

**President**  
Mark W. Berkland  
1118 Barfield Street  
Daniel Island, SC 29492-7566  
(843) 388-8285  
[mberkland@homesc.com](mailto:mberkland@homesc.com)

**President-Elect**  
Warren M. Lee  
2300 Lakeview Pkwy  
Locust Grove, VA 22805  
(540) 972-6873  
[wandblee@comcast.net](mailto:wandblee@comcast.net)

**Immediate Past President**  
Tom Badger  
17859 South Wanamaker  
Scranton, KS 66537  
(785) 793-2228  
[tne6565@satelephone.com](mailto:tne6565@satelephone.com)

**Secretary/Treasurer**  
Ronald L. Marlow  
ARCSE  
P. O. Box 7454  
Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7454  
(703) 503-9219  
[arcse@cox.net](mailto:arcse@cox.net)

**Regional Vice-Presidents**  
EAST  
Cecil B. Currin  
137 Mount Warner Rd.  
Hadley, MA 01035-9668  
(413) 549-5677  
[luandcecil@currin.org](mailto:luandcecil@currin.org)

WEST  
Jerry Richard  
2709 South Post  
Spokane, WA 99203  
(509) 747-5039  
[Glr52pdr@aol.com](mailto:Glr52pdr@aol.com)

SOUTH  
Arnold D. King  
1900 Canaveral Ct  
Granbury, TX 76048-4370  
(817) 578-8177  
[arnolddking@hotmail.com](mailto:arnolddking@hotmail.com)

MIDWEST  
Norman R. Kempf  
2312 North 80th  
Lincoln, NE 68507-3339  
(402) 464-6390  
[nkempf@neb.rr.com](mailto:nkempf@neb.rr.com)

**Historian**  
Douglas Helms  
398 N. Edison St.  
Arlington, VA 22203  
(703) 525-1468  
[douglas\\_helms@verizon.net](mailto:douglas_helms@verizon.net)

**Editor**  
Jerry Bernard  
15 Apple Blossom Ct.,  
Stafford, VA 22554  
(540) 720-5644  
[jbernard.ncsret@gmail.com](mailto:jbernard.ncsret@gmail.com)

**Webmaster**  
*vacant*  
Rest in Peace, Owen Lee

**Notes From the Potomac**  
John Stierna  
2600 Wiley Terrace  
Haymarket, VA 20169  
(703) 754-1512  
[jnstierna@aol.com](mailto:jnstierna@aol.com)

**Senior Conservationist**  
**Chronicler**  
Marc Safley  
11975 William and Mary Circle,  
Woodbridge, VA 22192  
(703) 494-8074  
[jsafley1@verizon.net](mailto:jsafley1@verizon.net)



# NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter for Retired SCS and NRCS Employees

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## NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

**John Stierna**

**Farm Bill**—In this farm bill cycle, major emphasis is on reduced funding, a risk management based safety net, consolidation and reform of programs for effectiveness and efficiency, and changes to nutrition programs. Overall, the Senate bill cuts \$24 billion and the House \$39 billion, relative to the ten-year baseline.

The Senate passed a bipartisan comprehensive five-year Farm Bill (S. 954) on June 10<sup>th</sup> by a vote of 66 to 27. The bill reforms food and agricultural policy by eliminating direct payments and transitioning to responsible risk management tools for farmers. The Farm Bill also consolidates programs to end duplication and addresses fraud and misuse in nutrition programs. The Senate bill reduces the size of the Conservation Reserve Program, consolidates 23 existing conservation programs into 13 programs, and reduces conservation title mandatory funding by about \$5 billion over ten years.

The Farm Bill reported out from the House Agriculture Committee was debated on the House floor during the week of June 17<sup>th</sup>. Over 100 amendments were considered. While the House bill was very similar to the Senate's in terms of the conservation program revisions, conservation funding was cut by about \$6.9 billion, compared to the Congressional Budget Office ten-year baseline. However, the House ultimately **failed to pass the bill** (HR. 1947) with a vote of 195 "yeas" to 234 "nays." Failure to pass the bill has widely been blamed on disagreement on the level of cuts and the degree of farm program reform. While both parties blamed the other, it is clear that nutrition was a major stumbling block for the House, with some expressing concern that the cuts were too large and others saying that more needed to be cut. The adoption of further amendments, placing additional requirements on recipients of nutrition assistance, appears to have been the final straw causing some representatives to vote against the underlying bill. It was argued that the amendments changed what was a bipartisan bill into a partisan bill.

With the defeat in the House, the way forward to reach a conference with the Senate on the farm bill is uncertain at this time.

The Senate bill includes a provision linking conservation compliance with crop insurance premium assistance, while the bill considered in the House does not. The Senate compliance provisions are based on a consensus position developed by a number of organizations, including some farm and commodity groups, crop insurance groups, and selected conservation groups supporting conservation compliance and certain protections for crop insurance assistance.

**Appropriations**—In mid-June the House Appropriations Committee reported out a bill providing \$810 million for conservation operations for FY 2014, an increase of \$2 million over the FY 2013 amount. The Committee provided \$12 million for watershed rehabilitation work, a slight decrease from FY 2013, but it keeps the program alive compared to the President's budget that would have eliminated funding for the program. The appropriation bill may be considered on the House floor around June 27<sup>th</sup>, but that time frame could well be pushed back into July or later.

The Senate Appropriations Committee finished the FY 2014 agricultural appropriation bill, including \$828 million for conservation operations, but provided nothing for the watershed rehabilitation program. Floor consideration in the Senate will be after the House completes their work on the bill.

**ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES**

Both bills include limits on certain farm bill conservation programs. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program is capped at \$1.4 billion in the Senate and \$1.35 billion in the House. The Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program is capped at \$150 million in the House, while the Senate bill allows it to operate at the authorized level of \$200 million. The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program is capped at \$73 million in the Senate but only \$45 million in the House. NRCS funding is limited to \$2.5 million for the Agricultural Management Assistance Program in both the House and the Senate bills.

**Disaster Relief**—NRCS is providing additional resources from the Emergency Watershed Protection Program to help disaster recovery efforts in 15 states. This includes recovery from wildfires, Hurricane Sandy, and tornadoes.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Mark Berkland**

If you get this newsletter electronically, it will still be before our annual meeting which will be Monday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> in Reno, Nevada. If you receive the newsletter in hard copy, hopefully you will also have the newsletter prior to the meeting. In either case, I look forward to seeing you at the meeting. Our meeting will once again be held in conjunction with the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) annual conference. The SWCS meeting is scheduled for July 21-24 and will be held at the Peppermill Resort Spa Casio.

Our luncheon will be in the White Orchid Room at the Peppermill. We have scheduled the room on July 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11:00AM until around 2:30PM, with lunch being served at approximately 12:00 noon. There will be two meal choices with each costing \$30.00. I hope to see you at the luncheon. I want to thank Jerry Richards (our Regional vice President for the West) and Chuck Houston (our Nevada State Representative) for helping us make the luncheon arrangements.

This will be the last article I submit as President of the Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees. **Warren Lee**, President-Elect, will be taking over as your new President at our annual meeting July 22, 2013. I must admit that I was somewhat concerned when **Rich Duesterhaus** called four years ago and asked if I would consider running for the Association's position of President-Elect. Two years ago I became the President and I can honestly say that I have thoroughly enjoyed both my two years as President-Elect and two years as President. Your Board of Directors-Regional Vice Presidents: **Arnold King, Jerry Richards, Norm Kempf, Cecil Currin, Past President Tom Badger** and **President Elect Warren Lee** have been outstanding to work with. We have had several conference calls, and they have made decisions that have strengthened the Association. All of this could not have taken place, had it not been for the glue that holds the Association together—Ron Marlow, our Secretary/Treasurer.

We have had several State Representative vacancies and the Board of Directors has worked hard getting these positions filled and have made good progress, although we still have additional work to do. The Board of Directors adopted a revision to our awards program that will be unveiled at our annual meeting. The most significant change the Board of Directors made was providing for the newsletter being transmitted to our members electronically and putting our budget back in the black. I have received numerous positive comments about the electronic version since we are able to include color photos of our members. It is one thing to hear what our former colleagues are doing, but it is really nice to see them as well.

We have had several significant position changes. Longtime Editor, **Mike Nethery**, stepped down and was replaced by **Jerry Bernard**. Longtime "Notes from the Potomac" writer, **Lennie Losh**, stepped down and was replaced by **John Stierna**. **Jerry Hytry** stepped down as our Historian and was replaced by **Doug Helms**. I was really concerned when Mike, Lennie, and Jerry said that they were stepping down. I cannot believe how fortunate were we are to have talented members like Jerry, John, and Doug step up to the plate, and we have not missed a beat! We also owe a big thanks to **Marc Safley** who has stayed on as our Chronicler. Marc indicated that he too wanted to step down but has stayed on while we continue to look for a replacement. Thanks, guys!

This week we were all saddened with the news that our longtime Webmaster, **Owen Lee**, passed away after an extended battle with cancer. We will miss him and all the work he put into making our Webpage easy to use and very informative.

Below is an article I recently received from NACD regarding the **NRCS raindrop logo**. I have discussed this with the ARCSE Board of Directors, and they recommended the article be sent to our membership.

### NACD - Call to Action: USDA Logo Consolidation

**Background**—NACD recently learned of USDA's plans to consolidate a number of the logos of its agencies. **Logos of many of the agencies, including NRCS, would be eliminated and replaced with the USDA logo**. A national effort like this would not only impact NRCS, but also its core partners—including conservation districts—that use the current logo on signs, products, vehicles, clothing, letterhead and more. NACD has a number of concerns about the potential impacts of eliminating NRCS' logo, including the safety of conservation district and NRCS employees when they enter private property to deliver conservation on the

ground. Additionally, the logistics of replacing the NRCS logo would require a great deal of time, effort and money – resources which we feel would be better directed towards our mutual goal of natural resource conservation.

Willfully abandoning USDA agency logos is simply shortsighted. Major corporations spend millions of dollars to establish the kind of brand identity that we already have.

## Text of letter from Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees to Secretary Tom Vilsack, U.S. Department of Agriculture

*Secretary Vilsack: I am writing on behalf of the 1070 members of the National Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees (ARCSE) to express concern about USDA's plans to eliminate the NRCS raindrop logo and replace it with a USDA logo.*

*As retirees we feel that eliminating the Raindrop logo will diminish what so many of us worked hard and long to accomplish. That NRCS logo symbolizes the trust that the nation's farmers and ranchers have in the Agency's employees. That trust is vital to the Agency's ability to carry out its mission successfully. Over the years, that trust, has been associated with the Raindrop logo which is NRCS's brand identity.*

*Eliminating the NRCS logo would be detrimental to the morale of both NRCS employees and retirees.*

*Furthermore, the logistics of replacing the NRCS logo would require a great deal of time, effort and money – resources which would be better directed towards our mutual goal of natural resource conservation. Major corporations spend millions of dollars to establish the kind of brand identity that NRCS already has, and willfully abandoning the logo is simply shortsighted.*

*For these reasons, I respectfully ask that you maintain the NRCS logo as is. Thank you for your consideration.*

*Sincerely, Mark W. Berkland, President, Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees*

## A BIT OF HISTORY

**Douglas Helms, Historian**

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

**Personal Thoughts on the NRCS Logo**—ARSCE has taken a position opposing USDA's plan to eliminate all agency logos, including the raindrop. Perhaps I can add some personal thoughts. Symbols that inspire pride in work and accomplishing worthwhile goals should be encouraged. The Department as a whole can benefit from the cumulative support and enthusiasm for particular programs and their symbols, whereas the larger symbol for USDA might not mean that much to some people.

Long-time historian of USDA, **Wayne D. Rasmussen**, told me a story that illustrates the point. As a Secretary of Agriculture would near the end of his second term (they had all been male by the time Wayne left), someone from his office would call and ask "who was the greatest Secretary of Agriculture?" Dr. Rasmussen's answer was invariably **Henry A. Wallace**. In addition to Wallace's experience in politics and journalism, he had broad expertise in science (especially corn genetics), economics, and statistics. Furthermore, many of the so-called action programs had been added during the New Deal, and Wallace knew the rationales for their inclusion. After Wallace, the Department added even more programs.

Dr. Rasmussen often made the point that the Department's authorities and operations were so diverse that a two-term Secretary was just becoming adept at managing them all when it was time to leave. The recent farm bill debate illustrates the fact that most people support some portion of USDA operations, and have little knowledge or interest in other parts. The Department should build on the support and pride in individual agency accomplishments rather than alienating supporters.

## ARCSE Representatives Report

**Ron Marlow, Secretary-Treasurer**

I want to welcome a new state representative on board. Upon retirement of ARCSE state representative **Ken Overhults**, the new state representative for Kentucky is **Billye M. Haslett**. **Billye** retired as the State Administrative Officer in 2010, having also served as a soil conservationist and as an agronomist during her career. The ARCSE Board deeply appreciates **Ken's** efforts in leading ARCSE activities in Kentucky and is extremely pleased to see a new ARCSE member like **Billye** stepping forth into a leadership role. Additionally, **Byron Thompson** has agreed to be the Representative for South Carolina, replacing **Mark Berkland**.

## 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

**DEADLINE FOR  
SEPT/OCT 2013 NEWSLETTER  
CONTRIBUTIONS IS AUGUST 25**

## MEMBERSHIP

*Ron Marlow, Secretary-Treasurer*

Evans, Steven	NC
Haslett, Billye	KY
Lea, Jon	OR
McCloud, Phil	NC
Newton, Bruce	OR
Pope, A. Wayne	SD
Schadegg, Veronica (Roni)	WY
Zeck, Peter	SC

**NEW MEMBERS** for FY 13 total 59. Of those, 31 are complimentary for the first year.

### **Complimentary membership**

When you have retiree social functions or any other time that you see new retirees from NRCS, be sure to remind them that they are eligible for a one-year free membership if they retired on or after January 1, 2003. All that is required is that they submit a membership application. Previous members of ARCSE are not eligible for the complimentary membership.

