb** and "the girls" will be making a trip to New Orleans while their men are fishing.

**Bernie Owen** noted that even though tax season is over, he is still available for consultation. Guess what? Amended tax forms must be on paper--can't file electronically. (**Dennis Gaster** still files his 1040 on paper and as his son says, "You must be one of only three people in the United States to do so."). **Bernie's** oldest granddaughter recently got an Associate's Degree from Mountain View College and will be entering Texas A&M in the fall. **Maxine** reported that **Anita Plummer** was in North Carolina to spend Easter with her daughter. It was so good to see **Wes Fuchs** at the April meeting. He and his wife (who had back surgery) are both feeling better.

**Don Shanklin** said that he and **Jim Rickman** went to a farm equipment auction. Not sure if they bought anything. He has a granddaughter graduating from Texas Tech University and a grandson who will be attending Tarleton State University. **Elaine Davis** reported that her 50<sup>th</sup> high school reunion is this year as well as her 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

**Dave Moffitt** sent this news: **Maryke** and I have recently returned from a two-week Princess Cruise through the Panama Canal, Florida to California. Grew up in Fowler, CO, and one of the community's senior citizens during my school days was a member of the engineering crew overseeing the Canal construction. Over the years he spoke often of his experiences (he was over 100 when he died), and viewing the Canal has always been on my bucket list. Only an engineer can really appreciate the problems they encountered with way too much rain, unstable soils, and limited access--not to mention the political problems, heat, humidity, and mosquitos and the diseases they carried. The cruise line hosted seminars during the cruise to provide both words and pictures describing both the failed French sea-level construction attempt and the US locks and lake construction. These greatly enhanced the experience.

Along the way, the ship ported in Aruba, Cartagena (Columbia), Puntarenas (Costa Rica), San Juan Del Sur (Nicaragua), and Cabo San Lucas in Baja. Our only disappointment was we didn't get to see any whales this trip. We love cruising because it gives us an opportunity to sample a large number of cultures while having the same bed night after night, and identifies places we want to return and spend more time.

Have a busy summer ahead. In addition to caring for grand-daughters while their mother teaches in summer sessions and some more dental surgery (me), we plan to spend a week with daughter **Amy** and four grandkids in western Colorado, assist with Vacation Bible School at our church, and planning our next cruise.

We just learned **Tom Hodges** has been quite ill the past few months. Early in the year he had knee replacement surgery. Soon after that he developed anemia and congestive heart failure. He is feeling much better now and said he knew he would get well, but his family wasn't too sure. So glad you are on the mend, Tom. We have missed you at the meetings.

**Richard D. Wenberg (Dick)**, 81, died April 30, 2014 at their home in Belton, TX after a battle with lung cancer. **Dick** had a lifelong passion for agriculture, serving the USDA Soil Conservation Service for 35 years as a Professional Engineer. He worked several places across the country and abroad, including the SNTC in Fort Worth and the state office in Temple, TX. He is survived by his wife, **Mary**, their son **Brian Wenberg** and his wife **Susan** and their sons **Jack** and **Cade**; their daughter **Susan Wenberg** and her fiancé **David Keller**. **Brian Wenberg** is the Assistant State Conservationist in Temple, TX.

**William R. Yeabower (Bill)** passed away Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 at the age of 77. **William** worked for the Department of Agriculture (SCS-NRCS Cartographic) in Lanham, MD and Fort Worth for 38 years. He was active in his church and loved family gatherings, fishing and hunting. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, **Mary Yeabower**, daughter, **Julie Ransom** and an extended family including four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. His funeral will be held Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in Maryland. A Memorial Service is planned at 2:00 pm. Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at Edge Park United Methodist Church 5615 Crowley Road, Fort Worth.

**Mary Garsjo** presided over the May business meeting. Twenty persons were present for the May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting: **Dave Drennan**, **Earl Blakley**, **Elaine** and **Billy Don Davis**, **Joe Nichols**, **Bernie** and **Maxine Owen**, **Joyce Petty**, **Don Kapalka**, **Wes Fuchs**, **Dennis Erinakes**, **Barbara Gillum**, **Betty Sisson**, **Tom Hodges**, **Mark Boysen**, **DeWayne** and **Freddie Williams**, **Marie Garsjo**, **Anita Plummer**, and **Bernelle Baxley**.

**Marie Garsjo** is the editor of an annual journal, **Northwest Geology**, published in association with the Tobacco Root Geological Society's annual field conference. It will be held in Republic, Washington this year. **Billy Don Davis** continues with his daily domino games, and **Elaine** works in her church library and makes prayer shawls for members who are ill. They drive 135 miles one-way to attend the club meetings, and we all appreciate seeing them every month.

