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NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter for Retired SCS and NRCS Employees

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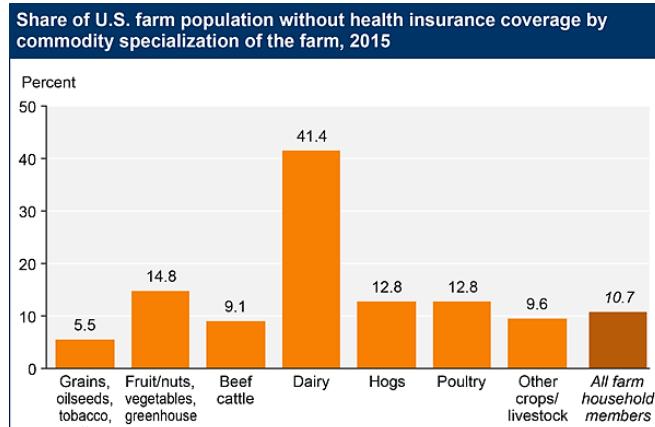
Website: www.arcse.org

NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

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

2018 Appropriations—After enacting a series of Continuing Resolutions over almost half of the 2018 fiscal year, it appears Congress is gearing up to pass a huge Omnibus spending bill. Complicating the process of getting the Omnibus bill to the President is the view by Congressional observers that this will be the last major legislative vehicle of the year, which means Members and lobbyists will be focused on getting their pet legislation on the "Bus" which is scheduled to leave the station by March 23rd, 2018, or we will face the need to have yet another Continuing Resolution.

In recent years, the Omnibus spending bills have not only become the default mechanism for funding the Federal government, they have so much unrelated legislation added that they are also known as "Christmas tree" bills. Expect to see bi-partisan health legislation (see the figure below that details US farm population without health insurance); another fix for the dairy program; more help for sugar producers; new FBI funding for dealing with Russian election tampering; enhanced background checks for buying firearms; and the list goes on.



Note: Specialization is determined by the one commodity or group of commodities that makes up at least 50 percent of the farm's total value of agricultural production.
Source: USDA, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2015 Agricultural Resource Management Survey.

2019 President's Budget—In early February the Administration delivered its 2019 budget to Congress. NRCS did not fare too well with significant cuts proposed across the board. See the following table from page 25 of the 2019 USDA Budget Summary. On the discretionary side, the President's budget calls for a 16 percent cut in overall USDA programs. While the gross reduction to the five NRCS discretionary programs is 22 percent, the budget reduces NRCS' conservation technical assistance (CTA) by 24 percent. CTA is the backbone of conservation work on the ground. It makes possible the science

and technology that fuel conservation gains, the personnel who deliver technical services and advice to farmers and ranchers, and the data and information that allow us to know how well conservation programs are working for the American public.

On the mandatory side, the President's Budget proposes a number of actions to reduce spending in Farm Bill conservation programs by limiting eligibility to operators who have an adjusted gross income (AGI) of \$500,000 or less. Remaining proposals make changes to the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and eliminate future enrollments in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).

The President's budget also proposed to slash crop insurance and other farm programs by \$47 billion over 10 years and to dramatically overhaul the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), eventually shrinking its cost to taxpayers by one-third. That said, like most Presidential budgets, this budget was probably dead on arrival. However, if you're so inclined, letting your Congressional delegation know, as well as the Appropriations and Authorizing Committees, that you support conservation would no doubt help. As you all know, Congress significantly changed tax laws at the end of 2017, but the business and personal tax cuts came with an estimated increase in the national debt of about \$1.5 trillion over 10 years —even with generous economic growth assumptions. Because of the growth in the national debt, expect the pressure to cut non-military Federal programs, like conservation, to increase over time.

The chairmen of the House and Senate Agriculture committees, Rep. **Mike Conaway**, R-Texas, and Sen. **Pat Roberts**, R-Kan. issued a joint statement after the President's Budget was released, saying that they were committed to writing a new farm bill that will benefit "farmers, ranchers, consumers and other stakeholders. This budget, as with every other president's budget before, will not prevent us from doing that job. We are committed to maintaining a strong safety net for agricultural producers during these times of low prices and uncertain markets and continuing to improve our nation's nutrition programs."

Farm Bill—The Senate and House Agriculture committees plan on moving a new farm bill in both chambers before the March recess, if funding issues get settled in time. The goal is to have time to negotiate differences between the House and Senate bills this summer and enact the bill before the current bill expires on Sept. 30th, 2018.