## SOUTH STATE CONSERVATIONISTS and FRIENDS REUNION

This year's Annual **South State Conservationist and Friends Reunion** was April 29 and 30, 2013. The meeting was hosted by **Dick and Carol Gallo and Coy and Barbara Garrett** at the Waynesville Inn and Golf Resort in Waynesville, North Carolina. The annual Reunion moves from state to state in the South East, hosted by the resident retired local State Conservationist of the state. Records show the first Reunion was in 1976, 37 years ago, in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Attendees included: **Dennie Burns and Lea Frederick, Rich and Jude Duesterhaus, Edna Firor, Dick and Carol Gallo, Coy and Barbara Garrett, Niles and Carol Glasgow, Bob and Sue Halstead, Shirley Klumpe, Warren and Barbara Lee, Billy and Betty Milliken, Monk and Mo Munkittrick, Ed and Dolores Nelson, George and Ellen Norris, Hershal and Barbara Read, Bill and Gracie Richards, Jerry Seinwell and Carol Waite, Frank and Mary Nell Scudder, Ernie and Peggy Todd.**



*Retired State Conservationists and friends, 2013, Waynesville, North Carolina*



*Golfers played the scenic fairways.*

Next year's Reunion will be hosted by **Billy and Betty Milliken and Frank and Mary Nell Scudder** at a location of their choice in Kentucky.



Evening socials enjoyed by all



With the Traditional Closing Dinner

## ARIZONA

**Karl Klingelhofer, ARCSE Representative**

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

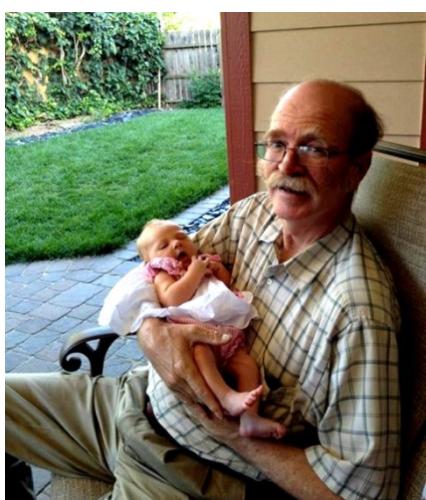
**Mel Davis, Yuma Arizona.** I had a call from **Marilyn** Davis this afternoon (6/25) with the following sad news. Mel went to the hospital on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Then to Hospice, and he died June 23<sup>rd</sup> at the age of 86. Their anniversary was June 6<sup>th</sup>, and they had been married 64 years. Their son **Ron** lives with them and daughter Dawn from San Diego is now there.

**Verne Bathurst, Scottsdale AZ**—Since we had not heard from Verne for a while, I called him. He then realized that he had let his membership lapse and said he would put a check in the mail that day. What follows is the write-up he sent me. "It was nice to hear from you today (6/22). Here are some of the activities which are keeping us out of trouble. It centers around the cultural and, historic activities at Westminster Village, Scottsdale, ASU, etc. We cannot complain as we, courtesy of United Airlines, have spent a total of 7 months riding First Class Eurail on 7 different trips and one month on BritRail in England, Scotland, and Wales. This, plus Central and South America, Australia, New Zealand, all of our State Capitals and most of the Universities and on to more, has provided two kids who met in Bunker Hill, a one-room Lyon County Kansas School."

## CALIFORNIA

**Bill Ward, ARCSE Representative**

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



Bill Ward on Father's day with new granddaughter Elsie Anna Ward

The last two weeks were eventful for me (Bill Ward), with two significant things occurring: one being very bad and the other being very good. First the bad. What started out Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> as a wonderful day fishing by myself for Steelhead on the Feather River suddenly turned bad with a severe pain in my abdomen, which turned out to be kidney stones. I ended up driving myself to the hospital and spent the next 7 days there being treated for the stones. The problem stone was ultimately removed by surgery. I had always heard about how bad the pain was from kidney stones. I can now vouch that it is much worse than I ever imagined it could be! Now for the other significant event, a very good one indeed. While in the hospital, my wife called and said our daughter-in-law (married to our oldest son, **Jimmy**) had gone into labor, and the next day she gave birth to their first child and our 3<sup>rd</sup> grandchild, **Elsie Anna Ward**. Here is a picture of my first opportunity to hold her on Father's Day.

I missed the June 3<sup>rd</sup> retiree luncheon as I was in the hospital dealing with my kidney stones. I was there for our May 1 Luncheon, with a group of about 17 attending, including my two grandchildren who I had babysitting duties for that day. I am sure I must have set a record for the youngest attendees at an NRCS retiree luncheon, ages 4 and 18 months!



May 1, 2013, ARCSE California retiree luncheon attendees



Bill Ward and his Grandkids at the May 1 Retiree luncheon

**Tom Smith, Life after SCS Retirement.** Tom Smith, SCS State Soil Mechanics Engineer, retired in 1990 after a rewarding career of 25 years with SCS. Shortly after his retirement from SCS, Tom started working for private Engineering Consultants and after 18 years in that career, looked for a less stressful way to continue working and sharing within the engineering community. Then in 2009 he started his own firm "RiverSmith Engineering." His consulting work is now focused on Water Resources and River Engineering. He also now acknowledges his disabled veteran status and is openly proud of his US Army service during the Vietnam War.

Tom recently shared with me some wonderful things on the personal side of his life, including a growing family with nine grandchildren (ages 10 yrs. to 6 months, from California to the Netherlands) and some very interesting travel he and his wife, **Libby** have recently done.

Tom and Libby recently took a trip to Israel, taking part in a "Footprints of Christ" Pilgrimage In Israel. Tom described the trip as "amazing," where they probably touched at least 30 different holy sites over 8 days in Israel. Those sites included the birth place of Jesus Christ, the Crucifixion, inside the tomb, the transfiguration, the Loaves and Fishes, the home in Nazareth, the Agony in the Garden, and the original Stations of the Cross, to name just a few.

They had Mass and Communion every day, and the most memorable Mass for Tom was inside the cave where the shepherds were watching their flock as the Angel announced the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ to them in Bethlehem. What an amazing trip for Tom and Libby! I am sure if anybody was interested in doing such a trip, Tom would be more than happy to share more information with you ([tsmith@riversmithengineering.com](mailto:tsmith@riversmithengineering.com)).

See the two wonderful pictures that Tom shared: sunrise over the Sea of Galilee looking toward the Golan Heights from their Hotel room, and the second being at "Caesarea Philippi" where Jesus said to Simon, "You are now Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church."



Tom and Libby Smith with their nine Grandchildren!



*Sea of Galilee looking toward the Golan Heights*



*Caesarea Philippi—“upon this rock I will build my Church”*

## COLORADO

**Ivan Wilkinson, ARCSE Representative**

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

At the last CO Retirees gathering, it was agreed to organize a trip to a Colorado Rockies baseball game. On June 13<sup>th</sup> the group will attend a game between the Colorado Rockies and the Washington Nationals. Parking is \$13.00, but tickets to the game are only \$1.00. Those on my list to attend are **Jerry and Sandy Schwien, Laura and John Vescio** plus 3 or 4 family members, **Jim and Marsha Borchert, Steve and Amy Park, Flavio and Edna Gonzales, Linda and Jim Neel, Jim and Gloria Fisher, Ron and Jeanne Miller, Kent Ververs, and Carol Wettstein**.

At the end of May, **Ivan** and **Ginger Wilkinson** participated in a bicycle tour in southern France, sponsored by Vermont Biking Tours. We spent three days in Paris followed by six days of biking in the Bordeaux region. Three days is not adequate time to gain a full appreciation of Paris. We biked about 200 miles in the lower Dordogne River region in and around thousands of acres of grape vineyards. For those who enjoy the finer things in life – fine wine, great cuisine, scenic splendor, historic riches and exhilaration of bicycling – this vacation had it all.

## ILLINOIS

**Dale Benz, ARCSE Representative**

**Email: [daleab@sbcglobal.net](mailto:daleab@sbcglobal.net)**

Happy birthday to **Harold (Boge) Kraut**. **Harold** celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 24. Harold retired as a Soil Conservation Technician in the Hardin Field Office many years ago. Harold was drafted into the Navy in 1943 and served on a mine sweeping ship as a motor machinist until 1945. When he returned home to Calhoun County in 1945, he bought a 40-acre farm and raised dairy cattle. He also raised mules for a few years. He raised Christmas trees on his farm for many years. **Harold** was a rock hound and made a lot of trips out west looking for various rocks. Harold, I always thought you wanted to be a rock star! He said people don't stop to witness the things around them anymore, nor do they appreciate the beauty of the trees, flowers, and wind. Taking a moment to appreciate the smaller things will better serve those who are struggling.

**Harold** was my first contact with the Soil Conservation Service back in the early 60s. I rodded for him when he surveyed a small pond on our home farm. Harold made the work look interesting and convinced me I should try it. The rest is history. Many more happy birthdays to you, **Harold**.

I am sorry to report that we lost a senior conservationist in Illinois. **Bob Craft** passed away on May 20. **Bob** retired as the Public Information Specialist for SCS in Illinois in the mid-1980s. He is survived by two daughters and one son.

Put October 3 on your schedule for the next retiree gathering in Champaign.

## KANSAS

**Deanne Lull, ARCSE Representative**

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

Summer and harvest have arrived in Salina the later part of June. Temperatures in the high 90s with lots of wind and no rain seem to be our normal. Although we have received several nice rains in our area this spring, we are still in drought conditions and remain under a water watch.

This spring **Mary Shaffer** presented a program "In Search of Chicken Fried Steak and Home-made Pies: Discover Kansas" for the Summer Soul-Stice Series at the First Presbyterian Church. For more than 30 years as a public affairs specialist, Mary set up many congressional tours and traveled to all parts of Kansas, making many discoveries about her home state. The secret is to get off the main highways and travel the back roads to find the many unique places to eat and to visit.

Five NRCSEers retired this spring and several have announced their upcoming retirements. Retiring in April was **Jeffrey K. Schmidt**, District Conservationist at the Fredonia Field Office. After counseling potential retirees and preparing many retirement applications over the years, **Debbie Kaiden**, Human Resources Specialist in the Kansas State Office, decided in May to do her last one—her own. Also retiring in May were **Jerry D. Longren**, Biological Science Technician, at the Plant Materials Center, Manhattan, Kansas; **John W. Henry**, Rangeland Management Specialist on the Technical Staff at the Manhattan Area Office; and **Roger Tacha**, Resource Conservationist headquartered at the Oakley Field Office. Since cutting off the tip of a finger with his lawnmower, **Lawrence Wetter** (formerly from Kansas State Office) is now using the hunt-and-peck system to do his typing. It seems that he now owns a bright new lawnmower with all the safety features.

Proud grandparents **Ron** and **Deanne Lull** (formerly from Kansas State Office) attended graduations for their two grandchildren. Their granddaughter graduated Summa Cum Laude as a Doctor of Pharmacy from the College of Pharmacy at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, Weatherford, Oklahoma. Their grandson graduated from the Broken Arrow High School, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, in the top three percent of a class of 1,170. Yes, the bleachers became very uncomfortable.

Three spouses passed away in May—On May 3, **Marvin "Tobe" Ross**, husband of **M. Darlene Ross** former Office Automation Assistant in the Lake Region RC&D in Ottawa, Kansas; on May 9, **Lillian Griswold** wife of **Victor Griswold** (deceased), former District Conservationist in the Medicine Lodge Field Office; and on May 12, **Carol F. Herman**, wife of Charles Herman (deceased), former Soil Conservation Technician in the Alma Field Office.

Two Kansas retirees living in other states have also passed away. **Roger C. Arensdorf** (May 13, 2013) had lived in New Braunfels, TX, since 1990 before moving to Boise, ID, in August 2012 to be near family. **Roger** was the District Conservationist in the Dodge City Field Office. His wife of nearly 70 years, **Geraldine**, survives. **Orval A. Harold** (May 31, 2013) was 96 and resided in Columbia, MO. **Orval** retired in 1977 as the Area Conservationist in the Manhattan Area Office. His wives have preceded him death.

## KENTUCKY

**Billye M. Haslett, ARCSE Representative**

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

**Steve Ewalt**, Retired RC, purchased and is operating a jewelry store in Cynthiana, KY. He sells, repairs, and appraises jewelry. Steve also repairs old clocks. **Shirley Hill**, HR Specialist, retired May 31, 2013. **Earl Johnson**, DC retired June 3, 2013. **Greg Johnson**, Retired NHQ Division Chief, has been elected to serve on the Fayette County Soil and Water Conservation Board of Supervisors in KY. He also serves as the Director for the SC Region of SWCS. **Taylor N. Morgan**, Retired Engineer, and his wife **Elaine** celebrated the marriage of their oldest grandson **Matthew Morgan** on June 22, 2013 in Richmond, KY.

**Roy Toney**, Retired DC, has traveled from the Great Lakes to the Gulf Coast so far this year. Right now he's in the process of planning an annual educational tour of the upper Midwest Region for the Anderson County (KY) Cattlemen's Association.

This is the 24<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> year of touring, organized by the county agent and Roy, which has taken the group to all 50 states, plus Mexico and Canada.



*Photo of Linda Derossitt and Steve Ewalt at Ewalt's Jewelry Store, 5/8/2013. Steve is evaluating jewelry Linda wants him to appraise.*

**Joe F. Roberts**, Retired Engineer, and **Loretta** are still going strong. Gardening, fishing and a lot of camping keep them busy and happy. **Joe** says, "That is the retirement dream." **Carl Hail**, Retired Soil Scientist, Shelbyville, KY, passed away June 4, 2013 at the age of 87. He is survived by his wife **Catherine**.



Retirees from left to right: **Steve Ewalt, Linda Fryman, Linda Derossitt, Martha Marsh, Betty Prows and Connie McKinney.**  
Photo by **Billy M. Haslett, 5/8/2013.**

## MASSACHUSETTS

**Jim Wesolowski, ARCSE Representative**  
**Email: [jim.wesoloski@gmail.com](mailto:jim.wesoloski@gmail.com)**

I'm sorry to report the passing of **Mike Whalen**, retired RC&D Coordinator. Mike was only 62 and had been retired a little over seven years. Mike was famous for taking on more assignments than any human could handle and when confronted with a missed deadline would respond "I'm working on that even as we speak." I don't think he ever came across a grant that couldn't be applied for or a project that couldn't be justified.