**Freddie Williams** was glad to be back in attendance after a long absence. **Maxine** and **Bernie Owen** mentioned their granddaughter's graduation and also their 52<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary. **Barbara Gillum** reported that she won two prizes at the reunion: a jacket made by **Sharon Johnson** and a stepstool contributed by **Marion Porter**. **Bernelle Baxley** will soon be taking a trip to the Smoky Mountains.

**Joyce Petty** is still working as a CASA volunteer and keeping very busy. (Thanks Joyce for getting this newsletter mailed out every month). **Anita Plummer** sent out four cards from the club this past month. (Thanks Anita for getting the cards mailed out). **Betty Sisson** reported that her roses are gorgeous. (Reporter notes that his roses must have taken a hit during the late frost, since there are very few buds and blooms this year). Betty has been picking mulberries. **Joe Nichols** has been to Oklahoma recently for reunions and family visits.

**Dave Drennan** reported that his son recently had his 16<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. Dave enlisted in the U.S. Air Force 50 years ago. His wife is going to Alaska while Dave stays home and attends the Colonial Golf Tournament. He mentioned a sports quilt made from t-shirts collected on his annual sports trips with his son. **Mark Boysen** just returned from a two-and-a-half-week tour of the UK and Ireland. He is a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity and is getting ready to work on the Carter Work Project in Dallas and Fort Worth, where 15-20 homes will be built. **Jimmy** and **Rosalynn Carter** will be there in October. Both of the **Carters** will put in a full work day.

**Don Kapalka** was pleased that the AISD bond issue passed in Arlington. He is getting better health-wise. **Tom Hodges** had knee replacement surgery on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and three days later was back in the hospital with congestive heart failure. He is doing rehab on Fridays. It was good to have **Tom** back with us at our May meeting.

**Dennis Erinakes** reported that his dog Shobie had successful surgery on his foot. His son **Michael** bought an oil and gas company, Black Butte Energy, in Montana and recently drilled three successful wells out of four. **Dennis** has planned a 4,000 mile trip at the end of June that includes the states of Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas, and Nebraska. The Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District Model will be having its first complete run in two weeks and then lots of detailed work analyzing and preparing for additional runs. He also met with two candidates to find out what they knew about water supply conditions and what Texas is doing about it.

**Earl Blakley** is going to Oklahoma next month for his 63<sup>rd</sup> high school reunion. There were 10 in his class. **Wes Fuchs** has been watching the Dust Bowl video by Ken Burns. SCS was complimented as a well-respected agency in the video.

The "TX/LA Reservoir Inventory and Cricket Count" of 2014 at Toledo Bend Reservoir, attended by members **Dave Stockbridge**, **Jim Robinson**, **Jim Rickman**, **Dennis Gaster** and eight other fishermen, was a resounding success. Plans are already underway for the 2015 event. **Dennis** is very busy getting ready for Boy Scout Summer Camp which will be held June 18-29 on the Ortega Ranch west of Las Vegas, New Mexico.

**Peggy O'Grady McMIndes**, 85, wife of **Gerald McMIndes**, passed away Sunday, May 25, 2014. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to The Warm Place, Happy Hills Farm, or Gill Children's Services. She was a member of First Presbyterian



Church. Survivors: Husband, **Gerald McMIndes**; children, Michelle Milner, René Milner-White, Tara Boyle, William Milner and O'Grady Milner; stepdaughter, **Kathy Armstrong**; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. (A donation in memory of Peggy was sent from the Club to the Warm Place.)

On June 10<sup>th</sup> **Maxine Owen** tripped on an uneven sidewalk while out for a walk and lit on the palms of both hands and her face. As a result she has a simple fracture at the elbow in both arms and will be in slings for at least three weeks. The black eye and skinned nose are healing, too.

## WASHINGTON

**Gerald Richard, ARCSE Representative**

Email: [glr52pdr@aol.com](mailto:glr52pdr@aol.com)

Present at our May and June luncheons at the Timber Creek Grill and Buffet were: **Jud and Karen Melton, Lennie and Florence Husa, John Gomez, Harry Riehle, Ralph Schmidt, Larry and Jean Edmonds, Gary Johnson, Hans and Kathryn Krauss, Jerry and Phyllis Richard, Carl and Paula Vennes, and Ken Kaul.**

**Carl Vennes** had a cribbage tournament in Missoula, MT and came away with 1<sup>st</sup> Prize together with a substantial cash prize. Carl is an avid cribbage player and goes to many of the tournaments in the western region.

**Hans Krauss** decided enough was enough with a painful knee so he had a knee replacement in June. The operation went well and after a couple of weeks of physical therapy at a valley clinic, he is back home with **Katie** in charge of more physical therapy. Hans is looking forward to having a good knee and throwing away the cane.