Item	2017 Actual	2018 Estimate	2019 Budget
Discretionary:			
Conservation Technical Assistance.....	\$759	\$754	\$576
Soil Surveys.....	81	80	74
Snow Surveys.....	9	9	9
Plant Materials.....	9	9	9
Watershed Projects.....	6	6	
Total, Discretionary Programs	864	858	669
Mandatory:			
Farm Bill Programs (Technical Assistance): ^a			
Environmental Quality Incentives Program	420	413	382
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program	97	79	71
Regional Conservation Partnership Program.....	39	37	19
Conservation Security Program.....	1	-	-
Conservation Stewardship Program.....	234	272	290
Agricultural Management Assistance ^b	1	1	-
Conservation Reserve Program Tech. Assist.....	112	89	89
Total, Mandatory Programs	904	890	850
Total, PLCO	1,768	1,748	1,519

^a The Budget proposes to show total staff resources necessary to implement the private lands conservation program in the retitled Private Lands Conservation Operations (PLCO) account. PLCO includes the total for discretionary technical assistance and associated science and technology programs provided through the previously-titled Conservation Operations account in addition to the total technical assistance necessary to implement Farm Bill programs.

Chairman **Conaway** plans to move first on committee markup, perhaps in late February or early March, with the goal of getting a bill passed by the House in March. Chairman **Roberts** said a farm bill needs to move in March, ahead of the two-week Easter recess which kicks off March 26th, in order to get the legislation enacted this year. "Once you get to a certain part of the year, people start talking about an extension and that's so much easier than doing a farm bill. That just gains steam and then you're really in a pickle," Roberts said.

Committee staff are looking for ways to find additional savings that can be used for other authorities or to provide additional flexibility. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will be at the center of the Farm Bill debate because of its huge size. However, the improving economy could result in the Congressional Budget Office lowering the baseline for SNAP, which in turn would make moving funding from SNAP to other titles of the Farm Bill more problematic.

Several senators are interested in expanding the maximum number of acres that can be enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) from the current 24-million-acre limit imposed by the 2014 farm bill. With no new funds available, staff suggested that increasing the CRP cap might require changes within the program, such as capping rental rates, or re-allocating dollars from other conservation programs.

It looks like the Committees would leave the conservation compliance provisions alone. The 2014 farm-coupled conservation compliance and crop insurance. Since 1996, compliance requirements had only applied to commodity and conservation programs.

There will also be an effort to provide additional regulatory relief as part of the Senate version of the farm bill, something that won't require more baseline funding; for example, making it easier to manage forest lands and providing growers who participate in certain conservation programs to improve water quality with more regulatory certainty.

The Farm Bill will also address priority issues for the Trump administration, including rural broadband and the opioid crisis.

The Senate Agriculture Committee welcomed two new members: Nebraska's **Deb Fischer**, a Republican, and Minnesota's **Tina Smith**, a Democrat.

Finally, Agriculture Secretary **Sonny Perdue** has made clear that he expects the congressional agriculture committees to continue their traditional lead role in developing next year's farm bill with USDA taking on a supportive function.

2018 Net Farm Income—Net farm income for 2018 is projected to hit the lowest level since 2006, according to a [report](#) released recently by the USDA's Economic Research Service. The 6.7 percent drop from the latest 2017 forecast, from \$63.8 billion to \$59.5 billion, is due largely to a \$3.5 billion increase in production costs and a \$2.1 billion decrease in government

payments. Net income reached a record \$123.8 billion in 2013, before experiencing a sharp decline and is now forecast to be less than half that figure.

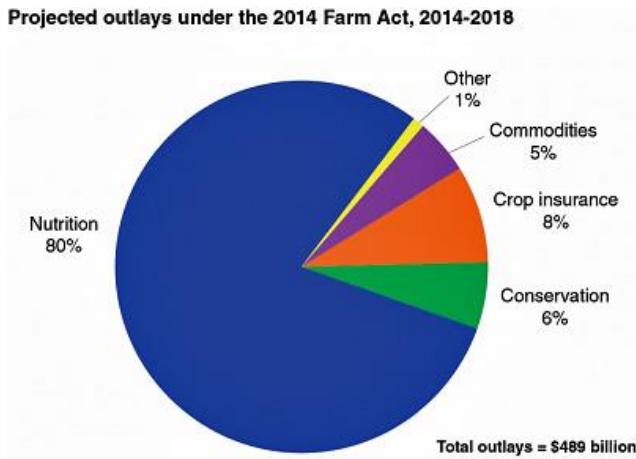
People—Mary Kay Thatcher retired from the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) in January. Thatcher was the AFBF's Director of Congressional Relations. She has taken a similar position with Syngenta's Washington, D.C. office.

Bill Northey, the Administration's nominee for the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation, remains in a holding pattern while Sen. **Ted Cruz**, R-Texas maintains his hold on his nomination. Mr. Northe is rumored to be considering whether to remain in the holding pattern, hoping that the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) issue will be resolved or to run for re-election as Iowa's Agriculture Secretary in 2018. **Tim Gannon**, former assistant to **Secretary Vilsack** announced his candidacy for that race on February 1, 2018.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dana York

RAIN! It seems like each year the seasons are getting a little more dramatic. This year, my first on the family farm, we have had more rain than I have ever seen. The fields are like a big wet sponge. While thankful for the warm 70+ degree days, we are behind on getting things planted by about two weeks. I am amazed that the fruit trees are blooming in February, and I know that our biggest snows can come in March! It reminds me that farming is full of risk with weather, markets, prices and human capital always being uncertain. As an employee of the SCS and NRCS, the conservation practices we implemented are a good insurance policy for the climate swings. As the new farm bill is being discussed, talk to your congressional representatives and tell them the importance of being able to help farmers prepare for weather risk--from your experience. Remember the Conservation Titles were only 6% if the 2014 Farm Bill (see below). We need to increase that!