Word to the wise retiree: Be sure to eat dessert first"

It's been proven that people do read these reports! I got an email from **Hans Krauss**, retired State Conservation Agronomist, in Washington State. Hans was a student trainee at the Northampton Work Unit Office. in 1958 while a student at Cornell. I started with SCS in 1963 at the Northampton office so we both remembered **Vern Johnson**, Work Unit Cons; **Chet Konieczny**, Cons. Tech; and **Lorraine (Rain) Spencer**, Office Manager along with Soil Scientists **John Mott** and **Roger Henshaw**.

## MINNESOTA

**Marlene Mechelke, ARCSE Representative**  
**Email: [Mechgram@aol.com](mailto:Mechgram@aol.com)**

Howard Midje ([louisehoward@frontiernet.net](mailto:louisehoward@frontiernet.net)) sent the following note about how engineers started using computers in MN.

### ***The Beginning of Computer Design in Minnesota, By Howard C. Midje, Design Engineer***

*The first computer design that I'm aware of in Minnesota was the water surface profile of the Joe River Watershed. **Neils Anderson**, watershed planning engineer, had told me that **Charlie Murphy** had come to St. Paul in 1962 or 1963 to assist the planning staff in filling out the forms for the computer run. Previous to this time, **Ralph Hauswirth**, area engineer in Thief River Falls, had his engineering technicians develop water surface profiles or backwater curves upstream of culverts by using log tables with five significant digits. This occupied most of their time during the winter months, and the winters are long in Thief River.*

*In the late fall of 1963, I came to the watershed staff in St. Paul as assistant planning engineer. At the beginning of 1967 I was transferred to the engineering design unit and worked with **Donald Petersen**, design engineer. The Minnesota state office was moved from the Land Mark Center to the new Federal Building on Robert Street. Shortly after we had moved there, interest in computers increased. We learned that the source decks for the hydraulic programs were available to states if they had computer access. We began to search around the Twin Cities and found that the Food and Nutrient Service of the USDA had computer capabilities. The FNS's major responsibility at this location was to administer the National school lunch program. We set up an appointment, and this was about the time **Dick Wenberg** came to Minnesota as the assistant state engineer; so he went along to the meeting. The FNS was receptive to our proposal because we were also part of the USDA.*

*They were well staffed to help us. They had more than twenty full-time programmers. Two of them were assigned to assist us to implement the SCS programs, which included TR-20, Dams, WSP2, and Econ2. Within approximately two weeks they had our*

programs up and running. Their computer was a Univac 1107 in an air conditioned room with humidity control and an elevated floor, with subfloor cooling. They had 24 large tape drives in the computer room and had about 25 key punch operators. The FNS had a retired Marine whose full time job was to keep the computer room clean. You could have eaten your lunch off the floor.

We were quickly off and running. We had a set of TR-20 input data we had run on Lincoln's regional office, which took 30 minutes of computer time on the IBM 1130. We ran the same input on the Univac 1107, and it took 20 seconds. Within two years they updated their computer to a Univac 1108.

I then set up four training sessions for the area engineering staffs and the state office. We provided the input forms for the Dams, TR-20, and WSP2 programs and encouraged them to mail their input to the design section. The Dams program was eventually updated to Dams2. We promised that they would have the results back in their office within a week. Input errors were corrected if runs failed. Our design unit technician was **David Rastorfer**, who had been an engineering technician in Missouri. He had moved to Minnesota to live with his father-in-law while he obtained his civil engineering degree at the University of Minnesota. To our benefit, his father-in-law lived very close to the FNS office in South Minneapolis. Upon graduation David went back to Hannibal, Missouri as the area engineer and eventually became the waste management engineer in Missouri.

Within a short time a computer meeting was set up at Fort Collins, Colorado and I was invited to come. There were about 12 to 15 in attendance and discussed the new SCS computer facility in Fort Collins. I believe our programs from Minnesota were transferred there. For years when I went to training sessions with people from the western states, they talked about the Minnesota programs.

This was a very rewarding time to work on the programs because we could try new concepts on the computer such as 10-day drawdown of reservoirs. Remember when you routed a principal spillway--you had to release 80 percent of the stored water or begin the emergency spillway routing at the point of the 10-day draw down. Routing of structures in series was also a challenge. We also developed backwater curves up the exit slopes of our larger emergency spillways or rock chutes. All these tasks were a challenge but a lot of fun. I also developed a hydraulic computer program to design a trapezoidal box inlet drop spillway for a given discharge. The program would proportion the box width and length, along with the exit section and minimize the volume of concrete used.

We also developed a method of writing our contract construction specifications on the computer. The last section of each specification in the Midwest Specifications was the "Items of work and construction details" which listed the specificities of the work on the given job. Many of the sentences and paragraphs were standard ones used from one job to another. We stored these in the computer with a three character code so they could be recalled at will when writing the "Items of work and construction details" for a new project. This procedure save a lot of time for our project engineers when preparing their specifications.

We designed a lot of dams using the Univac 1107. In the late 1960s, we had several counties in southeast Minnesota that constructed nearly 100 dams every construction season. District Conservationists **Gail Sickler**, Wabasha; **Grant Karlstad**, Olmsted; and **Bill Sillman**, Winona, were real structure promoters.

## MISSOURI

**Dave Rastorfer, ARCSE Representative**

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

On May 8<sup>th</sup> the Columbia area retirees met for breakfast at the Country Kitchen. In attendance were: **John and Carol McCarthy**, **Jack and Carol Cronhardt**, **Jack and Joyce Walker**, **Bob and Rosie Herschbach**, **Odie Swanegan**, **Jim Henry**, **Bob Laird**, **Virgil and Joy Gardner**, **Maurice and Gloria Davis**, **Frank and Kay Miller**, **Ed Smith**, **Mike Wells**, **Don and Barb Williams**, **Hugh Curry**, **Cordes Potter**, **Bob and Lenore Ball**, **Robert Hummel**, **Bill Pauls**, **John Turner** and **Dave Rastorfer**. The next breakfast will be on the second Wednesday of August and is open to everyone. The Springfield area retirees will have their next meeting on July 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 at the Golden Corral on North Kansas Expressway.

Recent retirees include **Gary Noel**, **Bob Hagedorn** and **Tom Hagedorn**. I'm sure I have missed some and hope that someone will let me know who they are.

**Lane Thurman:** I was down on Tablerock Lake yesterday. Didn't slay them but caught nine fish. I went early and came home early, nothing to brag about but they were biting early. We just got back on Monday from Baton Rouge, LA. We went to my No. 3 son's wedding down there, ate a lot of good Gulf seafood, had a good time all around, but a long trip. Speaking of which, **Nancy** and I are heading out on a long trip come mid-August and will be gone about three or four weeks in the RV. Heading to South Dakota, Custer State Park, the Badlands, then to Yellowstone for about a week and then to Glacier National Park for a few days, then heading home by way of Denver, about 3,000 miles or so.

**Dennis Shirk:** The pasture and hay growth has been EXCELLENT PLUS so far. Our spring ride and camping trip was the (pits). We encountered heat, cold, rain, hail, flooding, in four days of camping. Only one day fit for riding, which we did. We ride at 4.5 to 5 miles per hour, and we rode for about 6hrs., a good day. Our small garden is very late. Weather just didn't cooperate. I have a new phone #, 573-694-4403, and a new email address, [dennisshirk48@gmail.com](mailto:dennisshirk48@gmail.com). Feel free to call, text, or email me. Have a great summer. See ya down the trail.

**Rob Cheshire:** **Debra** and I are doing fine. Debra, who is now retired from working for state government for many years, is working as a Crime Victim Advocate for the Audrain County Prosecutor's Office in Mexico. She is involved in some very heinous stuff – spousal abuse (male-on-female, female-on-male), child abuse (physical, sexual, and other), and all sorts of other heinous situations. She spends a lot of time interviewing and counseling crime victims and

attending court sessions. She is not yet ready to finally retire for good. We have a small acreage (2.5 acres) and I am kept busy with mowing, tree and shrub trimming, mulching our numerous flower beds and other areas, watering (luckily we have a good and dependable well), fixing up things, etc. We recently remodeled our kitchen – all new appliances, new sink and faucet, and new quartz countertops. We are planning a driving trip this coming September to the Blue Ridge Parkway and Skyline Drive (in the Shenandoah Valley). We will traverse Virginia from Fancy Gap northward to Front Royal. There is so much to see, especially great scenery and geology (I am a retired SCS/NRCS geologist), as well as Civil War and other history. Should be a great trip!

**Paula Price:** Alan was hospitalized from February 7<sup>th</sup> to June 7<sup>th</sup> at KU Medical Center, Kindred Hospital (Long Term Acute Care), and North Kansas City Hospital Rehab. The residuals of his stem cell transplant of 2009 are all consuming. We remain thankful Alan is cancer free and hoping he stays that way. We are praying for our insurance company to cover a new drug in clinical trials that will eliminate Graft vs. Host Disease and allow Alan to get off Prednisone, which will result in a restored immune system and the ability to "live life" a little. It's new HOPE on this long cancer road that started September 2008. Please pray with us that Alan receives the new drug. He works so hard to just move and walk with a walker! I'm in a world unknown to both of us and trying to hold on! Just hoping Alan will remain well enough for me to do some volunteering or find a temp job, primarily for peace of mind. SO, with this said. WE HOPE none of you are experiencing anything like this in your retirement. Whether you are or not PLEASE do all you can do and enjoy every day to the fullest.

**Ed Smith:** Not much going on at the Smiths, unless you call a Dr. appointment or two every week something. I'm trying to keep up with yard work and playing golf usually twice (at least) a week. Enjoying our Great-Grandson a lot and getting our oldest Grandson married this weekend in Kansas City. They will be living and working in Columbia after the honeymoon. That's all folks!

**Bob Harryman:** We are still in Bethany where my oldest daughter, **Tammy**, is married to the owner of Pettijohn Auto Center. June 15 was my 76<sup>th</sup> birthday and the 16<sup>th</sup> was our 51<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary. No big trips planned this year. We are planning a Harryman reunion at the home place on Elk River in MacDonald County, MO over the July 4 weekend. We have a fair-sized garden with 36 tomatoes planted plus corn, strawberries, potatoes and several other things. I was trying to get back to some golf but the cart wouldn't start, so I'm trying to find the problem before I take it back to the dealer in Cameron. It seems like we need to allow more time for doctors' appointments and funerals. Have any of you noticed that? However I am in good health for my age. I do about everything I want to do except tall ladders and house tops. Can't keep up with the runners in my family either. I'm on the tech team (We prepare the slide show each Sunday) at church and I do a children's sermon once a month. Also I'm chairman of the church board. Someone told me one time that when you retire, "You can sit down and rust and you'll last a few years or you can stay busy and wear out in several years". I prefer to stay busy. It is raining as I write this so I can't work on my golf cart, nor work in the garden nor mow weeds or grass. So I'm trying to keep my brain active. Best wishes to you all. Hope you can have some fun each week.

**Jay Lingwall:** **Leigh** and I are back in the in Missouri for the summer. We are enjoying our new place in Monroe County, but I am fighting with the muskrats over control of the little lake. The volleyball team wanted us back for the summer sand league (they were desperate for players I think). So far we are 3-0, and some of the young people look so surprised when old people beat them. Two granddaughters will be here for a week, and we keep busy visiting with family and friends. Leigh is training for a 10K road race and I am trying to keep up. In July we will drive to Idaho for a week-long Jeep trip in the mountains and then to Montana to visit friends. From there we plan to head south to Utah and get lost for a few weeks.

**Keith Davis:** Hope you're all having a good summer. I feel like I am. I've been hitting it hard and steady on my shop. I think I may finish the walls tomorrow. Then will come the trusses, roof, etc. But that will have to wait a bit because we will be spending some time in Gulf Shores, AL with family next week. I've been fishing a couple of times and brought home some fillets each time. I spot-sprayed my CRP ground at the farm and did safety checks on all our deer stands. Take care.

**Frank Miller:** **Kay** and **Frank** have been keeping busy around the house and yard with flowers and garden. The last week of June and first week of July will be on the road a lot and filled with family visiting. We're headed to Colorado last week of June for a family reunion with Kay's family for three days, then the next three days with Frank's family for their Reunion. Will be in and at Estes Park, CO. We will be bringing Kay's cousin from Arkansas back with us, then to Branson to meet her husband. Then Kay's cousin from KS and brother from Tucson, AZ are coming to visit us. The first part of August we go to Hutchinson, KS to a great nephew's wedding. Along the way will visit with our Granddaughter in Derby, KS. Return home and stay close to the AC until September and October. Those months we will be traveling to Geneva, NE and Springfield, MO to attend Kay's Pen Pal Gatherings. Hope everybody has a great summer.

**John McCarthy** has shared some SCS history documents that he had from **Otto Griesel** (retired and deceased Engineering Specialist in the State Office). It's interesting to read about his history with CCC and then to the SCS. I will share those with you in a future email. I think you will find it interesting.

## MONTANA

**Dick Gooby, ARCSE Representative**

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

### Montana Big Sky Report

**Jim Johnson Report:** We attended the SCS Retiree Breakfast on June 5<sup>th</sup>--there were 18 in attendance. **Frank Schledorn** was there, and he was fortunate to have recently participated in the Big Sky Honor Flight for World War II Veterans from all over Montana. The flight is periodically done from Billings to Washington, D.C., and in approximately two days. Participants are able to see and experience the memorial constructed in their honor in our nation's Capitol. Everyone at breakfast was impressed with Frank's enthusiasm over his experience and the information from the Big Sky Honor Flight that he passed around for everyone to see.

**Scott Hoag Report:** **Scott** and **Nancy** spent the last 4 weeks leading an RV Care-A-Vanner build at the Habitat for Humanity house in Belgrade. Twenty-two people from all around the United States participated over the 4 weeks to bring the house nearly to completion. Sinks, toilets, countertops, and carpet remain to be installed. We were also in the process of beginning to have a home built for ourselves, but after 5 months of planning and anticipating, "the wheels came off," (the contractor still hadn't broken ground) and we won't be continuing with that project. God's timing is and was perfect.