**Jud and Karen Melton** are hosting our second summer potluck at their river-front home in Post Falls, ID for SCS and NRCS retirees and their spouses. Hamburgers and hot dogs plus ice tea and coffee will be provided. It will be held in August. So mark your calendars for 12:30pm on Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and plan to spend an afternoon of good food and companionship. Call Jud at 208 773 1349 or Jerry R. at 509 747 5039 for any questions or more information.

## WASHINGTON DC NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

**John Peterson, ARCSE Representative**

Email: [jwpeterson@cox.net](mailto:jwpeterson@cox.net)

**George and Ellen Norris** write: We're doing well. Looking forward to being with all Norris Clan at Sunset Beach, NC July 5-12. Will have grandchildren with us before and after that week. July will be special too as we will become Great Grandparents on July 30<sup>th</sup> or thereabouts. **Craig Right** told me by phone last week that **Jo** celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with a party.

**Don and Barb Woodward** travelled to Portland, OR the week of June 1-6 to visit friends and to receive the Environmental and Water Resources Institute of ASCE 2014 Arid Lands Hydraulic Engineering Award. The award citation will read: "For outstanding contributions advancing arid lands hydrology and hydraulic engineering and associated water policy, and particularly the development of the methodology for estimation of runoff from rainfall using curve numbers in both arid and humid regions around the world." Congratulations Don and Barb!

## ARID LANDS HYDRAULIC ENGINEERING AWARD

*The Arid Lands Hydraulic Engineering Award is given in recognition of original contributions in hydraulics, hydrology (including climatology), planning, irrigation and drainage, hydroelectric power development, navigation specially applicable to arid or semi-arid climates, or contributions to the understanding and development of new technology in river basins.*

**Donald Woodward** worked an entire career, 39 years, for the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), retiring as the National Hydraulic Engineer on the Conservation Engineering Division Staff at Headquarters. In his various roles, he was responsible for directing hydrologic studies for NRCS, preparing national policy, preparing hydrologic technical materials, training of NRCS staff, and directing efforts to develop/upgrade hydrologic/hydraulic computer programs for the evaluation and design of dams. Mr. Woodward's experience with the preparation of NRCS technical manuals includes: Member of the teams that prepared the National Engineering Manual and Chapter 2 – Estimating Peak Rates and Volume of Runoff of the NRCS Engineering Field Manual; team leader in preparing eight chapters of Section 4 – Hydrology for the National Engineering Handbook (NEH-630); and efforts to upgrade NRCS computer programs. Mr. Woodward coauthored more than 30 technical publications, and prepared hydrology handbooks for various other agencies, including the country of The Gambia. An Honorary Badge of SGW was presented to Mr. Woodward for developing and contributing to research at Warsaw Agricultural University. He has worked on various ASCE committees, contributed to several ASCE publications, and gained recognition as an outstanding reviewer for the *Journal of Hydrology*. He is a graduate of the University of Idaho and is a Registered Engineer in Oregon.

*The 2014 ARID LANDS HYDRAULIC ENGINEERING AWARD is presented to Donald Woodward, P.E., F.ASCE, for outstanding contributions advancing arid lands hydrology and hydraulic engineering and associated water policy, and particularly the development of the methodology for estimation of runoff from rainfall using curve numbers in both arid and humid regions around the world.*



**DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2014  
NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS IS AUGUST 25**

## WEST VIRGINIA

**Peg Reese, ARCSE Representative**

**Email:** [pegreesevw@gmail.com](mailto:pegreesevw@gmail.com)

**Annual SCS/NRCS Luncheon** is scheduled at 11am on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at the Regatta Bar and Grill in the Waterfront Hotel in Morgantown. This year's event will feature a delicious buffet lunch that will cost \$12 per person to be paid directly to the Regatta Bar and Grill. Music expert **Joe Paull** will give a special musical presentation about the life and music of **Johnny Cash**. In addition to the opportunity to spend time with old friends, we will have a few door prizes and a 50/50 drawing. Parking will be complementary. Out-of-Towners might want to stay for the Mountaineer football game against the Baylor Bears on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are available at [www.ticketcity.com](http://www.ticketcity.com). For info contact **Jim Clevenger** at (304) 599-3533.

**James Stephen Bennett**, former Soil Conservation Service employee passed away Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Bennett worked in a number of positions in Ohio and retired as State Conservationist in West Virginia. More details can be found on the Memorial Page of this newsletter.

**Pat Hartman**, wife of former State Conservationist **Bill Hartman**, shared the following: Things are really going well for us. Bill is out farming everyday with his brother, and enjoys every minute of it. I make quilts, cook and clean house. We are planning for a big family reunion at the farm this month. There will be right at 100 people in attendance and that isn't all of us. We do have a great grandson who will be one year old next week. He takes up a lot of our time and that is a lot of fun, too.