Source: USDA Economic Research Service using data from Congressional Budget Office, Cost Estimates for the Agricultural Act of 2014, Jan 2014.

By dollars, the Farm Bill is mostly a Food Program Bill. (Graph from USDA-ERS).

A BIT OF HISTORY

Douglas Helms, Historian

Email: douglas.helms@gmail.com

DayLilies and Conservation. Like many of you, I am awaiting the greening around the house and in the neighborhood. When I bought this place, it had some peonies, daylilies, irises, and a few poorly-established azaleas, no doubt planted at the suggestion of the real estate agent. Regrettably, I have to admit I was not much of an active gardener in the sense of the yard. I did not add much diversity at first. I started planting daylilies in other spots and soon I had too many. I planted some at my mother's house in North Carolina and gave bags to a sister in South Carolina who has an eight-acre homesite. Finally, I left some by the sidewalk.

This brings me to how daylilies fit in with this month's contribution. Through the years, a number of people have told me about "McKeever grass," daylilies renamed for **Ivan McKeever** who became the state conservationist of Pennsylvania in 1946. He seized on the daylily's beauty and hardiness to stop erosion on road ditches and banks (a nurseryman once told me, "You can't hardly kill a daylily"). He convinced the state highway department to plant daylilies at the ends of the culverts. His and SCS's heritage is still visible in the Pennsylvania countryside. Our former national plant materials specialist and native Pennsylvanian, **Curtis Sharp** assures me that "daylilies can be seen today on the landscape along many rural roads instead of bare eroding soil."

In preparing this item, I learned that **Johnny Appleseed** is credited with spreading daylilies. **Hugh Bennett's** friend and colleague in conservation, **Louis Bromfield** wrote in *Pleasant Valley*, "Some people said that he carried flower seeds with him to give the lonely women who lived in clearing cabins, and that today the great red daylilies which grow along the roadsides or on the sites of old cabins, long disappeared, were spread by Johnny."



Daylily

ARCSE MEMBERSHIP DUES

Member	\$18 per year
Affiliate	\$18 per year
Life (One-time payment)	
Age 64 or younger	\$250
Age 65 thru 74	\$200
Age 75 or older	\$125

NOTE: Dues payment includes receipt of the bimonthly electronic newsletter only. All members (both life members and those who pay annual dues) who desire a hard copy of the newsletter must pay an additional fee of \$12.00 per year

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Ron Marlow, Secretary Treasurer

New Members

New ARCSE Members

First Name	Last Name	State
Ben	Doerge	NDSMC/TX
Jeff	Godwin	IA
Charles	Love	AL

Status of 2018 Membership Dues and Additional Fee Payments

In years past ARCSE has sent a post card to those who have not paid their annual dues by March 1st. In 2017 and again this year we have chosen to include in the March/April newsletter a list of members who have not paid their 2018 dues. We are also including a list of those who currently get the printed copy of the newsletter but have not paid the additional fee for the printed copy, giving them another chance to pay up or provide a valid email address for electronic news.

These lists are for the benefit of you, the member, and we are hopeful that our members appreciate the information. We were hesitant to disseminate the lists to a large audience but decided that the benefit far exceeds any down side. We hope that you agree, but if you feel otherwise, we do sincerely apologize for this action.

We are providing these lists for three reasons:

1. To reduce the number of post cards to be mailed.
2. To ensure that members get correct information as there may have been some labels printed with inaccurate dues payment information. Members often get dropped from the roles without realizing that they are being dropped and why they were dropped.
3. All board members are concerned that members be given ample opportunity to pay the additional fee for the printed newsletter or provide a valid email address so that they will not miss out on the newsletter. This action does that.

Please check the two lists below to see if your name is listed. To pay dues and/or additional fees please make checks payable to ARCSE and mail to: ARCSE, P.O. Box 7454, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7454.

The 2018 dues have not been paid by the members listed below. To maintain your membership and receive the electronic newsletter, your dues in the amount of \$18 must be paid. If you believe this information to be incorrect, please send an email to arcse@cox.net stating such or call Ron Marlow at 703-503-9219.