**Gordon Decker Report:** We spent a few days on the family ranch in Eastern Montana enjoying the greenery after a generous amount of rain in May. We spent time spraying noxious weeds, found using GPS recordings from previous years. Also recorded several more sites that showed up this year. Another highlight of the trip was a community "get together" at the local Sayle Community Hall which has not been used for about 10 years (had to have the local REA turn on the power). Party started in late afternoon, with beer, BBQ and a Pot Luck Dinner, then music and dancing. Not many places these days where you will see Grandkids dancing with Grand Parents. There was one family with 4 generations present and at least 3 other families with 3 generations. Ages ranged from 9 months to 80-plus years. The elders (including us) started heading home about sundown leaving the younger to stay, have fun, and possibly camp out for the night.

**Gooby Ranch Report:** For the past few months I've noticed that it's getting daylight earlier every morning. I'm wondering if that is caused by global warming. Crested wheat grass grows well in low rainfall areas. But it's been so dry around here the crested wheat grass never greened up this spring. We don't have any pasture to turn the cows out on since there is no grass growing. We have been irrigating the lawn around the house so it will grow some grass that we can turn some cows out on. NRCS came out and developed a grazing plan. We can only pasture two cows on the lawn since we had to divide the lawn into 36 units. The cows have to be moved into a new unit every day since we need to rest the grazing unit 36 days before we can graze it again. We would have divided the lawn into 72 units so we could move the cows twice a day but the cows wouldn't have room enough to turn around. *Editor's Note: This is not a normal grazing plan.*

It's so dry the ducks have moved into our yard so they can have some water. The stock tanks are covered with ducks. I'm going to check with NRCS to see if the stock tanks will qualify for the wetlands reserve program. **Mary Ann** set up an area so the ducks can have nests. So far she has been able to take five dozen duck eggs to the farmers market to sell each Saturday. Since ducks eggs are bigger than hens' eggs, Mary Ann has been able to get a premium. I'm wondering if Mary Ann keeps gathering the eggs out of the duck nests if they will keep laying eggs like chickens do. She said she can't wait until the geese move in so she has another source of eggs to sell.

We don't have very many insect-eating birds this year. Since it is so dry I think the birds knew there wouldn't be the insects like there have been in the past when we have had decent moisture, so they have moved on to greener pasture. We have a million dandelions growing in the lawn/cow pasture, so Mary Ann contacted the beekeeper in our area to bring a hive over, since the drought has drastically reduced the flowering rangeland plants. Now that the bees are here, the few birds we have have a food supply.

We had a cow that had one toe that was way longer than the other one, and her foot got so sore she could barely walk. **Mary Ann** decided we needed to trim her toe. We managed to get her in the cattle chute, but we couldn't get near her toe so **Mary Ann** could trim it. After doing everything we could think of, we decided to turn her out of the chute and I would cow-wrestle her. At the rodeos they call it steer-wrestling or bull-dogging, but you can't steer-wrestle a cow. The plan was when I finally get the cow wrestled to the ground, **Mary Ann** would tie the other three feet together so she couldn't get up. That sounded like a plan. **Mary Ann** opened the head chute and I grabbed the cow. A 2 day old calf does not have near the strength a 1500 lb. cow has. I made 110 trips around the corral before **Mary Ann** was able to heel the cow. After about 10 more trips dragging us around, the cow stopped and laid down. **Mary Ann** grabbed her pigging string and tied up three feet while I got the horseshoeing clippers. I held the cow's head while **Mary Ann** clipped the cow's toe. It's amazing how far and how many times a cow can kick one leg in the air while she is lying down. One time I counted **Mary Ann** doing four summersaults and three back flips. To top it off,

twice she landed on her feet. Finally, after about half an hour riding the fast moving cow's leg, Mary Ann got her toe trimmed.

## NEBRASKA

**Norman** and **Sylvia Kempf**, ARCSE Representatives

Email: [nkempf@neb.rr.com](mailto:nkempf@neb.rr.com), [skempf@neb.rr.com](mailto:skempf@neb.rr.com)

President, **Gary Muckel**, called the May meeting to order with 15 attending. **Gus Dornbusch** called the June meeting to order with 18 people attending. **Pete Jensen** and **Don Manley** reported that as of now they have been retired for more than 30 years – as many years as many employees worked! I'm sure there are many on the ARSCE rolls that can claim the same. **Steve Stover** was surprised when he ran into **Jim Carr** at Walmart in Arizona where both were wintering. Small world!

**Wedding Anniversaries reported:** **Norm** and **Sylvia Kempf's** 50<sup>th</sup>; **Steve** and **Jan Stover's** 60<sup>th</sup>; **Lou** and **Evelyn Buller's** 58<sup>th</sup>; **Gus** and **Donna Dornbusch's** 16<sup>th</sup>, and **Norm** and **Linda Helzer's** 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Steve** and **Jan Stover** had a glitch or two celebrating their anniversary – Steve set two alarm clocks in their hotel in Kansas City. In the middle of the night one went off and he couldn't seem to shut it down, so finally unplugged it. He still heard it, so decided it was the other one and had the same problem with it. Jan finally decided it was the smoke alarm, so he punched it and it went off, only to come back loudly about 10 minutes later. He finally disarmed it and they finished their night of sleep. They were surprised the next morning when everyone in the lobby was talking about the "fire alarm." They went to a dinner theater the next night, but the lead actor walked out in the middle of the play and it was "curtains" for the performance.

**Travel reports:** **Norma** and **Linda Helzer** made two "sandhills safari" trips – catching migrating warblers and shorebirds. **Norm Kempf** and **Jim Culver** went to Canada on a fishing trip, and the story is that Jim caught a 43-inch northern, and Norman caught a 27-inch walleye. The group questioned the fish stories, but Honest Abe they have pictures to back up their stories. **Sylvia Kempf** is now well enough for the Kempf's to do some traveling, and they have been to Omaha for an El Divo concert, Branson (where they saw 7 shows), and South Dakota to attend the funeral of Norman's last Aunt and to attend a 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of her cousin where Sylvia was a bride's maid. While in SD, **Norman** took time to spend several days fishing on Lake Oahe near Mobridge and enjoy the local golf courses. **Gus** and **Donna Dornbusch** entertained grandchildren this month, taking them to the Ashfall Fossil Beds in northeast Nebraska. They also spent time in Oklahoma and were in El Reno a few days before the tornado hit there.

**Health Notice:** **Dave Langemeier** started a new course of chemotherapy in May. He and **Sandy** made a quick trip to Austin Texas to visit family before he started it. Knee replacements continue to be the topic of conversation among retirees – **Patricia Camper** one of the latest, and **Virginia Adkins** has one coming up in June.

## NEW YORK

**Nancy Lee**, ARCSE Representative

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

**Paul Dodd** has written a new book classified as a historic-juvenile and entitled, "My Invisible Friend," written with his great grandson in mind. The book is based on the fact that, when **Paul** was quite young, he wondered what George Washington would think if he could observe the world that we were living in. As a result, **Paul** would anticipate his questions and try to find answers for him. If you have any youngsters that you would like to introduce old George to, or expose them to rural life in the mid-twentieth century, you can get a copy for \$12 from **Paul** at [rosepaul1@msn.com](mailto:rosepaul1@msn.com).

**David Kitchie** writes: My wife **Sharon** and I have had an eventful 2013. This January we rented a condo on North Padre Island which is east of Corpus Christi, TX on the Gulf of Mexico. It was enjoyable to miss a part of the winter weather while enjoying the sun and warmer temps of South Texas. Upon arriving in New York, winter greeted us and stuck around for another two months. In February met up with a group of other retired NRCSers from Area 1 for lunch. In March, Sharon and I started a 90-hour (classroom and outdoor) academy sponsored by the Oswego County Search and Rescue. The course work included advanced first aid, CPR, instruction in using compass and GPS, and field work in search and recovery techniques. We passed all the tests and now are available to assist law enforcement agencies in Oswego and neighboring counties when needed to search in forested/wilderness settings for lost persons (i.e., hunters, lost children, or Alzheimer patients). Sharon continues to serve on boards of several organizations and work part-time teaching Nursing classes for Keuka College and Upstate Medical College in Syracuse. **Dave** is working part-time at a local plumbing supply business. He will be working with Penn State University, NY-NRCS and FSA to teach a one-day course in developing a conservation plan for CRP for Technical Service Providers at Cornell's Experimental Farm in Geneva, NY. **Dave** also volunteers as a member of the Board of Directors of the Fulton NY YMCA, for the church we attend, and volunteers at the Beaver Lake Nature Center west of Baldwinsville, NY.

**Ellen Luchsinger**, Engineering Technician for the Albany Area Office, will be joining the ranks of the retired on July 1<sup>st</sup> after 40 years of service. She is looking forward to a summer of kayaking, camping, gardening, travel, family and

house repairs! **Rich Redman** writes that he is writing a column called "Conservation Conversations" for a local newspaper, the Times of Ticonderoga. He also got accepted into the NYS Outdoor Writer Association. **Erwin Rice** writes that he has discovered that getting to be over ninety years old really does slow a person down. **Erwin** and wife **Gwenn** were able to go to grandson's high school graduation in Colorado. **Erwin** took part in the track events in the NYS Senior Games at Cortland College. **Gwenn** celebrated her 85<sup>th</sup> birthday with family visiting a visit to the Genesee County Historic Museum.

**Mary Jane Loverock**, 92, died on May 29, 2013 with her family by her side. Mary Jane retired from USDA Soil Conservation Service in 1983 as a secretary to the Soil Scientists in NY. She is survived by nine children.

## NORTH CAROLINA

**Jim Canterbury, ARCSE Representative**

Email: [jhcanter@bellsouth.net](mailto:jhcanter@bellsouth.net)

**North Carolina SCS/NRCS Retirees' Picnic**—On May 10, fifty-one SCS/NRCS North Carolina retirees, spouses and guests gathered for their annual picnic at Lake Crabtree near Raleigh. Lake Crabtree is part of the Wake County Park system and is one of the structures in the Crabtree Creek P.L. 566 Watershed Project. State Administrative Officer gave a status report on NRCS programs, personnel and budget.

**Senior Conservationist**, Ed Brewer, 90 years old, was recognized as the oldest retiree in attendance. Other Senior Conservationists in attendance were **Everette Barefoot**, **Elwood Guthrie**, **Leonard Kilian**, and **Lawrence Matheson**. Of the above Senior Conservationists, Barefoot, Brewer, and Matheson served in WW II. We have identified 82 former North Carolina SCS employees who served in World War II. Only nineteen are still living.

Attending the picnic were: **Everette Barefoot**, **Ed and Betty Brewer**, **Lipe and Renda Barrier**, **Bobby Brock**, **Jim and Becki Canterbury**, **Nancy Clary**, **Sidney Tew**, **Albert and Susan Coffey**, **Tommy Cutts**, **Frank and Loretta Evans**, **Coy and Barbara Garrett**, **Harry and Elaine Gibson**, **Randy and Martha Jo Giessler**, **Charlie Godley**, **Don Griffin**, **Elwood Guthrie**, **James Guthrie**, **Ed Helmey**, **John and Maggie Hill**, **Howard Hobson**, **Ed Holland**, **Virginia Horton**, **Joe Kenyon**, and **Leonard Kilian**.

Also attending were **Jane LaBounty**, **Roger and Rebecca Leab**, **Harold Lile**, **Lawrence Matheson**, **Margaret White**, **Warren and Betsy Mincey**, **Phyllis Pate**, **Dora Richardson**, **Cecil Settle**, **Wayne and Alice Short**, **Horace Smith**, **Lloyd "Pat" Tyndall**, **A. B. Whitley**, **Talmadge and Margie Wiggins**.



*Senior Conservationist attending the North Carolina Retiree's Picnic.  
L-R: Lawrence Matheson, Everette Barefoot, Elwood Guthrie, Leonard Kilian, and Ed Brewer.*

**Fran Zaik** and wife, **Barbara** took a 12-day trip to northern Poland this past May, along with retired NRCS STC Margo Wallace and her husband, Bill Michaud. We started our trip in the capital city, Warsaw, visiting Wilanow Palace, the residence of King John Sobieski, and then to Old Town Warsaw along the banks of the Vistula River. From there we traveled to Zelazowa Wola, the birthplace of Fryderyk Chopin, the famous composer, and enjoyed a live concert from his original home.

Gniezno, the first capital of Poland, after the founding of the country some 1,000 years ago, is known for its Cathedral and 12<sup>th</sup> century two-winged bronze doors decorated with scenes of martyrdom of St. Wojciech and his relic coffin made of pure silver.

A short drive south to Biskupin has a reconstruction of an archaeological settlement discovered in 1933 on the lake of the same name that goes back to some 600 to 800 years BC. We then returned to and toured Old Town Torun, the birthplace of Nicholas Copernicus, known for his radical theory of placing the sun, rather than the earth, in the center of our solar system, as was the belief in his day. Torun is a jewel of architecture and one of the most beautiful historic cities in Poland. Renowned for its red brick buildings of Gothic design, it dates back to the Middle Ages and has one of two Teutonic Castles in the country.

The Teutonic Knights Castle in Malbork, constructed during the 12th century is a medieval fortress that is the largest castle in the world by surface area and the largest brick building in Europe. The outermost walls enclose some 52 acres, four times the acreage of the enclosed space of Windsor Castle in England. In 1945, during World War II

combat in the area, more than half the castle was destroyed. It is currently undergoing reconstruction, although the main cathedral is still in ruins.

Gdansk, a seaport on the Baltic Sea, is where the first battle of World War II took place at Westerplatte where a small garrison of Polish soldiers held off an attacking German force until forced to surrender after running out of supplies and ammunition. The nearby Gdansk shipyard is the birthplace of the Solidarity movement which, under the leadership of Lech Walesa in 1980, played a major role in bringing an end to Communist rule across Central Europe. The area has a Monument to the Fallen Shipyard Workers, consisting of three majestic crosses with anchors, symbols of hope, that were erected to commemorate the bloody victims of the workers' strikes against the communist regime in December 1970. Also in the city is the Oliwa Cathedral, first erected as a Cistercian shrine in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century. After an early fire, it was reconstructed in the Gothic style as a triple-aisle, vaulted basilica built on the plan of the Latin cross. It also is the longest church in Poland, hosting the Rococo organ, dating from the period of late 16<sup>th</sup> century, that when built, was the largest in Europe.