**Judy** did something this spring she'd never imagined! At the age of 75, I decided to run for public office and won a four-year term on the Tucker County Board of Education! My brother-in-law, **Jerry DiBacco** retired (after 14 years), and encouraged me to run for his position. My Dad drove a school bus for 30 years and he said, "people usually only run for BOE when they have an agenda or a gripe." Since I had neither, I attended several meetings and studied previous minutes to see if I was capable. Other than handing out cards, shaking hands, giving a talk at my Senior Center, and asking "The Lord's Will," it only cost me a small filing fee! I must admit it was exciting watching the votes being counted, my family and friends calling, and being sworn into office. Now the fun begins and I'll be praying for wisdom and patience. I can't help wondering what **Terry** would think about me taking on such a job? I can just see him smiling! Have a fun summer and God Bless you all.

**Art Holland** and his son, **Art Jr.**, spent the first week of June reliving some of Art's travels in the late 1950s and 1960s when he was the Construction Engineer and Government Representative on several West Virginia PL-566 Watershed and Pilot dams.

After getting outstanding information via e-mail from **Andy Delchert**, WV State Engineer and **Tom Sites**, "the man with the data," we started the trip at East Carolina University in Greenville NC, where Art's granddaughter is attending college. Art Sr. came up from Sun City, SC and Art Jr. came down from Centreville, VA. Our first stop was Princeton, WV. We first visited with **Clem Crowe**, 90 plus years old and in good shape for his age, who is a good friend and was the inspector on Daves and Christian Forks and Brush Creek Watersheds during his career.



From Princeton we went to Charleston to see three dams on Elk Twomile Creek Watershed and the Blakes and Armour Creek Dam. The DC, **Julie Stutier**, and **Roger** also from NRCS office were kind enough to show the dams to us.

Art Sr. was raised in Elkview, just 12 miles up the Elk River from Charleston, where they visited the old home place and also the building in Blue Creek where Art's parents lived in the 1920s. It was an apartment over Copenhavors's Country Store and Post Office. The building is still there but vacant.

Next we went to Braxton County and checked out several Salt Lick Creek Dams. Our maps weren't real clear where the dams were, so we stopped at an Ace Hardware store in Heaters to ask directions. The young lady behind the counter wasn't sure, but her mother gave us exact directions and we inspected 4 of the Salt Lick sites.

Northern West Virginia is a booming area. The gas industry has taken over. Motels are running 93% occupancy during the week, and it was tough getting a room anywhere. Our next watershed was the Salem Fork Watershed which was a Pilot Project, one of the first 12 watersheds in the US in the small watershed program. Art worked on the very first dam on the Salem watershed during his student trainee position, the summer of 1954.

The last sites visited were in Cameron, WV on Upper Grave Creek Watershed. Again this watershed had the first dam to be built under the PL-566 program in 1957 in WV.

All in all we reviewed 18 earth-fill dams built in the 1950's and 1960's. They were designed as Class "C" dams and have weathered the years very well for their age. The risers and outlets looked good, and the dams we visited were well cared for by locals, Conservation Districts and the State Conservation Commission. It was interesting to learn that dams which cost around \$100,000 in 1959 to build cost \$2,000,000 to modify the emergency (now called the auxiliary) spillway.

One side-light of the trip was when we walked onto D&C Fork site #3, that can be seen from the West Virginia Turnpike. We discovered it was covered with poison ivy. It was like a cover crop all over the dam. We took a very good shower that night and washed our clothes and were very lucky. No problem resulted!

West Virginia NRCS has done an outstanding job in maintaining the records and data for all the watershed work done over the past 50 plus years, and the maintenance has been managed well on the PL-566 Work I observed. It felt great to see first-hand the results of work that I had assisted with 50 plus years earlier and to see its effect. These were some of my most enjoyable years during my career as a Soil Conservation Service employee.

## WISCONSIN

**Jim Enlow, ARCSE Representative**

Email: [ljenlow@att.net](mailto:ljenlow@att.net)

**Judy Pulvermacher**, Secretary to the Wisconsin State Conservationist, is retiring from NRCS on May 30, 2014, after nearly 23 years of federal service. We all wish her the very best, and will miss her pleasant disposition and cheerful presence greatly.

**NEW SENIOR CONSERVATIONISTS:** We welcome ten new Senior Conservationists since the last Newsletter. They have reached the minimum age of 83 years and have completed the Senior Conservationist Questionnaire. Congratulations! The new Senior Conservationists are:

<b>William J. Branigan</b>	<b>Mount Jackson, VA</b>	<b>Leonard L. Splett</b>	<b>Barron, WI</b>
<b>Dale E. Jakel</b>	<b>Barron, WI</b>	<b>Herbert W. Tauchen</b>	<b>Bonduel, WI</b>
<b>Robert J. Lieske</b>	<b>Ripon, WI</b>	<b>Robert C. Uhrig</b>	<b>Black River Falls, WI</b>
<b>Harlan C. Nelson</b>	<b>Eau Claire, WI</b>	<b>Anne O. Ward</b>	<b>Raleigh, NC</b>
<b>William F. Schaller</b>	<b>Richland Center, WI</b>	<b>Edward E. Weber</b>	<b>Keizer, OR</b>

See IN MEMORIAM for the Senior Conservationists who 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.