Joan Albertella	Richard G Babeu	W. Esther Bright	James P Clevenger	Thomas T. Cutts	Stephen & Judy Foland
Dwight E Allman	Bob Ball	Roy E Bright	Daniel L Conrad	Jon V DeGroot	Coy Garrett
Mike W. Anderson	Leonard R. Beck	Frederick E Bubb	Raymond Coombes	Robert W. Drown	John Geter
Joseph F Ausan	Paul Benedict	James Burgess	Donald L Cooper	Larry Edmonds	Wendell Gilgert
Shirley R Austin	Donald Bowers	Dana C Chapman	James M Cooper	James L Enlow	Bruce E. Green
Jim Ayen	James F Brasfield	Charles D Cheek	Allen T Crowe	Joe A Fasig	Jim Gulliford

Gary A Gwinn	A Glen Johnson	Mark Lindfrott	Robert J Nelson	John M Robbins, Jr.	Barbara J Strus
Howard W Hall	Leonard Jolley	C Owen Maddux	Marvin A. Nelson	Donald R Robertson	Barbara J Strus
William G Hance	Janie Jolly	James A Maetzold	Albert Neu	George Rohaley	Michael Sugg
Jane Hardisty	Leonard Jordan	Steve Manternach	Allen L Newman	Danny A. Ross	Gale W TeSelle
Roberta L Hart	Harris Judy	Donald E McCandless,	Edwin W Olmsted	Aubrey C Sanders	Fred D. Theurer
Robert J Hartrick	Christopher (Chris) Jr.	Bob McLeese	Barbara Osgood	David W Sanders	Margaret Theurer
Johnnie F Henry	Knudsen	Kenneth W Meyer	Stephen B Owen	Fremont C Schoeck	Beverly H. Walker
Robert Horton, Jr.	Loretta Krall	John W Mickley, Jr.	John S Pirie	Swayne Scott	Mike B. Walker
James C Hunt	Hans Krauss	Terry Mitchell	John Poenisch	Sterling P Shreve	John H (Herb) Wilson
Joe A. Icenhower	Gene Krotzer	John S. Moore	Marion S. Porter	Stanley R Simmons	Norman G Wolfrom
Calvin M Jackson	Mike Kuck	Graham T Munkittrick	Hilda G Poss	Volney H Smith	Bill Woolcock
Erling T Jacobson	Gary Lamont	Romy Myszka	Lane Price	Daniel H Smith	Kristi Yasumiishi
Carol Jeske	Cindy Lauster	Luke A Nance	David C Ralston	Mike Somerville	Dana York
A Glen Johnson	Chuck S. Lebeda		Delores (Dory) Reeves	Michael A. Sporcic	

The additional fee of \$12 has not been paid by the members listed below who currently receive the printed newsletter.
 To receive future copies of the printed newsletter for 2018, the \$12 fee must be paid in addition to your annual dues. In lieu of payment, a member may provide a valid email address to receive the electronic newsletter. You may check the above list to determine if your annual dues are due.

John W Adams	Joe A Fasig	George T (Tom) Haynes	Raymond L Marshall	John S Pirie	Raymond P Sims
Joseph F Ausan	Robert Franzen	Betty Holder	Neal A McClure	Hilda G Poss	Richard F Smith
Shirley R Austin	Jennings W	K Keith Huffman	Charles C McKee	Dwight & Norma	M J (Whitey) Spears
Earl R Blakley	Garlinghouse	Judith C Hummel	Doris McKinney	Quisenberry	James F Steinkamp
David C Brooks	Hector Gonzalez	James C Hunt	Niles A McLoda	Margaret (Peg) Reese	Irwin Ten Haken
H Glen Buchta	Frank A Griffin	Martha J Jones	Jesse McMasters	William Richards	Jimmy D Thomas
Charles D Cheek	Charles Haenisch	Loretta Krall	George W Moreland	Frank Richardson	Martin E Vavra
Herman C Cohen	William G Hance	Harold Kraut	Robert J Nelson	Duane K Setness	William P Yolton
Phillip D Coombs	Ron Harben	Charles F Lamborn	Allen L Newman	Sterling P Shreve	
Harold F Creech	Roberta L Hart	Ernest E Lincoln	Esther Patterson	Stanley R Simmons	
Johnny M Eubanks	Eileen Hayhurst	Robert C Maples	Glenn H Paulsgrove	Mike Simmons	

ARIZONA

Ken Cookson, ARCSE Representative

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Gary Nordstrom Report: Just to let my friends know, I am doing fairly well since my heart attack in February 2016. I have had to make a lot of adjustments to my lifestyle. I still have a lot of rehabilitation to do. I try to avoid any long trips as I still get tired quite easily. This Christmas, **David** and his family drove up from San Antonio where he is currently stationed. We did the train ride from Williams, AZ to the Grand Canyon, and that evening we did the Polar Express train ride for the kids. I should also mention that David is attached to the Northern Command at Fort Sam Houston.

He spent the better part of the fall helping coordinate the rescue, recovery, and relief efforts following hurricane Harvey in Texas and hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. While he was at the emergency command center in Austin, TX, he got a phone call from his wife telling him that his house had burned down. Thankfully no one was injured, but the house was a total loss. They are in the process of rebuilding and hope to be able to move back into their home late this summer or fall.