A long trip to the east across northern Poland brought us to Kętrzyn and the nearby Wolf's Lair,

Adolf Hitler's headquarters in (then) East Prussia. This compound contains over 80 buildings, including massive bunkers for high-ranking German officials. On the way south back to Warsaw, we stopped at a nearby village of Swieta Lipka to tour the same named 15<sup>th</sup> century Marian Shrine. This unchanged late Baroque Architecture hosts ornamentation of stone and wooden sculptures, wall and canvas paintings, goldsmiths' and wood-carvers' objects together with artistic blacksmith work and ironwork masterpieces seldom encountered anywhere. We then returned home from Warsaw, along with the other 14 tour members of our group, led by a native of Poland who now resides in nearby Swansboro, NC.



**Barb and Fran Zaik along with Margo Wallace and Bill Michaud on the shore of the Baltic Sea in Gdansk**

## **NORTH DAKOTA**

### ***Robert A. Bird, ARCSE Representative***

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

We are looking forward to our Annual State SCS/NRCS Reunion on September 19, 2013 for a noon luncheon at the Bismarck Elks Lodge Room. Last year we had 34 attend. Usually it is a larger group, but increased gas prices and many attendees getting too old to travel to Bismarck have lowered our attendance. We hope to have someone from the NRCS State office to update the group on changes to the agency, but it is mainly a get-together for catching up and visiting.

We lost some members recently with the passing of **Stuart Larson**, who was a soil scientist in Grand Forks, ND, when I was there in the 70s. **Vi Nybo** was in the state office when I started. I recently had attended Otto Victor's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday (husband of my former Area Clerk **Mina Victor**) in Bismarck before his death. And **Marc Vrem's wife, Mary Ann**, who attended many of our annual reunions, also passed away. See the In Memoriam section for obituaries. I hear that Marc has moved into an assisted living facility so he may not be coming to any more reunions. I heard that **Abner Lee** had a hip replaced, so I hope he is able to travel to our reunion in September.

Jeannie and I spent part of the winter at four timeshares in Texas this winter, and we may be going to try to escape some of the next winter also. Winters in North Dakota aren't as much fun as they used to be. We also were at a timeshare in Spirit Lake, IA, in May. Our next trip is Jeannie's family reunion in Miles City, MT. Then we'll be in Reno, NV, for the SWCS National Conference, where Bob will receive the Fellow Award from the Society. Individuals in the North Dakota Chapter will be picking up five awards from the Society: Outstanding Service, **Richard Webb**; Commendation, **Michelle Jezeski**; Harold and Kay Scholl Conservation Excellence Award, **Lee Briese**; Conservation Research, **Dave Archer**; and **Bob Bird**, Fellow Award). Looking forward to seeing many retirees return for our reunion on September 19, noon, at the Bismarck Elks.

## OKLAHOMA

**Randy Freeland, ARCSE Representative**

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

On April 26, 2013, the Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees met at the Golden Corral Buffet Restaurant in Oklahoma City, OK. Forty people were in attendance: **Ed Abernathy, Bob Bumgarner, Charlie Cail, Steve Chessmore, Everett and Helen Cole, Wayne Fjeseth, Fred and Gayle Fortney, Randy and Bonnie Freeland, Lloyd Garrison, David Haggard, Thelma Jean Herndon and son Royce, Sandra and Terry Hough, Winnie Jaques, Bill Johnson, Otho Lamar, Nick Lambeth, Jim McCampbell, Lowell and Minnie McMasters, Tim and Margaret Miller, Gordon and Minnie Moebius, Herbert Moody, Nelson Mueller, Glen and Eunice Mullen, John and Joy Pewthers, Stan Rice, Gayland Sandy, John and Shirley Spitzer, and Roland and June Willis.**

The Oklahoma SCS/NRCS retiree website ([www.cyber-shack.net/nrcs/](http://www.cyber-shack.net/nrcs/)) has been helpful in our efforts to keep retirees informed. This website also has a posting of the attendees, minutes, newsletters, and pictures from each of our meetings. **Bill Porter**, current ASTC for Water Resources, manages the website for the retirees who very much appreciate it.

Eight new retirees have been added to the Oklahoma retiree list since we last met: **Greg Scott**, State Soil Scientist, Stillwater, 37 years; **Lanny Miller**, Asst. State Conservationist (FO), Stillwater, 35+ years; **Brad Elder**, Soil Conservationist, Anadarko, 38.5 years; **Ron Schmidt**, District Conservationist, Cordell, 25 years; **Ron Hilliard**, State Conservationist, Stillwater, 37 years; **Ann Colyer**, Tribal Resource Conservationist, Durant; **Shelley Hungerford**, Administrative Assistant, Stillwater, 23 years; and **Cherrie Brown**, District Conservationist, Boise City.

**Fred Fortney** read a list of recent retiree deaths: **Joe Lansford**, Sulphur, 1/17/13, 97 yrs. old; **Charles Harmon**, Edmond, 11/12/12, 71 yrs. old; **Gene Womack**, Perry, 2/18/13, worked in Cheyenne WO and Perry AO in 1960's; **Ron Mathiews**, Eufaula, 1/26/13, retired in 1993 as SCT at Eufaula; **Billie Sites**, Norman, 1/8/13, wife of **George Sites**, Engineer, retired in late 1980's; **Danny McCook**, 1/25/13, Marlow WO, 69 yrs. old; **Vivian Cagle**, Stillwater, 1/18/13, wife of **John Cagle**; **Clarence Hughes**, SCT, Holdenville, 3/13/13, retired 1994; **Fred Jones**, Tulsa; **Hadley Meinders**, 4/20/13, 90 yrs. old, retired 1980 from Purcell/Norman; **Denny Runnels**, son of Dan and Sharon Runnels, passed away 4/1/13; **Michelle Williams**, Tulsa CD Secretary, 11/30/12, 57 yrs. old; **Dr. Jim Stritzke**, 2/13, Professor at OSU who worked with many SCS/NRCS employees; and **Novalene Norton**, retired District Secretary, Sulphur 4/2013. A moment of silence was observed and **Fred** offered a prayer.



New Retiree Tim Miller and wife Margaret

**Tim Miller** introduced himself as a first time attendee along with his wife **Margaret**. **Tim** retired in June 2012 and spends most of his time operating a Polled Hereford cattle ranch, church activities, and playing with seven grandchildren. **Roland Willis** shared that he and **June** continue to enjoy living in the country. They garden a little and have a few fruit trees. They also enjoy being close to nature and wildlife. Deer and turkey are common place. They have a few martins this year and saw a wood duck enter the wood duck box down by a new pond recently. When Moore, Oklahoma was hit by tornado in 1999, it also took out Mulhall, Oklahoma. The little sand stone Methodist Church in Mulhall was built in 1894 and was one of the few buildings left standing after the tornado. A Habitat for Humanity crew helped build a home there after the storm.

Later, **June** and **Roland** decided to move their membership from Stillwater to the Methodist church in Mulhall. **Roland** also mentioned that he and **June** will celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in July 2013.

**Steve Chessmore** said he was living in the Oklahoma City Area and spends his time hanging out with his grandson and traveling to Virginia to see his granddaughter. **Lowell McMasters** reported that **Ferris Allgood**, former Soil Scientist at Woodward, had authored a book, Christmas 1941. It is available online. **Ferris** retired as the State Soil Scientist in Salt Lake City, UT.

**Fred and Gayle Fortney** continue to live at Stillwater where they support and attend most of Oklahoma State University sporting events. Both volunteer in activities at the Methodist Church and the community Resale Store. **Fred** had four-bypass heart surgery in February but has recovered and is doing well. They just returned from spending a week at Branson, MO. Last summer they spent several days at Estes Park, CO and then the weekend with their son and daughter-in-law at Fort Collins. Last fall they had a condo for a week at Pigeon Forge, TN where they enjoyed the change of the beautiful leaves in the Smoky Mountains.

**David Haggard** has been working for M&E Consultants as a Project Engineer on the rehabilitation of five watershed sites in Oklahoma. He has enjoyed getting re-acquainted with the watershed program and the NRCS staff in

Oklahoma, and worked with Oklahoma retirees **Dean Cook** and **Raymond Lee**, as well as **Don Shanklin** and several retirees from Texas.

"Flashes from the Past" was presented by **Randy and Bonnie Freeland**. They had scanned photos from a 1977 State Awards Program booklet and presented a PowerPoint video for the enjoyment of those in attendance. Many of the award recipients were present at the meeting. **Roland Willis** was the State Conservationist at the time of the awards program. **Ed Thomas**, Assistant Administrator for Land Resources in Washington D.C. in 1977 was also pictured.

The next meeting was scheduled for Friday, October 25, 2013, at the Golden Corral Buffet, 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.

This newsletter insert is being submitted after the May 20<sup>th</sup> tornadoes in Moore, Oklahoma and other locations in Oklahoma the day before. We retirees in Oklahoma just want the rest of the country to know we appreciate your thoughts, prayers, physical and financial support for the loss of life and property during that time. We will persevere as we are Oklahoma Strong!



**Roland and June Willis**

## OREGON

**Don Stettler, ARCSE Representative**

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

We welcome **Bruce Newton** to the retiree ranks. At retirement, Bruce was the director of the West National Technology Support Center, a position he held since July 2004. A retirement party was held for him on June 13<sup>th</sup> at Salty's on the Columbia. Bruce has plans to do lots of fly fishing. At least he now has the gear to pursue that interest. The Oregon summer quarter retiree lunch will be on July 24<sup>th</sup> at the Tanasbourne The Old Spaghetti Factory.

## PENNSYLVANIA

**William Bowers, ARSCE Representative**

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

**Jim Mays** is in Hershey Medical Center with severe bleeding, especially in the brain, from the high levels of Coumadin used for thinning the blood. Please keep Jim in your thoughts and prayers for the doctors to stop the bleeding and for a complete recovery.

Following is an update on the condition of Jim Mays, provided by **Wayne** and **Maryann Grube**. Maryann and I went to see Jim Mays today in the critical care unit at the Hershey Med Center. He is not doing so well. He had a second stroke last night which did damage to his left side. He knew who we were but was confused. Doctors are trying to reduce the brain swelling that has occurred. The bleeding seems under control. Keep praying for his recovery. He understood that you had notified all the members and they were praying for him. Thanks be to God, Jim will recover again.

Following is an update from **Elizabeth "Liz" Zimmerman**, former Lebanon Area Clerk. Please note her request and keep her and her husband in your thoughts and prayers. "Many of you will remember me as the former Area Clerk/Area Computer Specialist in the Lebanon Technical Center. I have been caring for my husband, **Jim**, in our home for over 3 years. I have been his sole caregiver during his extended illness. Finally this week it was necessary to place him in a nursing home. He is in the Sprang Crest Nursing Home in Lebanon, PA. Please remember us in your prayers. My home address is: 9 Vista Drive, Fredericksburg, PA 17026."

**Dick Howell**, who is still working as a technician in the Huntingdon Field Office under the ACES older worker program, is suffering from pancreatic cancer and is not doing well. I am sure Dick would appreciate hearing from his friends and co-workers from the past. Dick's address is 8575 Standing Stone Rd, Huntingdon, PA 16652.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

**Mark W. Berkland, ARCSE Representative**

Email: [mberkland@homesc.com](mailto:mberkland@homesc.com)



**James Williams took the group photo**

Row 1 (L-R): **Sylvia Williams, Laurely Nance, Carolyn Glasgow**

Row 2 (L-R): **Mark Berkland, Larry Robinson, Luke Nance, Ellis Morrow**

Back Row (L-R): **Peter Zeck, Grady Adkins, Niles Glasgow, Jimmy Sanders, Dan Guy**

The South Carolina retirees had their spring luncheon on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013. The Luncheon was held at Ryan's Family Steakhouse in Orangeburg, SC. **James Williams** made arrangements for us to eat lunch and after the meeting several attendees attended the Orangeburg Festival of Roses held at the Rose Garden in Orangeburg.

Retirees attending included: **James** and **Sylvia Williams**, **Ellis Morrow**, **Dan Guy**, **Jimmy Sanders**, **Niles** and **Carolyn Glasgow**, **Grady Adkins** and **Luke** and **Laurely Nance**. We were very pleased to have two first time attendees, **Peter Zeck** and **Larry Robinson**.

This will be my last contribution to the newsletter as the South Carolina ARCSE Representative (**Mark Berkland**). I will be moving out of state, and **Byron Thompson** has agreed to take over. I have worked with and known **Byron** for several years. He is an outstanding leader and will excel as the South Carolina ARCSE Representative.

## TEXAS (NORTH AREA)

**Arnold King, ARCSE Representative**

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

### MEMBER NEWS:

The SCS/NRCS Alumni Club met on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013 at St Ann's Catholic Church, Burleson, TX. Refreshments were provided by **Joyce Petty** and **Dennis Erinakes**.

Twelve members were present for the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting: **Earl Blakley, Elaine** and **Billy Don Davis, Don Newman, Anita Plummer, Bernie** and **Maxine Owen, Joyce Petty, Joe Nichols, Harland Dietz, Dave Drennan, and Dennis Erinakes**. **Dave Drennan** presided over the meeting, as President **Marie Garsjo** was attending a Geology Convention in Denver, CO. Treasurer.

Sharing reports from friends in the path of the May 15<sup>th</sup> EF category 4 Granbury tornado was the first concern of the day. **Willeene King** had responded to **Mike Woodson**: "We had hail, rain, and wind but the tornado hit across Granbury from us. None of us SCS people had damage." **Henry** and **Deanna Bogusch** responded to **Michael Bogard**, "Thank you for checking on us. We had hail, wind and over 5 inches of rain. The only damage was our neighbor's barn landing on our fence." **Rhett** and **Sharon Johnson** also reported "it missed us, no bad damage." Others attending the meeting reported similar stories. Our condolences to the many outside of our group who had extensive damage or who lost their lives in the 16 reported tornados in the area that evening.