## SENIOR CONSERVATIONIST CHRONICLE

**Marc Safley, Chronicler**

**Senior Conservationist**  
**Harlan C. Nelson**

Senior Conservationist Harlan C. Nelson was born in Frederic, WI. Harlan grew up on his family's 120-acre farm near Luck, WI (about 70 miles northeast of Saint Paul, MN). The farm was a diversified enterprise with a small herd

of cows, pigs, and some chickens. His grandfather built the barn and they farmed with horses in his youth. He graduated from high school in 1946 and worked on his home farm until he entered military service in the U.S. Marine Corps in September of that same year. He was stationed in California at the Naval Supply Center (Oakland) until he was discharged in September, 1948.

Upon return to civilian life he enrolled in the University of Wisconsin–River Falls and graduated in 1952 with a B.Sc. degree in both Agriculture and Science. While in college on the G.I. Bill, he was on the school's baseball team (3<sup>rd</sup> base and shortstop positions) for all four years. He was a member of the basketball team for his first two years in college, but realized that laboratory classes conflicted with basketball practice and chose academics. He had intended to go into a career of teaching and coaching, but his basketball coach advised him to pursue agriculture, as there were many more jobs in that field than in teaching at that time. Harlan took his advice to heart and came on board SCS in the summer of 1952 as a Student Trainee at Balsam Lake, WI.

After graduation he was assigned as a Soil Conservationist at Stratford, WI (a two-person field office). He was there in that position from December, 1952 until March, 1954 when he was promoted in place to District Conservationist. He served there until 1956 when he discontinued his Federal service to take a position with Northrup King in Sparta, WI. He is quoted as having said that he was "tired of living out of a suitcase" and in 1957 he was reinstated with SCS in Eau Claire County as District Conservationist, where he served for nine years. In 1966 he accepted the District Conservationist position for Chippewa County. He held that position until his retirement in late April, 1983. Harlan was recognized by community leaders and farmers alike, wherever he worked, for his effectiveness in natural resource and soil conservation.

Over the years since his retirement from SCS, Harlan has been active in agriculture, with his hobbies, and with his family. He worked for a while as a wildlife damage inspector for Eau Claire County. He worked for over five years in Trempealeau County, WI, where he contacted farmers about their compliance with Wisconsin's Farmland Preservation Program. He continued to enjoy his avocation of woodworking and furniture building.

This year Harlan and his wife Ethel have been married 56 years. They have one son and two daughters and three grandchildren. Harlan has always believed that conservation is a team effort. Local, state, and federal agencies must work cooperatively, each doing its job, to make conservation a success.

Please email Ron Marlow at [arcse@cox.net](mailto:arcse@cox.net) to report recent In Memoriam notices.

## Surname

## *In Memoriam*

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

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|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Barber</b>  | <b>Norina Barber</b> (91) of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, passed away on April 28, 2014 at the Forest Park Nursing Home in Carlisle. She will be remembered as a clerk in the Harrisburg SCS State Office, retiring in 1988. She is survived by two brothers and a sister.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Barton</b>  | <b>Arlin J. Barton</b> (92) of Russellville, KY, passed away on June 13, 2014 after a short illness. Arlin was a Soil Scientist with the Soil Conservation Service for over 35 years, retiring in 1988, and volunteered as an Earth Team volunteer in the Russellville Field Office for 20 years.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Bennett</b> | Honorary Member and Senior Conservationist <b>James Stephen Bennett</b> (94) of Cape Coral, Florida passed away on May 5, 2014. He graduated from WVU with a B.S. Degree in Agriculture. Following active duty with the Army Air Force, he was employed in Ohio by the USDA Soil Conservation Service as Assistant State Conservationist. Jim served as the first president for the Ohio SCS Retirees. He was appointed as State Conservationist in West Virginia in 1970. Jim received the highest honor in a Fellow Recognition by the SCS, the USDA Superior Service Award for Rural Development, was first President of the Alumni Association for the College of Agriculture and Forestry, and served as Chairman of the WVU Rural Progress Organization. He received the Distinguished Alumnus Award for the West Virginia University College of Agriculture and Forestry. Jim and Naomi retired to Cape Coral, FL in 1977. For his leadership and work on conservation and the environment in Cape Coral, Jim was nominated by Kiwanis as a candidate for Cape Coral Citizen of the Year in 2003. He is survived by his loving wife, Naomi Lee of 71 years; daughters, Judy Chester, Marjorie Stephens; and son, Stephen Bennett (Karen); six grandchildren, and eleven great grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Wounded Warrior Project, <a href="http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org">www.woundedwarriorproject.org</a> . Condolences to family may be sent to <a href="http://www.rutherfordfuneralhome.com">www.rutherfordfuneralhome.com</a> . |
| <b>Brost</b>   | Senior Conservationist <b>Ken Brost</b> , (96½) of Madison, Wisconsin, passed away on June 10, 2014. In 1966, he began his career as a contract specialist for the USDA Soil Conservation Service in the Wisconsin State Office. Ken retired in 1979. He is survived by six children: Ken (Eileen) Brost Jr., Barbara (Bill) Sippel, Mary (Tom) Misco, Susan (Steve) Klueess, Paul (Debbie) Agarwal, and John England; 13 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren. Ken was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 64 years, Jean (Sowle). He grew up in Cross Plains and Verona,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |



WI. After high school graduation, he joined the Civilian Conservation Corps and worked on CCC projects on Isle Royale, MI, and in a Milwaukee, WI, county park. In March 1941, Ken enlisted in the US Army Air Corps then transferred to the Navy and joined the Pacific Theater in World War II. He wrote home to his family, "If I make it out of this 'thing' alive, I'm going to make my life useful." And he did. Ken earned his law degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1952 and worked as a claims adjuster, manager, and agency director for State Farm Insurance for 12 years. In 1966, he began his career as a Contract Specialist for the USDA Soil Conservation Service in the Wisconsin State Office. During these years, in addition to their six children, Ken and Jean shared their home with over 50 foster babies, providing a temporary home before permanent placement by Catholic Social Services. He was elected the first president of the Wisconsin Federation of Foster Parent Organizations. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Blessed Sacrament School Educational Endowment Fund.

- Day** **Virginia Day** (103) of Portland, Maine passed away on June 8, 2014. She was the wife of deceased S Von Day who was a District Conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service in Portland in the 1960's and then the first RC&D coordinate in Presque Isle.
- Eschenbach** **Mary Eschenbach** (64) of White Lake, Wisconsin passed away at her home on June 21, 2014. **Mary** started her USDA career as a Computer Assistant in Beaver Dam with the Soil Conservation Service in August 1988. She transferred to Appleton in October of 1996. NRCS IT Specialists were transferred to the USDA/OCIO/ITS agency in November 2004. **Mary** retired from the USDA/OCIO/ITS office in Appleton, Wisconsin in September 2009.
- Freeman** Member and Senior Conservationist **Theodore George Freeman** (85) passed away on September 10, 2012, at his cabin on the Kenai River in Sterling, Alaska. Inspired by the achievements of the Soil Conservation Service during the Depression, Ted sought employment with the agency after obtaining a degree in agronomy from North Dakota State University. Later, in 1955, he was selected as District Conservationist in Fairbanks where he developed interest in SCS's snow survey program. Ted transferred to Idaho in 1960 and then to Portland, OR, in 1963 where he helped develop early snow survey methods and establish snow measurement sites throughout the West. He became Snow Survey Supervisor for Alaska in 1966, later becoming state resource conservationist, then deputy state conservationist. He retired in 1982. Ted's parents' first language was Icelandic, and he later expressed surprise and disappointment about finding out at age five that everyone didn't understand the language. He was an avid fisherman and hunter. Ted was preceded in death in 1995 by his wife of 45 years, Beverly Krisjanson and is survived by his children: Susan M. Burlingame, David J. Freeman, and George T. Freeman, all of Anchorage.
- Gingrich** **Geneva Blanch (Forderwalt) Gingrich** (90) of Palmyra, Pennsylvania, passed away at home on May 9, 2014. She was predeceased by her loving husband, Kenneth R. Gingrich, in 1989. She retired from the Soil Conservation Service as an Area Clerk in the Lebanon Office. Geneva was a faithful member of Palmyra First United Methodist Church. She was also a past president of the Palmyra and Lebanon County Women's Club. She is survived by three sons, a daughter, and five grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in her honor to the Palmyra Public Library or AGAPE Family Shelter. Condolences and memories may be shared at [www.rothermelfuneralhome.com](http://www.rothermelfuneralhome.com).
- Glover** **Irma Glover** (86) of Wichita, Kansas passed away on June 9, 2014. She was the wife of Robert Glover who retired from the Soil Conservation Service in 1981 as a Resource Conservationist in the Dodge City Area Office. He preceded her in death in January 2013. She is survived by two daughters, a son, eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.
- Haug** **Betty Haug** (82) of Manhattan, Kansas, passed away on April 19, 2014. She is survived by her husband, Gilbert, who retired in 1993 as a Soil Conservation Technician in the Cottonwood Falls Field Office. They had just celebrated 60 years of marriage in January. She is also survived by two sons, a daughter, five grandsons, a granddaughter, and a great-granddaughter.
- Keller** **Jesse Keller** (84) of Ridgeway, Illinois passed away on June 14, 2014. **Jesse** began his SCS career in Kankakee and retired in 1985 as a Soil Conservation Technician at the Harrisburg Field Office. He is survived by daughter, Julie, and sons Brad and Mike and three grandchildren. Jesse's wife, Joann, passed away in 2005. He served four years in the United States Marine Corps from 1948 to 1952, spending fourteen months in Korea participating at Inchon, Chosin Reservoir, and most of 1951 campaigns. Jesse earned a silver star on the Korean Campaign ribbon and a bronze star on the Presidential Unit Citation ribbon.
- Kennedy** **Alvin Merle Kennedy** (89) of Pratt, Kansas, passed away on June 9, 2014 at Hilltop Manor in Cunningham, KS. He served in the Navy during WWII. Alvin retired as a Civil Engineering Technician with the Soil Conservation Service from the Hutchinson Area Office in 1993 after 33 years of service. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Pratt. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Lois Irene Deckert Kennedy. Other survivors include a son, four daughters, 14 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great-granddaughters. Condolences can be left at [www.larrisonmortuary.com](http://www.larrisonmortuary.com).
- King** **Edsel Lee King** (87) of Wellington passed away on Sept. 17, 2013 at the Kansas Veterans Home in Winfield. Edsel was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years Carole Leaming King. He was a faithful member of the First Christian Church in Wellington where he had served as an Elder. Edsel also belonged to the Masonic Lodge where he was a York Rite Mason. He proudly served during World War II in the United States Navy. Edsel was proud of his 33-year career with the Soil Conservation Service, retiring as a District Conservationist in the Syracuse Field