Jayne and I drove to Las Vegas to spend New Year's Eve and to also celebrate her birthday while we were there. Jayne has been a big help to me during my recovery process. Thank you to all of my friends who have supported me during my recovery.



Gary and Jane Nordstrom



Gary and Jane Nordstrom family



A group met on Feb. 20th at Chompie's in Scottsdale and had a good time visiting and reminiscing. Hugh Curry sent a picture of the group.

Ken Cookson Report: Hugh and Sharon Curry have spent January and February of the last several years in Arizona. Last year Hugh organized a luncheon for the people in AZ he worked with during his career. He did the same this year, although I was unable to attend.

CALIFORNIA

Bill Ward, ARCSE Representative

Email: bluegrassbillward@gmail.com

Greetings from California! Last issue I reported on the Thomas Fire in Ventura and Santa Barbara County, ongoing at that time. Here is a summary of that wildfire, finally fully contained January 12th and its devastating impacts related just to the fire damage itself.

The Thomas Fire ultimately burned approximately 281,893 acres (440 mi²) becoming the largest wildfire in modern California history. The Thomas Fire destroyed at least 1,063 structures, while damaging 280 others, becoming the seventh-most destructive wildfire in state history.

Mud and Debris flows of January 9th. The steep and erosive nature of the Southern California coast has a long history of wildfires, followed by mud and debris flows that come with significant storms on the burned watershed, denuded of vegetation that can no longer contain or absorb heavy rainfall. That history repeated itself again in the early morning of January 9th when a significant storm system dropped several inches of rain over the burned watershed with one very short but intense period of rainfall.

The resulting mud and debris flow that came down in Santa Barbara County was devastating, with 21 lives lost and major destruction of homes, businesses and other improvements. A half-mile length of Highway 101 was closed due to inundation from mud, debris and boulders, in some places 10 to 15 feet deep. Following are a few photos that illustrate the scope and type of damage that occurred.



Scope and type of damage from 1/9 event



Scope and type of damage

Eleven debris basins are below the burn area, ranging in size from about 7,000 yd³ to the largest, 129,000 yd³. The largest debris basin, **Santa Monica Debris Basin** is an SCS/NRCS project constructed in 1977 as a part of the Carpinteria PL-566 Watershed Project with Santa Barbara County Flood Control as project Sponsors.

With the exception of Santa Monica Debris Basin, all the other 10 basins were overwhelmed and could not contain the enormous volume of rocks, sediment, boulders and trees that moved through the basins and did all the damage to downstream improvements. It has been estimated that the total debris deposited in the heaviest damaged area was about 2 million yd³, with the 11 debris basins only able to capture about 400,000 yd³. With this event happening in early January there is the potential for significant storms to still occur at any time over the next few months which could cause similar damage.

With all the basins filled and the downstream channels and bridges clogged with debris there has been a tremendous recovery effort ongoing since the event with multiple federal, state and local agencies involved. FEMA and the Corps of Engineers

stepped in immediately and took on the enormous task of providing funds (FEMA) and contracting (ACOE) to remove debris from all the basins, restoring them to be ready for additional storms that are very possible in the next few months. Work to restore all the debris basins was accelerated to the extent possible with contracts for work to be done on a 24-hr basis. As of February 20th, all of the 11 basins, with the exception of the largest basin, Santa Monica Debris Basin, have been restored and made ready for future storms. Santa Monica Debris Basin restoration is estimated to be about 50% complete.



Many very large boulders!



Burned Watershed above Carpinteria, Santa Monica Debris Basin in the lower right of the photo

Highway 101 was ultimately cleared of all debris and mud almost two weeks after the event, with work done on a 24-hr basis. Work is ongoing to remove debris from channels and restore their capacity. Most of these channels are natural/unimproved channels. New risk maps have been prepared by Santa Barbara County identifying all areas considered a risk, with instructions on evacuations as well.

Santa Monica Debris Basin update. Santa Monica Debris Basin, part of the Carpinteria PL-566 Watershed Project has been credited with saving the community of Carpinteria from the devastating effects suffered in nearby areas. As the largest basin of the 11 total in the area, it filled to capacity and needed every bit of its capacity to protect the downstream community of Carpinteria.

Doug Toews, retired NRCS National Water Management Engineer and I both worked extensively in the past with Santa Barbara County Flood Control District. We have taken on the task of documenting all aspects of the disaster event, as well as the success of the Santa Monica Debris Basin in protecting Carpinteria. In addition, we are serving as liaisons between Santa Barbara County and NRCS State Office in Davis and NRCS National Headquarters.