**Joyce Petty** reported she had visited with **Don Kapalka**. **Don** came home from his lengthy hospital stay on May 11<sup>th</sup>. He was doing well but had banged up his hand navigating his walker through the narrower spaces at home. He stated it was good to be home.



*The 20<sup>th</sup> annual Texas SCS/NRCS Employees' Reunion, April 2013 in New Braunfels, TX, reunion was attended by five of the living retired TX state conservationists: (L to R) Ed Thomas, John Burt, Billy Griffin, Don Gohmert, and Larry Butler. The two STCs not present are: Coy Garret and Wes Oneth.*

#### Member News:

We are saddened to report **DeWayne** and **Freddie Williams'** son **Jeff** passed away May 10, 2013. **Jeff** had been cared for in a hospice facility for more than a year following treatment for lung cancer. **Freddie** wanted to thank all of those who have been holding them in prayer and offering their support during this difficult time. She wanted all to know they have been comforted by 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4:7, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith." **Jeff** requested there be no funeral service or notice in the paper. He wanted his friends to remember him for who he truly was.

**Joe Nichols** said **Calvin Jackson** fell and broke his hip. He will be in the rehabilitation hospital the rest of the month. **Joe** also had a pleasant visit with **Jim Coover's** daughter in a chance encounter last month. **Joyce Petty** fills her days with volunteer work for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) in Hood and Hill Counties. **Elaine Davis** said they are sending their grandson off to the Marines on July 3<sup>rd</sup> in San Diego. They hope to be able to go to his graduation. **Billy Don** said he spends many of his days playing dominos. One day he played from 10:00am to 10:00pm with the Home Owners Association! **Anita Plummer** said **Betty Sisson** sent her greetings to everyone. **Betty** was on a trip to Tennessee.

**Bernie Owen** and his son, **Steve**, made a quick trip to **Bernie's** home town, Kinsley, KS, to surprise an old friend. **Jim Hoy** was making a presentation at the Library on Cowboys in Kansas. It was definitely a surprise and a good reunion. They even had their picture on the front page of the Kinsley Sentinel.

**Dennis Erinakes** has been traveling and has missed the past several meetings. He is involved with the Chisholm Trail Club that was organized to provide insurance for the families of first responders that were injured or killed while volunteering to assist disaster victims. Recently they have had two big events, including a Clay Pigeon shoot, to raise money for the 10 responders to the explosion in West, Texas, as well as a set-aside for future needs. **Dennis's** son is involved with the Texas State legislature. He is frustrated that instead of dealing with the water bill, they have argued about whether to allow ranchers to shoot sheep and goats that stray onto their property. **Dennis** was in Waco with a group of over 100 from different disciplines in an all-day workshop dealing with drought and climatology. They have forecast a large problem. The Ellenburg Aquifer is a saline aquifer that is two miles below the surface. The gas industry has been dumping chemical-laden fracking water into the aquifer. The Ellenburg has been regarded as an additional water supply, if treated for saline, but the contamination may nullify this as a potential future water source. The North Texas Municipal Water District has the authority to write and enforce regulations for four counties and is integrating their work with other districts. He referred to the Sands Wetlands in Seagoville. The Trinity River was contaminated by waste water upstream. This river water has been cleansed as it flows through lush organic man-made wetlands. They installed a huge pumping station that moves all of this water from the wetlands back up to Lake Lavon, where it is held for future needs, increasing available water by 40%.

**Dennis** attended a 2-day workshop on white tail deer management. They met all day and covered diseases on everything related to the deer and their environment. There is a dinosaur dig in North Arlington that is available to the public. For more information on the Arlington Archosaur Site go to: <http://www.arlingtonarchosaursite.com/>. The Huffines Group granted land-access to UTA for this excavation. The Perot Museum of Nature and Science is another local

attraction that is located in downtown Dallas. Learn more at <http://www.perotmuseum.org/visit-the-museum/index.html>. **Dennis Erinakes** recently visited **Jim** and **Alma Hyland** in Lincoln, Nebraska. They are in the process of selling their home and moving into a condo.

**Harland Dietz** claimed he has lost massive amounts of television time due to disaster reports from around the country! The majority of his time is spent hauling old people to appointments! **Don Newman** said they met their attendance goal for the Texas State Alumni meeting. It was a very good meeting, and the Lucky Ladies from Fort Worth once again won prizes! **Michael Bogard** sent a series of great pictures of the 2013 reunion that can be seen at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/sleepy28/sets/72157633375057635/>. **Earl Blakley** had a call from **Margie Christie** checking on him after the bad weather. She is fine. **Margie** said they are having sand storms instead of rain storms! **Dave Drennan** went to the Texas State UIL Track Meet on May 11<sup>th</sup> in Austin, TX with his brother, **Dr. Dale Drennan** and **Dale's** two sons-in-law, **Wade Pynes** and **Wes Sercey**. **Jessie Pricket** from Burleson set a new state record for the mile run, and a young lady pole vaulted 13' 3". It was a great day for track competition, and the German burger and beer following at Schule's Garden was excellent. **Dave** and **Jean** and brother, **Dale** and his wife, **Kathy** will go to Alaska in June for good times. They will go to Cook's inlet to fish for halibut and also go to the Russian River Battle, shoulder-to-shoulder fishing for salmon, reds, etc. They will stay with **Jean's** sister, **Sheri Baton**, in Sterling, Alaska.

**Maxine Owen** was in Tucson, AZ with their son, **Mitch** and his wife, **Kym Owen** from April 20<sup>th</sup> through May 8<sup>th</sup>, helping drive the granddaughters to school, karate, gymnastics, piano, and guitar lessons and, of course, to the Dairy Queen. **Kym** is awaiting surgery and is unable to drive until that is done, and the other grandparents were on a well-deserved trip to Hawaii. **Maxine** was more than happy to play for a couple of weeks!

From **Robert Arhelger**, [robert.arhelger@gmail.com](mailto:robert.arhelger@gmail.com) on May 18<sup>th</sup>: Our Pecan Plantation EMS brought me to Kerrville Monday. The tornado barely touched down at Pecan Plantation, a little damage but not serious. I think my home is fine. I appreciate all the prayers. I was to start the process of a heart valve replacement at San Antonio. Two of the leading cardiologists checked and talked to my daughter **Ingrid** and me from 1 to 5. I am sending Ingrid's message to avoid trying to go through all the explanation. **Ingrid** noted that **Bob's** health was weak, and he needed to gain weight and strength to be a candidate for this surgery. June 6<sup>th</sup> she reported he has gained 16 pounds and is feeling much better. The surgery is scheduled in San Antonio at University Hospital on the morning of July 19<sup>th</sup> and will last 4-6 hours. **Ingrid** added: "I know Dad would appreciate your prayers, and we all would as well! The surgeon feels much better about the surgery now but still reiterated that it would be a high risk surgery for an individual at his age, coupled with the issues he is facing with kidney failure and respiratory issues."

**Joe Haas** had some low back surgery on June 20. Last night **Joe Haugh** talked with **Lavona Haas**, who said that the surgery went well and he is doing ok, but, obviously, there is a lot of pain and discomfort. He will need a long recovery period. He was in the hospital several days following surgery and is now at Health South rehabilitation in Aldie. He has therapy several hours each day and will be there another week or, probably, more. **Lavona** said that it would be best that he not have any company for several more days. I'm sure he would appreciate a card or note.

**John Peterson** wrote on June 5<sup>th</sup> that **Owen Lee** passed away at 4:30am. The Memorial Service was on June 9<sup>th</sup> at the Bethel United Methodist Church, in Woodbridge, VA with a reception following in the church hall. The Lee family address is: **Kathleen Lee** and family, 13965 Oleander Court, Woodbridge, VA 22193-2349. The ARCSE August 2012 newsletter included a piece that said **Owen Lee** had been receiving treatment for prostate cancer for several years. In March of 2012 he began receiving chemotherapy, and that continued until January 2013. At that time he began taking a new drug, which was not effective. As you may know, **Owen** developed the ARCSE website shortly after retiring in 1999 and had been the Webmaster since that time.

## WASHINGTON

**Gerald Richard, ARCSE Representative**

Email: [gir52pdr@aol.com](mailto:gir52pdr@aol.com)

Attending recent retiree luncheons at the Timber Creek Grill and Buffett were **Lennie Husa, Gary Johnson, Ralph Schmidt, Ken Kaul, Larry Edmonds, Jerry Richard, Phil Schauble, Carl Vennes, Harry Riehle, and Jud Melton**.

**Jud** and **Karen Melton** are hosting a 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 on our usual first Monday of the Month meeting date. So mark your calendars for August 5, 2013 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.

**Bob Olson** reports on a recent visit with **Lou Kehne**. He has some help come to his home to prepare a noon and evening meal. **Lou** says he actually feels somewhat guilty because he still feels so good. He also reports that every day is a holiday! **Ken Kaul** had some cardiovascular problems earlier in the winter resulting in a stent being put in. He had already signed up for the 37<sup>th</sup> annual Spokane Bloomsday Race, which is held in May, and he received the OK

from his cardiologist to go ahead with the event--which he did! **Ralph Schmidt** was also in the race. Over 47,000 runners, joggers, and walkers participated in this 12-kilometer timed race.

## WASHINGTON DC NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

**John Peterson, ARCSE Representative**

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

Our semi-annual luncheon was held on May 2 at Phillips Restaurant on the Washington Channel of the Potomac River, Washington, DC. **Jason Weller**, Acting NRCS Chief, gave a brief summary of agency activities. He said that the NRCS is "the best and most blessed agency in the Federal Government." The agency's programs are very popular and are geared for getting the most conservation on the land, for which it has a good reputation. He said that an agency reorganization of administrative functions would be announced the following week. **Jason** worked on a cattle ranch in Montana when he first worked for the SCS, right out of school. This experience gave him an appreciation for the land-owner's point of view.

He said that the NRCS has a bright future, is very healthy, and is a \$4.1-billion organization with about 11,000 employees. The agency administers programs that empower people and provide protection from regulation. The agency's budget was reduced by \$284 million due to sequestration, but this was anticipated so that the effects are minimal at the state level. He said that no furloughs, RIFs (reduction in force), or layoffs are anticipated. About 500 vacancies remain unfilled, primarily at the field level. It is not known what effects further sequestration cuts could cause, but agreements with partners would probably be impaired. Currently, 2,200 Technical Service Providers (TSPs) augment service delivery, including engineering services.

**Neil Bogner** was the luncheon speaker at the National Cooperative Soil Survey Conference in Annapolis, MD. The Conference planners wanted to recognize the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the CCCs. **Neil** provided a brief summary of the history of the CCCs and then reported on his experiences with the CCCs. He described memories of a CCC camp in his hometown, Henry, IL. He then pointed out the importance of the camps to SCS in the development of so many SCS career employees.

**John and Anne Miner** have now lived (happily) for over two years in Blythewood, SC. **John** finally found my way to downtown Columbia, through efforts to find the path to attend High School graduations. Next will be Clemson and Elon University. They are in good health for their ages, still mowing good-size lawns, despite **John's** neighbors' admonition that he is too old for that activity. he still misses the first Tuesday breakfast.

**Chris Williams** sends, "Hi John, **Karen** and I will be traveling from June 26<sup>th</sup> to about August 23<sup>rd</sup> as **Karen** teaches at four different children's events this summer. We will go first to Olympia, WA, where my son's church has a VBS with about 900 children, then to Grangeville, ID, for a Junior High camp, and from there to Quakertown, PA, for a week's camp, and then to another week-long camp north of Indiana, PA. We've planned some sightseeing in between teaching stops."

**Barb and Warren Lee** returned to Virginia May 1<sup>st</sup> after a great 4 months enjoying Arizona's winter and spring temps. They stopped in Waynesville, NC, on their way home to join the South State Conservationists and Friends outing. The team of **Ed Nelson, Frank Scudder** and **Warren Lee** took the bragging rights for the golf tourney. As always, fond memories and lots of laughs. On a sadder note, **Warren** attended the memorial service for **Owen Lee** along with several other former colleagues. See more about **Owen** in the In Memoriam section. The **Lees** spent a long weekend with **Hershel** and **Barb Read** in the Outer Banks of NC, and had a nice visit with **Dennie Burns** and **Lee Frederick** over a Southern boil dinner at the **Reads'**.

## WEST VIRGINIA

**Peg Reese, ARCSE Representative**

Email: [pegreesewv@gmail.com](mailto:pegreesewv@gmail.com)

**Retirements and Resignations:** **Judith Jardine**, Soil Conservationist in the Parkersburg Service Center, retired on April 30<sup>th</sup>. **Clay Handley**, Soil Conservation Technician at the Summersville Service Center, retired on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. **Ron Wigal**, Environmental Specialist at the Morgantown State Office, retired on May 31<sup>st</sup>. **Tom Vance**, District Conservationist at the Lewisburg Service Center, plans to retire on June 29<sup>th</sup>. **Becky Strogen**, Secretary at the State Office, resigned on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Best of luck to our new retirees.

**Updates:** **Jim Clevenger** reported that "Mary and I recently had a great weekend at the farm with our family. Four grandsons, two six-year olds and two eight-year olds are a real challenge to keep up with, especially at our age. Their main interest right now is baseball. We practiced catching fly balls for the bigger part of two days. We were also blessed to have two of our grand-daughters with us. We celebrated my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 12<sup>th</sup>, but more importantly, **Mary** and I celebrated 55 years together on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Time sure does fly!"

**Peg Reese** spent part of the winter nominating an NRCS employee for induction into the West Virginia Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame. The hard work paid off as State Resource Conservationist **Patrick Bowen** will be inducted on July 20<sup>th</sup> at Jackson's Mill. **Annual Meeting:** Jim Cooper and Peg Reese have begun planning for the 2013 meeting. A tentative date is set for November 7<sup>th</sup>. More details to come.