Office. Survivors include two daughters, two sons, eight grandchildren, and fourteen great-grandchildren. Memorials have been established in his loving memory with the Wellington Masonic Lodge No. 150 AF&AM or the First Christian Church. To share a memory or leave condolences, please visit [www.dayfuneralhome.info](http://www.dayfuneralhome.info).

- Konieczny** Member **Chester H. (Chet) Konieczny** (82) of Hadley, Massachusetts passed away peacefully on May 14, 2014. He was educated in the Hadley school system and graduated from Hopkins Academy. Chet farmed full time until he began working for the USDA Soil Conservation Service where he retired as a conservation technician in 1993. He married Barbara Kowal in 1954 and they enjoyed 47 years of marriage until Barbara passed away in 2001. In 2003, Chet married Peg Nartowicz of South Deerfield and she survives. Chet served his town for many years as a call fireman with the North Hadley Fire Dept., Hook and Ladder Co. #5 and was also a longtime member of the Hadley Men's Club. He also leaves his children: daughter Debbie and her husband Jacques; son, Steven and his wife Sheila; son, John and wife Robin; three grandchildren, four stepchildren, and eleven step grandchildren. Memorial contributions in Chet's memory may be made to the New England Health Center (Cozy Corner), 61 Old Amherst Rd., Sunderland, MA. 01375.
- Mitchell** **Maurice O. Mitchell** (83) of Turpin, Oklahoma, passed away May 28, 2014. He attended Panhandle A&M in Goodwell, Oklahoma graduating in 1954 with a degree in Agronomy. Upon graduation he began his career with the Soil Conservation Service as a Soil Scientist in both Texas and Beaver Counties. Maurice was a devout Christian and a member of the First Christian Church in Hooker where he served in many leadership roles. He was a farmer in the Adams-Baker, Oklahoma area. He was a 50-plus-year member of the Masonic Lodge in Guymon, OK. Maurice is survived by his wife of 57 years, Kathryn Mitchell of the home; three brothers and two sisters and several nieces and nephews.
- Nance** **Robert B. (Bob) Nance** (79) of Campbellsville, Kentucky passed away on May 15, 2014. He was a retired engineering technician with the Soil Conservation Service, serving for approximately thirty-nine years. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Alice Nance of Campbellsville, KY, a son, a daughter and two grandchildren. The family requests expressions of sympathy by donations to Hospice of Central Kentucky.
- Nelson** **Donald Byron Nelson** (80) of Lebanon, Kentucky passed away on May 29, 2014. Don was an employee of the Soil Conservation Service, retiring in 1995 as a District Conservationist, having served in Campbellsville and Lebanon field offices. He was a U.S. Army veteran and a member of Lebanon United Methodist Church. Survivors include: his wife, Martha VanSickle Nelson of Lebanon; his son, Johnny (Karen) Nelson of Lebanon; his daughter, Pam (Jimmy) Mattingly of Lebanon; and four grandchildren.
- Person** **Walton A. Person** (85) of Bismark, North Dakota passed away on May 2, 2014 at St. Gabriel's Community Care Center. He was the husband of Vi Person, who worked in the SCS/NRCS Administrative Section in the Bismarck State office for many years. He is survived by his beloved wife of 63 years, Vi; a daughter Susan (Wallace) Hopkins, Seminole, FL; a son Kerry Person, Shakopee, MN; two grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, a sister, two brothers-in-law and two sisters-in-law.
- Phillips** **Calvin D. Phillips** (81) of Liberty, Missouri passed away on April 30, 2014. He retired from the Soil Conservation Service as a District Conservationist in 1987. He is survived by his wife, Doris Phillips, two sons and a daughter, and six grandchildren.
- Ritchie** **Phyllis Drake Ritchie** (91) of Houlton, Maine passed away on February 28, 2014. She was the wife of the late **George Ritchie**, a long time Conservation Technician with the Soil Conservation Service in Aroostook County, Maine.
- Stearley** **Donald E. Stearley** (85) of Kearney, Nebraska passed away on January 1, 2014. After high school, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and served in Korea for two years. He graduated from the University of Nebraska with a bachelor's degree in agronomy and soils in 1957. He worked for the Soil Conservation Service in Curtis and Lexington. Survivors include his wife, Mary (O'Brien) Wilson; a son, a daughter, two stepdaughters, seven grandchildren, and one great-grandson. He was preceded in death by his first wife Violet Beans in 1973.
- Thebarger** **Jeffery A. Thebarger** (76) of Old Town, Maine and Palmetto, Florida passed away on June 17, 2014 at a Bangor hospital surrounded by family. He came from a family of 13 children. **Jeff** graduated from Madison High School in 1956, where he was a catcher on the baseball team and his twin brother **Edwin** was the pitcher. Following high school he served with the US Army (1957-1959) and was stationed in Germany, and he served with the Air Guard retiring in 1993 as a Staff Sergeant. He was employed by the Soil Conservation Service as a contract specialist, retiring in 1996. Jeffery was a talented violinist. He is survived by his wife of almost 50 years Merlene (Blanchette), two daughters, and three grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Cancer Care of Maine EMHS Foundation, PO Box 931 Bangor, ME 04402-0931.
- Wenberg** Life Member **Richard Dean Wenberg** (81) of Belton, Texas departed this life peacefully in his home on April 30, 2014 after a battle with lung cancer. Dick served in the Army from 1954-56 including time stationed in Germany. He graduated from North Dakota State University (NDSU) in 1957 with a degree in agricultural engineering. He was employed by the USDA Soil Conservation Service for 35 years as a Professional Engineer and worked in several locations across the country, retiring in 1990 as the National Drainage Engineer in Washington, D.C. Dick loved North Dakota and through his diligent efforts over the past few decades, his parents' homestead farm has remained in the family and continues to be a model for production and sustainability. He is survived by his wife of