Due in part to the extreme sensitivity of what happened to nearby areas and the frantic ongoing recovery work, a traditional “success story” on Santa Monica Debris Basin by NRCS is being put on hold until at least after the current rain season is over. In addition, new “Risk Maps” developed by the County now show Carpinteria to be at risk to suffer damage similar to what occurred on 1/9. The latest risk maps recognize that much more material can come down with additional storms and currently Santa Monica Debris Basin is not fully restored and cannot provide the same level of protection it did for the 1/9 storm event. The latest estimate for completing the work to restore the basin is March 15th.

Following are some photos that document the performance of Santa Monica Debris Basin as well as the ongoing restoration work.



Santa Monica Debris Basin full after the 1/9 storm event



Project site, 1/28, boulder field at basin inlet extends 1000 ft upstream of the basin



Overview of debris removal effort, 1/28



Overview of Santa Monica Debris Basin restoration work on February 18, 2018. Note the exposed top of the principal spillway tower near the center of the photo

The restoration work is now estimated to be 50% complete with a target date of March 15th for completion.

A major challenge in the basin restoration effort is to unplug the main principal spillway tower and the 4-ft diameter RCP Principal Spillway going under the dam, both full of debris. Debris in the tower is about 10 ft. below the tower crest to the bottom of the tower. The 4-ft RCP is full of debris through the majority of the pipe to its end below the dam. Regarding the spillways, it is comforting to know the emergency spillway is fully functional if needed.

A tremendous job has and is being done by all involved in recovery!



Main principal spillway tower, major blockage



Emergency spillway fully functional if needed

Santa Barbara County Flood Control District staff, and in particular **Tom Fayram**, Deputy Director, deserve extra special recognition for their heroic efforts since the disaster hit. As both Doug and I have had the privilege of knowing and working with Tom, we are not surprised at all he has accomplished.

NRCS Assistance to Private Landowners. With FEMA and the ACOE able to step in immediately to provide funding and oversight on the major debris basin restoration work with the county NRCS assistance through its EWP program was not needed for that effort. NRCS has, however provided a major role in providing technical assistance to private landowners impacted by the fire and subsequent debris flows.

On January 8th retired DC **Rich Casale**, (as an ACES participant) began providing critical post-fire restoration assistance to individual landowners at risk from the recent fires in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. Rich is a recently retired DC after 43 years with SCS/NRCS and is also a certified Professional Erosion and Sediment Control Specialist.

Following is a link to an AgNet West radio interview that Rich did describing the work he is currently doing, which received national exposure with comments made by the Secretary of Agriculture:

<http://agnetwest.com/specialist-returns-assist-wildfire-relief-efforts/>

Here are just a couple site photos from Rich's visits. Many thanks, Rich for your outstanding technical assistance in this effort!



K-rails to protect home



Rich providing recommendations at a failed Culvert Site



Erosion control recommendations needed

That's all for this time around Folks. Hopefully we will be able to stop reporting on disasters soon! Wishing you all the best from California!

--Bill Ward, Former Design Staff Leader, Davis, CA

Bill and Doug reminisce about their passion for Music! With an opportunity to work together again to document all aspects of this disaster, we have had an opportunity to reminisce about our passion for music. When we were both working, we always took advantage of every opportunity we had to play music together. We continue to enjoy sharing our latest musical endeavors and what we are working on.



From their working days, Doug and Bill enjoying an opportunity to play music together!

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

IDAHO

Jim Cornwell, ARCSE Representative

Email: idahoarcse@gmail.com

The regular January meeting of the retirees was well attended considering several of our members were traveling or on cruises. **Paul and Harriet Calverley** were cruising the Hawaiian Islands, **Harley Noe** was cruising the Caribbean, and **Keri Gibbs** was at NARFE headquarters representing the federal employees and retirees of Idaho. Those in attendance were **Ken Beckman, Lynanne Stewart** (the most recent retiree to join our ranks), **Paul Malone, Gene and Bev Crisman, Shelby Brownfield, Dennis Feichtinger, Frank Fink, Stan and Kathy Hobson, Phil Morrisy, Rob Fredricksen, Dan Ogle, Mitch Flanagan, Darrell Gallup and his son Darrell, Amos Garrison, Bill Moore, John Kendrick, and Jim Cornwell**.

The morning of our February meeting we woke up to 4-5 inches of snow, which is unusual for this winter, as we had been experiencing spring-like weather most of January and February. Last winter we were dealing with deep snow and sub-freezing weather for two months over the same period of time. The slick roads resulted in a low attendance. Attendees were **Mitch Flanagan, Bill Moore, Dan Ogle, Amos Garrison, Gale Roberts** (retired DC from Hailey, Idaho recently moved to the Boise area), **Paul and Harriet Calverley, and Jim Cornwell**.

January 2018, several retirees and guests took a few days and traveled to West Yellowstone, WY. Taking a snow coach into geyser basin, including Old Faithful in Yellowstone Park, was the highlight of the trip. Besides the cold temperatures, the trip was put into jeopardy since the government was shut down due to a lack of budget but the Park Service did leave the gate open. With it being winter, there still was plenty of wildlife in the park. Many buffalo were out, along with elk, bald eagles, trumpeter swans, and many different species of ducks. There weren't any wolves visible; however, our guide did see a pack of wolves a day earlier feasting on a buffalo carcass. No bears, still hibernating.