## WISCONSIN

**Jim Enlow, ARCSE Representative**

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

The Wisconsin Retirees met for lunch on June 13<sup>th</sup> at the Tuscumbia Country Club in Green Lake, WI. **Erv Lesczynski** and **Steve Prissel** were the gracious hosts. The retirees enjoyed a very nice informal get-together and luncheon. Those attending included **Ted Manning, Ron Lowery, Howard Gundlach, Emeron and Phyllis Christensen, Bob Weihrouch, Stan and Marlene Dingle, Dan and Monica Lynch, Ken Lubich, Dan Cotter, Steve Prissel and Erv Lesczynski**.

Golf was enjoyed by some after the luncheon, while others spent time in downtown Green Lake, shopping and enjoying the day, while others headed back home. The weather was fantastic. The next luncheon is scheduled for August 8<sup>th</sup> at Lumpy's Sports Bar and Grill in Eagle River, WI, hosted by **Dan and Monica Lynch**.

## NEW SENIOR CONSERVATIONISTS

We welcome six 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:

Franklin T. Hughes  
Harris W. Judy  
Hans A Krauss

Mount Airy, NC  
Fredericksburg, VA  
Spokane, WA

Marion S Porter  
Edgar H. Teschke  
Edwin Young

Terrell, TX  
Faribault, MN  
Loudon, TN

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  
Hans A. Krauss**

Senior Conservationist Hans Krauss was born on Staten Island, New York, and was raised there in the neighborhood of Midland Beach. Although there were farms on Staten Island, Hans did not make a farming connection until after his high school graduation when his parents bought a dairy farm in upstate New York. He was a manager on the farm from 1948 until 1954. During part of that time he was a student at State University of New York at Delhi where he majored in animal husbandry. From 1954 until 1956 Hans was in the U.S. Army where he achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant and was trained in jungle warfare in Panama. From 1956 through 1959 he attended Cornell University graduating in '59 with a B.S. degree in agronomy.

During his college career Hans had been a student trainee with SCS in Northampton, Massachusetts (1958), but when he graduated there were no SCS jobs available. At that point he found employment with Heath Survey Consultants mapping vegetation for gas leakage control at various locations across the country. This job took him to Michigan, then to Denver, and at last to Portland, Oregon. He visited SCS's regional office there looking for the possibility of getting back into a conservation profession. He saw two openings: a Soil Scientist vacancy and a Soil Conservationist vacancy both in Washington State. He chose the latter. He left Heath Survey Consultants in 1962 and went to work at Ritzville, WA, as Soil Conservationist. He was there for two years then was promoted to District Conservationist at Odessa, WA. After two years at Odessa he transferred to Warden, WA, as District Conservationist where he remained for four years. From 1970 until 1974 Hans was RC&D Project Coordinator at Raymond, WA, for the coastal area of the state. From that multi-county job, he was promoted to State Agronomist at Spokane in 1974 where he continued to provide agronomic leadership for conservation activities until he retired in 1990.

In 1985, Hans contributed chapters to the following books: Determinants of Soil Loss Tolerance, Dryland Agriculture, and Residue Characteristics for Wind and Water Erosion Control. During his work as State Agronomist he exchanged conservation technologies with other countries through SCS's International Conservation Program. In 1981 he was in Costa Rica in an exchange pertaining to post-volcanic eruption land stabilization and reclamation. In 1984 Hans was part of a review team that evaluated a USAID project in Lesotho, Africa. After he retired he continued to work with Dr. Don McCool of Washington State University on research into crop residue management.

Hans has (and has had) a wide variety of interests outside his work with SCS. His interests have included painting, photography, restoration of German clocks, climbing with the Spokane Mountaineers (he has Mt. Athabasca, Mt. Rainier (twice), Bonanza Peak and Mt. Adams "under his belt" to name but a few). He published a book in 1993 about restoration of Junghans and Hamburg American clocks. And, he has written his memoir, entitled Immigrants' Son which he published in 2010 for family, various libraries in the US and Germany, and for close friends. (His family story begins at the time his parents met in the Hamburg American clock factory in the Black Forest of Germany where his mother was a secretary and his father a tool-and-die maker. He immigrated to the US and then sent for her.)

Hans relates that by the time he finished college his parents had moved to Massachusetts. He was visiting them one Christmas break when he agreed to a blind date with a student nurse at the Springfield Hospital School of Nursing's Christmas dance. He was left speechless by her good looks and she thought he was a bore. Hans and his wife Katie (that nurse) have been married 53 years as of last February. Hans and Katie continue to enjoy life in Spokane, Washington.

## OBITUARY INFORMATION

### **Ron Marlow, Secretary-Treasurer**

To representatives and members who continue to send well composed memoriam, I send a great big "thanks." It really reduces my effort in that I do not have to do any research other than check and update the ARCSE files and note if the person was an honorary member and/or a senior conservationist.

When you receive word of someone passing with little other information provided to you, obituaries can often be found by doing an advanced search using Google of the full name of the deceased. If you do not have access to the web, I will be glad to do the search. In regards to finding obituary information, the following can be most helpful for locating obituaries:

1. The name of the funeral home handling the arrangements, since most now have websites where they post the obituary.
2. The name of the local newspaper most likely to carry the obituary.
3. Where neither of 1 or 2 are available, the name of the most recent hometown of the deceased.

## IN MEMORIAM

(Note: These are recent notices. For a complete list, please see <http://arcse.org/nannoun.htm>)

SURNAME	
Andrews	<b>James M. (Jimmy) Andrews, Jr.</b> (72) of Washburn, North Carolina, passed away on May 6, 2013. <b>Jimmy</b> retired as Soil Conservation Technician in Rutherfordton, NC, with over 30 years of service. He also worked in Cleveland and McDowell Counties. <b>Jimmy</b> was a graduate of Cool Springs High School and attended Western Carolina University. In addition to his community service, <b>Jimmy</b> was an avid horseshoe pitcher and competed at many local, state, and regional tournaments. The highlight of his horseshoe pitching career was winning the Elders I-2 division of the National Horseshoe Pitching Association World Championship Tournament in Knoxville, TN in 2012. He is survived by his wife <b>Patsy</b> ; three daughters, <b>Bonnie Andrews (Phil) Fisher</b> of Matthews, NC, <b>Carol Andrews (David) Winesette</b> of Waxhaw, NC, and <b>Gail Andrews (Sean) Tarlton</b> of Pittsboro, NC; and seven grandchildren.
Arensdorf	<b>Roger C. Arensdorf</b> (91) of Boise, Idaho, passed away on May 13, 2013. In addition to his wife of nearly 70 years, <b>Geraldine Lea Arensdorf</b> , Roger is survived by his five children: <b>Jennifer Arensdorf Morlan</b> , <b>Ann Arensdorf Taylor</b> , <b>John Arensdorf</b> , <b>Kathy Arensdorf Brown</b> , and <b>Chris Arensdorf</b> . He is also survived by 14 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. He spent his early years growing up on a farm near Ensign, Kansas, with his parents and brothers. Upon graduating from Fort Hays Kansas State College in 1943, <b>Roger</b> proudly served his country as a Naval Officer in the Amphibious Forces during World War II. After the war, he returned to Southwest Kansas where he spent his working career as a Soil Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service. He retired in 1980 as the District Conservationist in the Dodge City field office. <b>Roger</b> and <b>Geraldine</b> moved to New Braunfels, Texas in July 1990. In August 2012 they moved to Boise, Idaho, to be near family.
Ayen	<b>Beverly Ayen</b> (63) of Urbandale, IA, passed away on December 21, 2012. <b>Beverly</b> was the wife of <b>Jim Ayen</b> , retired SCS State Resource Conservationist. She is survived by her husband, <b>Jim</b> , daughters <b>Kari (Scott) Severson</b> , <b>Kimberly (Ken) Ewing</b> , and <b>Erik (Holly) Ayen</b> , and four grandchildren.
Baldwin	<b>Judith Baldwin</b> (71) of Waldorf, Maryland, passed away on May 14, 2013. After retiring from the USDA, she enjoyed spending time with her family and friends. She is survived by her husband of 50 years, <b>Grover Baldwin</b> , son <b>Jeff Baldwin (Christy)</b> , daughter <b>Krista Marting (Scott)</b> , five grandchildren, and many more family and friends. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice of Charles County or John Hopkins ALS Clinic.
Beard	Life Member <b>Mona Fay Beard</b> (81) of Bloomington, Maryland, passed away at Frostburg Village Nursing Home on June 29, 2012. She attended Catherman's Business School, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Graduate School, and George Washington University, majoring in Business Administration. She retired in 1986 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, having served 35 years with the Agricultural Research Service and the Soil Conservation Service. At the time of her retirement, she was in charge of employee development nationwide for SCS. Before entering the federal government services, Miss Beard worked as a secretary at Westvaco. Among many other awards, in 1984 she received a superior award for the development of the Soil Conservation Service's Water Quality Training program. <b>Mona</b> was an active member of numerous civic and professional organizations. She was honored in "Who's Who of American Women." She is survived by her brother, <b>Harry Ray Beard</b> , a niece, <b>Brenda (Dann) Herndon</b> , great-nephew, <b>Andrew Herndon</b> and family, all of Keyser, WV.

## Craft

Life Member and Senior Conservationist **Robert E. "Bob" Craft** (87) of Savoy, Illinois, passed away on May 20, 2013. **Bob** graduated from the University of Illinois, where he was a member of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity and began working for the USDA as a soil conservationist. He was in the Navy and was a part of the Korean War and World War II. He was honorably discharged. His career with SCS included a training position in the Champaign County, District Conservationist in Douglas County, and as the Information Specialist in the Illinois SCS State Office. After retiring in 1985, Bob was a Member of the Association of Retired Soil Conservation Service Employees and served as the Illinois Representative to ARSCSE. He was involved in as many civic, professional, and social activities as he could possibly be in. **Bob** loved to fish and do geo-caching. He was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, **Betty Kipfer Craft**. He is survived by a daughter, **Joanna (Lloyd) Ochsenschlager**; a son, **Jeff Craft**; and another daughter, **Jennifer (Pat) DeRio**; four grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

## Davis

Life Member and Senior Conservationist **Ronello Melzar "Mel" Davis** passed away on June 23, 2013 at his home in Yuma, Arizona. He was born in Ambrose, North Dakota, and after graduating from North Dakota State University in 1949, Mel spent three years teaching Vocational Agriculture. **Mel** spent the next 30 years working for the USDA Soil Conservation Service, where he rose through the ranks, retiring as Administrator of the SCS. He spent 1½ years in the U.S. Navy during WWII. He received a Distinguished Alumni award from NDSU, a Superior Service award from USDA, and a Fellow from the SWCSA. With the help of his family, he remodeled a 150-year-old schoolhouse in Pennsylvania for his retirement. He was a runner before it was trendy and was a member of a local exercise club. **Mel** is survived by his wife, **Marilyn**; son, **Ron Davis** of Yuma; daughter, **Dawn (Jack) Gregerson** of San Diego, CA; four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Interment will be at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery, Mandan, ND, at the convenience of the family, with a memorial to be held at Gloria de Cristo in Yuma in November. Donations can be made to Gloria de Cristo Lutheran Church Building Fund, Yuma, and/or Hospice of Yuma.

## Davis

Senior Conservationist **George Davis** (83) of Diboll, Texas, passed away on November 23, 2009. He served in the U.S. Navy for 2½ years in the latter part of World War II. **George** graduated from Sam Houston State University in 1949 with a degree in vocational agriculture education. He spent 30 years with the Soil Conservation Service at locations in Terrell, Van Alstyne, Rockwall, Gainesville, Amarillo and Temple--all in Texas. He retired in 1981 as an assistant state conservationist. He was preceded in death by his wife of 49 years, **Marie**, in 1998; and a son, **Jim** in 2002. George is survived by a son, **Tommy Davis** of Amarillo; and a daughter-in-law, **Donna Davis** of Houston.

## Evans

Life Member **Max Langford Evans** (77) of Greencastle, Indiana, passed away on May 22, 2013 after a long fight with multiple myeloma. He earned degrees in agricultural engineering and surveying at Purdue University, where he met his wife, **Joy (Zeiner) Evans**. After ROTC in college, he served in the peacetime U.S. Army at Ft. Leonard Wood and Ft. Bliss. He spent most of his career as an engineer with the Soil Conservation Service, retiring as the Assistant State Conservationist in 1995 after 37 years of service. He followed that time by working several years inspecting dams and designing septic systems. His most important work, besides raising his family, was helping establish independent Christian congregations in both Paoli (Paoli Christian Church) and Greencastle (Greencastle Christian Church). He served as an elder with both congregations. He is survived by his loving wife, **Joy Zeiner Evans** of Greencastle; a daughter, **Michelle Evans** of Greencastle; son, **Scot (Lisa) Evans** of Westfield; and daughter, **Krista (Keith) Rowls** of Indianapolis. He also leaves behind 11 grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to Greencastle Christian Church. Expressions of sympathy and condolences may be shared with the family at [www.bittlesandhurt.com](http://www.bittlesandhurt.com).

## Griswold

**Lillian Griswold** (93) passed away on May 9, 2013. She was preceded in death by her husband, **Victor Griswold**, in 1997. **Victor** retired from SCS at Medicine Lodge, Kansas, in 1977. **Lillian** is survived by children: **Connie (Steve) McColley**, **John (Judy)**, and **Rick (Layne) Griswold**; and a grandson.

## Harold

Senior Conservationist **Orval Albert Harold** (96) of Columbia, Missouri, passed away May 31, 2013. In 1940, he married **Mildred Chappelt** and attended Kansas State University, until the onset of World War II interrupted his education. He entered military service in June 1941 and was assigned to the 63<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment as an Infantry Unit Commander. **Orval** saw combat in the Pacific Theater, mainly in the jungles of New Guinea. As a reward for their skill and conduct against the enemy, the soldiers of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Regiment were entitled to wear the Combat Infantryman Badge. Following his military service, he returned to Kansas State University and completed his formal education, earning a degree in Agriculture. In keeping with his love of the land, **Orval** began a career with the United States Department of Agriculture and worked in various assignments throughout Kansas until he retired in 1977 as the Area Conservationist with SCS in Manhattan, Kansas. After the death of his wife of 56 years, **Mildred**, he moved to Dodge City, Kansas, and married **Fran Foster** who passed away in 2001. He then moved to Columbia to be closer to family and met and married **Eula Simmons**, who also preceded him in death. **Orval** is survived by a daughter, **Nancy Kautz** of Columbia; and two grandchildren.