48 years, Mary Fockler Wenberg whom he met while working in Morgantown, WV; son, Brian Wenberg (Assistant State Conservation Engineer in Texas) and his wife, Susan, and two grandsons, Jack and Cade, of Belton, TX; daughter, Susan Wenberg, and her fiancée, David Keller, of northern Virginia; one brother and two sisters. He was preceded in death by two sisters. Donations, in lieu of flowers, can be made to the Passing the Torch Campaign c/o Temple First United Methodist Church, 102 N 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Temple, TX 76501.

**Yeabower** **William R. Yeabower (Bill) (77) of Fort Worth, Texas** passed away May 2, 2014. **William** worked for the Department of Agriculture (SCS-NRCS Cartographic) in Lanham, Maryland and Fort Worth for 38 years. He was active in his church and loved family gatherings, fishing and hunting. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, **Mary Yeabower**, daughter, **Julie Ransom** and an extended family including four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

**Zollinger** Life Member **Herman Leroy Zollinger (79)** of Boise, Idaho passed away at his home on May 15, 2014 after a long struggle with bladder cancer, just four months after the passing of his dear wife of 62 years, Sharon. He grew up in Rexburg, ID, where he played football and basketball in high school. He met his future wife, Sharon Dale Parker, in grade school. He spent his early married years helping his father farm a 1,200-acre dry farm. Leroy enrolled at Rick's College when he was 23 years old. He later transferred to Utah State University where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering at the age of 28. He regarded his graduation from college as one of his life's greatest accomplishments. Soon thereafter he went to work for the Soil Conservation Service in Idaho Falls, ID. Later Leroy was transferred to Salmon, Pocatello, and finally to Boise, ID, when he was promoted to State Conservation Engineer for Idaho. He retired in 1994. He was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. He is survived by his four children, Bradley (Susan) of Highland, UT, Kary (Jean) of Twin Falls, ID, Casey (Linda) of Spokane, WA, and Sharon of Boise, ID. To share memories with the family please visit Leroy's memorial webpage at [www.cloverdalefuneralhome.com](http://www.cloverdalefuneralhome.com).



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