Other activities included traveling out of the park into Montana to see hundreds of elk that migrated to lower elevations, and snow machining into the Targhee National Forest in Idaho.



Transportation into Yellowstone Park.



The folks on the trip include Ruth and Mitch Flanagan, Ken and Donna Beckman, Kate and Rob Fredrickson, Anelise Krause, and Dan Ogle. Temperatures were mostly below zero, but never was a problem as long as you had the right clothes.



This is an interesting photo of the Madison River, one of the tributaries to the Missouri River. The foreground is in Wyoming, center of photo is in Montana, and the mountains in the distance are in Idaho. Yellowstone Park lies in all three states.

ILLINOIS

Dale Benz, ARCSE Representative

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We are sorry to report the passing of **Bob Lantz** on January 24. Bob is survived by his wife, Patsy, and three children. We extend our sympathy to Patsy and their family. See the In Memoriam section for more details.

Congratulations to Wiley Scott on his election as president of the Illini Chapter of NARFE in the Champaign area. We look forward to his leadership for the next two years.

The next gathering of retired SCS/NRCS employees in Illinois will be April 5th, 2018. We are meeting for lunch and visiting at the Perkins Restaurant in Urbana with lunch at 11:30. Please feel free to join us.

IOWA

Mark Jensen, ARCSE Representative

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Thank you to **Jody Christiansen** for submitting the following paragraph and Colorado ski trip pictures: "The Annual Ski Trip was again a great time to catch up with friends, enjoy downhill skiing, cross country skiing and snowshoeing and, most important, no injuries. Retirees **Duane Miller, Bob Dayton, Jody Christiansen, Rick Knutsen and Al Ehley** joined with current NRCS employees **Dale and Joanne Bruce, Ruth Ehley**, and former employee **Craig Muehlberg**, his wife, and a few more friends for the 33rd annual event.

Next year we are considering staying in yurts for one night—now that should be interesting." I didn't know what a "yurt" is, so I looked it up, and the dictionary says it is "a circular tent of felt or skins on a collapsible framework, used by nomads in Mongolia, Siberia, and Turkey." And apparently Colorado.



Rick Rubenstein, Duane, Dale, Bob, and Al cooking dinner



Dale, Rick Rubenstein, and Joanne relaxing in a yurt at a brew pub



Jody, Kim and Craig enjoying a new brew in the yurt

On February 13th, the Central Iowa Chapter of the Iowa Engineering Society hosted the 35th annual MathCounts competition. MathCounts is a nationwide math competition for 6th through 8th graders. Our Chapter competition had 301 official participants and 60 alternates from 39 central Iowa schools. Teams from the top six schools and top individuals will go on to compete at the state competition in early March. The winners of that competition will compete at the national competition in May. I have been fortunate to get to help with this event for 34 of the 35 years. With all the negative things in the news, it is very uplifting to get to see and be around all these smart and energetic future leaders of our country.



The conclusion of a round of the Central Iowa Chapter MathCounts Competition

During the past few months, we have welcomed five new members to the ranks of retirees. These include **Cynthia Page**, Physical Science Technician in Des Moines; **Janet (Sam) Thomas**, Engineering Technician on the Sioux City Engineering staff; **Deanna Grange**, Office Assistant on the Sioux City Area staff; **Wendell Jones**, District Conservationist in Iowa City; and **Paul Miller**, District Conservationist in Ankeny.



Ruth and Al on a snowshoe trek at Ski Cooper



Jody and Ruth selfie after snowshoeing up the Tennessee Pass at Ski Cooper

Paul Miller retired on January 3rd and began a new career on January 12th. Paul accepted the position of Urban Conservationist for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in Des Moines. He is filling a vacancy that was created when another NRCS retiree, **Wayne Petersen**, decided to retire—again.

Attendance at the February 21st breakfast at IHOP in Des Moines was perhaps the smallest group that we have had for quite a while, but it's the first time I've had a camera there for a long time. The picture shows the four of us who braved the icy roads for some eggs and pancakes. Usually we have 8 to 10 persons attending. The group meets every Wednesday morning at IHOP. All retirees are welcome to attend!

One health issue to report comes from **Eldon Weber**. He told me that he had gotten into the habit of chewing on ice. His 12-year old granddaughter went on her iPhone to research if that was a symptom of some medical issue. That search ended up with Eldon scheduling some tests which showed that he had colon cancer. He had surgery on January 19th and started chemo therapy on February 19th. He said that if it hadn't been for his granddaughter, who knows when the cancer would have been found since there was no pain!