## Herman

**Carol Frances Herman** (91) of Emporia, Kansas, passed away on May 12, 2013. She was preceded in death by her husband, **Charles Herman**, on December 19, 2010. **Charles** retired in 1981 as the Soil Conservation Technician at the Alma Field Office. **Carol** is survived by two daughters, three grandsons, and a great-granddaughter. The family requests no flowers, with memorial contributions instead to Emporia Friends of the Zoo.

## Ifft

Life Member **Theodore "Ted" Ifft** (73) of Silver Spring, Maryland, passed away on June 14, 2013 after a short illness. **Ted** retired from the Soil Conservation Service in 1987 as a Program Specialist. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, **Beverly Ifft**; son **Richard (Beth Greenfeld) Ifft**, and daughter **Linda (Thomas) Jordan**; and two grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Benevolent Care Fund of Riderwood Village, 3110 Gracefield Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20904.

<b>Larson</b>	<b>Stuart J. Larson</b> (80) passed away on April 24, 2013, in Altru Hospital, Grand Forks, ND. He served in the US Navy from 1952 thru 1956 aboard the USS Vulcan and the USS Caloosahatchee. He worked as a soil scientist in North Dakota, Texas, Virginia, and Maryland. <b>Stuart</b> retired in 1990. He is survived by a daughter, <b>Andrea (Paul) Pansegrouw</b> , Bismarck, ND; a son, <b>John (Beth) Larson</b> , Ely, Iowa; four grandchildren, and a brother. He was preceded in death by his wife <b>Gerry</b> ; his parents; and a sister.
<b>Lee</b>	Life Member <b>Owen Lee</b> (71) of Woodbridge, Virginia, lost his battle with cancer the morning of June 5, 2013. <b>Owen</b> and older sister, <b>Carolyn</b> , loved growing up on their 60-acre dairy farm. <b>Owen</b> graduated from The University of Illinois earning a BS in Ag Engineering in June 1964, never losing a bit of loyalty for his wonderful "ILL-INI." In 1962, before he had graduated, he began his career with USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS), and continued to work for the SCS at USDA for 36 years, retiring as a Management Information Coordinator. After retiring, at age 61, he decided to try his hand at playing softball and found he loved playing even more than coaching. At his peak, he played 200 games in one year! <b>Owen</b> was involved in many organizations. Over the years, he volunteered as a coach for Woodbridge Little League, was church photographer as well as the "CEO" of the softball team at Bethel United Methodist Church (BUMC), was President of the University of Illinois Alumni Club for 2 years, coached basketball for Eastern Prince William Co. Basketball Assoc. (EPWBA), and coordinated Northern Virginia Senior Softball (NVSS) Homeland Security Tournaments. He also developed websites for: North Boone High School classes, EPWBA, ARCSE, BUMC softball, Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC), University of Illinois Alumni Club, and the Homeland Security Tournaments. <b>Owen</b> developed the ARCSE website shortly after retiring in 1999 and had been the webmaster since that time. He received the ARSCSE Meritorious Services Citation in 2008 in recognition of his contributions in creating and maintaining the website. He married <b>Kathleen</b> on June 4, 1964, had 3 children ( <b>Karen</b> , <b>Nicole</b> , and <b>Danny</b> ), each of whom married wonderful spouses, and then were blessed with 5 grandchildren ( <b>Kristen</b> , <b>Jordan</b> , <b>Kevin</b> , <b>Tyler</b> and <b>Maddie</b> ) and 2 step-grandchildren ( <b>Juliana</b> and <b>Evan</b> ), all of whom will miss <b>Owen</b> very much. The family asked that in lieu of flowers, donations could be sent in his honor to: St. Jude's, P.O. Box 1000, Dept. 142, Memphis, TN 38148 or Best Friends Animal Society, 5001 Angel Canyon Rd., Kanab, UT 84741.
<b>Loverock</b>	<b>Mary Jane Loverock</b> (92) of Syracuse, New York, passed away on May 29, 2013 with her family by her side. <b>Mary Jane</b> retired from USDA Soil Conservation Service in 1983 as a secretary to the soil scientists in NY. She is predeceased by her husband of 56 years, <b>Raymond</b> . She is also survived by nine children, 18 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.
<b>Ludwick</b>	<b>James Chester Ludwick</b> (82) of Chickasha, Oklahoma, passed away on June 10, 2013 in Norman. He was a member of the 1947-1948 OHS State Championship football team. <b>James</b> attended Oklahoma A&M for two years before enlisting in the United States Air Force in 1952 and served as a Radar Specialist in the Korean War. He graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1958 with a degree in Agricultural Engineering. He worked for the USDA Soil Conservation Service for over 30 years and retired in 1990 as hydrologist at the Chickasha Watershed Planning Office. He is survived by his wife of nearly 60 years, <b>Jimmie Ludwick</b> of the home, two daughters and four grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association of Oklahoma at 2123 N. Classen Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73106.
<b>Mathiews</b>	<b>Ronald Mathiews</b> (75) of McAlester, Oklahoma passed away on January 26, 2013. He retired as a soil conservation technician in 1993. His last assignment was in Eufaula, where he lived for 20 years. He also served a 10-year enlistment in the Oklahoma National Guard. He was a bluegrass guitarist and also hosted a bluegrass show on the local radio stations in McAlester and Eufaula. Survivors include his wife of 53 years <b>Nena Mathiews</b> , of the home; three daughters, five grandchildren, and a great-grandson.
<b>Mays</b>	<b>Rodney J. Mays</b> (80) of Quentin, Pennsylvania, passed away on May 23, 2013 (on his 80 <sup>th</sup> birthday) in his residence. <b>Jim</b> was not recovering well from the second stroke which paralyzed his entire left side. He was the husband of the late <b>Imogene "Jean" Roark Mays</b> . He was a graduate of Millersville State College and retired as an economist for the Department of Agriculture. He served in the U. S. Army as a helicopter mechanic at Ft. Benning, GA, from 1953 to 1955 and in the Army Reserve from 1955 to 1963. He was a great supporter of Jubilee Ministries and held his missions trip to Haiti near to his heart. He is survived by two daughters, a son, six grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Jubilee Ministries, 235 S. 12th St., Lebanon, PA 17042.
<b>Meadows</b>	<b>John Alexander (Ecky) Meadows III</b> (94) of New Bern, North Carolina, passed away on May 30, 2012. <b>Ecky</b> served as area soil scientist for the Goldsboro area for more than 20 years. He retired in New Bern where he was ordained an elder of First Presbyterian Church, his church home for most of his life. He was a graduate of North Carolina State University with a degree in Soil Science. <b>Ecky</b> served in the U.S. Navy during WWII. He commanded the LST-505 from his commissioning in 1943 until the end of the war in Europe. He continued in the U.S. Navy Reserves until his retirement in 1972. He is survived by his sister, <b>Ella Meadows Giese</b> , of Gloucester, NC.
<b>Moran</b>	Senior Conservationist <b>Kyle Leroy Moran</b> (90) of Westerville, Ohio, passed away on May 19, 2013 after a period of declining health. He graduated from Kansas State University in the class of 1951 with a degree in Agricultural Engineering and was a member of Acacia Fraternity. <b>Kyle</b> worked for the USDA Soil Conservation Service in Kansas and Ohio for 25 years, retiring in 1975 as the Assistant State Conservation Engineer and then 10 years with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. He was a veteran of World War II, Army Air Corps, and then a member of the Kansas National Guard, finishing his service with the rank of Warrant Officer. He was a founding member of Westerville Bible Church and a guiding force and tireless worker at Peniel Bible Camp and a life time member of the Masonic Order. He served as a Boy Scout Scoutmaster for 15 years. <b>Kyle</b> is survived by his wife of 63 years, <b>Betty Jane (Beaver)</b> ; children, <b>Nick (Wanda)</b> of Cincinnati, OH, <b>Ellen Moran (Tom) Clark</b> of Greenville,

SC, **Gretchen Moran (Steve) Barnes** of Westerville, OH, **Mike (Pam) Moran** of Galena, OH, and **Tim Moran** of Stanfield, NC; 12 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, **Kyle** would appreciate donations to Peniel Bible Camp, 3260 Ohio Route 314, Fredericktown, OH 43019.

**Nybo**

**Viva "Vi" Clarice (Aker) Nybo** (89) passed away on December 27, 2012, at Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Center, Bismarck, North Dakota. After attending Fargo Business College and then the University of Michigan, she won a typing contest and was offered a job at the Pentagon in Washington, DC, as a legal secretary for the Judge Advocate General's office from 1942-1952. **Vi** then worked for the SCS in Park River, ND, then the Bureau of Reclamation in Bismarck, ND, from 1952-1956, and then the SCS in Bismarck from 1956-1976 when she retired. She is survived by her daughters, **Sonia (Arlynn) Krieger**, Bismarck and **Sandra (Craig) Miller**, Scottsdale, AZ. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband **Henry**, a brother and her beloved pet Tippy.

**Ross**

**Marvin E. "Tobe" Ross** (83) Ottawa, Kansas, passed away on May 1, 2013, at Overland Park Regional Medical Center. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, **M. Darlene Ross**, who retired from SCS as the Office Automation Assistant at the Lake Region RC&D in Ottawa, Kansas. **Tobe** served in the U.S. Army as a radio technician during the Korean War from April 1951 to April 1953. Survivors also include his daughter, two sons, and four grandchildren.

**Sites**

**Billie Jean Sites** of Norman, OK, passed away on January 8, 2013. She is survived by her husband, **George** who retired as an engineer with SCS in the late 1980s. Also surviving are two sons, one daughter, three grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. Donations in her honor may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Oklahoma/Arkansas Chapter, 2448 E. 81st Street, Suite 3000, Tulsa, OK 74137-4250, or online at [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org). For online condolences, visit [primrosefuneralservice.com](http://primrosefuneralservice.com).

**Tarrence**

Life Member and Senior Conservationist **Clell O. Tarrence** (92) of Dodgeville, Wisconsin, passed away on November 17, 2002. **Clell** retired as a District Conservationist from the Soil Conservation Service in 1969.

**Victor**

**Otto Victor** (100) passed away March 29, 2013 at Villa Maria Nursing Home, Fargo, North Dakota. He was married to Senior Conservationist **Mina Victor**, formerly SCS Area Clerk in Bismarck, ND. He did some farming, worked for the highway department, and drove a truck for Dan Dugan for 25 years and retired in 1977. **Victor** is survived by his wife of 71 years, **Mina** (94) in Fargo, ND; two grandchildren; a step-grandson; two great-grandchildren; five step-great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his daughter, **Jane**, and a step-great-grandson.

**Vrem**

**Mary Ann (Cooper) Vrem** (76) passed away on December 3, 2012, at her home in Dickinson, North Dakota. Her husband is ARCSE member **Marcoe Vrem** who retired from the SCS in 1990 as an Area Conservationist. **Marc** worked in North Dakota SCS office locations in Rugby, Bottineau, Westhope, Hettinger, Williston, and Dickinson where they retired and made their home. In addition to her husband of 55 years, **Marcoe**, she is survived by sons, **Loren (Laurie) Vrem** of Deadwood, SD, and **Jerry Vrem** of Rapid City, SD; four grandchildren, a great-granddaughter, two brothers, a sister and a sister-in-law. She was preceded in death by her parents.

**Whalen**

**Michael A. Whalen** (62) of Easthampton, Massachusetts, passed away on May 28, 2013. He was born in Northampton, MA. He graduated from the University of Mass. and later received his Master's Degree from the UMass. **Michael** worked for NRCS for 26 years and served as Coordinator for the Berkshire Pioneer RC&D, retiring in 2006. He prepared and administered over 100 grants throughout Western Mass., involving Forestry and Land Management. In his retirement, **Michael** was an accomplished musician, artist, and writer. **Michael** is survived by his loving wife, **Rhonda Jean Whalen**, a step son **Michael Longey** of CT, two step daughters **Paula Wroblinski** of CT and **Mirium Cubbon** of NY, and four grandchildren. He was predeceased by his first wife **Diane Whalen** and a step son **Talon Christopher Longey**.

**White**

Senior Conservationist **Nathaniel B. White, Sr.** (93) of Warrenton, North Carolina, passed away on December 1, 2012. **Nat** served as District Conservationist in Hoke, Nash, Warren and Randolph counties. He was a registered forester and did timber consulting work after his retirement until he was 80 years old. He was an elder at Warrenton Presbyterian Church, where he was a member for 65 years. **Nat** was a Navy veteran of WWII, Lt. Senior Grade. He served as Deck Officer on the USS Santee, escort cruiser. He participated in the invasion of North Africa and did anti-submarine patrol in the Atlantic. He also served in the Pacific Theater and participated in the bombing of numerous islands in the Pacific and Japanese home islands. **Nat** was also the Deck Officer on the USS Flint, a fast anti-aircraft cruiser in the South Pacific, protecting fast carriers in Iwo Jima, Philippines, Okinawa, and Japanese home islands. He is survived by his wife, **Nellie Jarvis White**; his sons, **Nat B. White, Jr.** and **Steve J. White**, both of Warrenton, and **Henry B. White** of Greensboro; and four grandchildren.

**Wolfe**

**Roger Wayne Wolfe** (77) of Baltimore, Ohio, passed away May 17, 2013 at Fairfield Medical Center. **Roger** had been a Conservationist with NRCS in Fairfield. He was a U.S. Army veteran and fifth-generation farmer. He was the longest-serving board member of the Fairfield County Soil & Water Conservation District. **Roger** is survived by his daughters, **Susan (Lin) Kauffman** of New Paris, OH, and **Rev. Dr. Alice Wolfe** of Baltimore, OH; son, **Michael (Maria) Wolfe** of Baltimore, OH; and seven grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Doris I. Braley Wolfe**. Memorial gifts may be given to the Thurston United Methodist Church, PO Box 64, Thurston, OH 43157.