Rod Martin, Mark Jensen, Denny Peterson, and Don Peterson at IHOP for breakfast

KANSAS

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Mother Nature surprised the Salina area with a Christmas present of just enough snow to have a white Christmas. However, we have not received any moisture since the first of the year and have had a number of periods with the temperatures yo-yoing between below freezing one day to the 70s the next day. This keeps us guessing as to whether to get out the shorts and sandals or hang onto the winter coats.

John and Linda Ourada are very active volunteers in Salina, KS, as well as volunteering out of state. They recently returned from the Snow Mountain Ranch, YMCA of the Rockies, in Colorado where they volunteered approximately three weeks doing a number of duties. This was their tenth year of volunteering at this ranch. **Linda** spent her time at the program desk explaining the many activities available and assisting with signing up participants. She also worked in the gift shop and spent many hours cleaning and re-organizing the library. **John** volunteered at the Nordic center, renting skiing equipment and fitting shoes and skis. He also helped with ski lessons and some days waxed skis and repaired poles. It isn't all work as the volunteers have planned activities for the evening hours such as a game night and night moonlight skiing.

New retirees include **Loretta J. Cecil**, Office Automation Assistant, retired November 30, 2017, from the Dodge City Field Office; **Donald R. Garwood**, Biological Science Technician (Plants) at the Manhattan Plant Materials Center retired on January 3, 2018; **James Scott Davis** retired on January 31, 2018, as a Soil Conservation Technician in the Emporia Field Office; and **Ray A. Colglazier**, Soil Conservation Technician in the Kinsley Field Office, retired February 2, 2018.

We were saddened to learn that two retirees passed away. **Franklin C. Kinsey** passed away January 6th, 2018. **Frank** retired in 1986 as a Civil Engineer in the Manhattan Area Office. **Francis J. Komarek** passed away February 10th, 2018, after suffering several strokes. **Francis** was a special friend. We worked together for many years in the Kansas State Office before he retired in 1992. Francis's son and twin brother survive.

One spouse has also passed away. **Virginia Lee Rightmeier** passed away February 18th, 2018. **Virginia's** spouse, **Lyle**, preceded her in death in 2016. He retired in 1980 as a Soil Conservation Technician in the Mankato Field Office. See the In Memoriam section for more details.

MAINE

John Simon, ARCSE Representative

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JANUARY: Well I guess that cabin fever is setting into Mainers. We had 10 smiling faces at our breakfast yesterday, the 9th. Attending were **Bruce Champeon and Karon Potvin, Art Taylor, Kay and Ray Voyer, Chris Jones, John Simon, Roger Ashe, and Judy and Charlie Boothby**.

It got up to the 30s for the first time in a long time, and it was nice and sunny. This was good therapy for us Mainers with cabin fever. For **Chris Jones**, newly retired, it was his first breakfast with us. He introduced himself to Charlie, whom he had heard about but was not familiar with. A hearty welcome to Chris.

Noreen and I met **Dottie and Larry Laber** at Hannaford market in Brewer and had a nice visit with the both of them. Larry needs to carry oxygen with him, but otherwise he was chipper and pandering playfully with Dottie. Great to see them.

Art and I spent some time talking about mini-split heat pumps and vibration noise problems. On Monday I had what are called vibration isolation bolts installed on my new unit, which was emitting quite a loud hum, much more than my other unit. Well, you would not believe the difference in quieting the unit down! This sparked the interest in Roger Ashe who uses a mini-split for heating and air conditioning and has a similar problem, so I emailed him information on the devices. They are similar to motor mounts which isolate the car body from the engine vibration. I think all Mini-Splits should have them, but for now they are extra. I am having a set of these rubber isolation bolts installed on my older unit this week!

Again I wish all a wonderful New Year! For your information we are all enjoying being buried in snow this year but are having a break in the below-zero string of days! Thank goodness. A little melting will be good.

FEBRUARY: We had a lively bunch of nine retirees for breakfast on Tuesday the 13th. In attendance were **Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon and Karon Potvin, Kay and Ray Voyer, Judy and Charlie Boothby, Roger Ashe, and John Simon**.

Judy and Charlie told us that they had just celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on February 8th! Congratulations to both of you and we wish you many more. Charlie did say that he was down to do some smelt fishing with **Bill Moulton** in his ice shack on the Kennebec River. Apparently the fishing was good, and the recent ice breakup and flooding on the Kennebec River did not affect Bill's ice shack.

Kay Voyer indicated that, although now retired, she is still doing part-time substitute teaching in the Old Town school district and loves it. The work is a lot more fun than full-time teaching.

Both **Art Taylor** and I have now retro-fitted all our mini-split heat pumps with vibration isolation bolts to greatly reduce the vibration of the machines carrying into the wall cavity and into the houses. Art has three on his house, and I have two. Believe me the sound at my place was drastically reduced! For anyone contemplating installing a mini-split heat pump I strongly advise having these vibration isolation bolts installed at the time of installation (they are not standard). All of our units are mounted (hung) on the outside of the walls. Another option for units close to a bedroom wall is to put the unit on a free-standing metal platform outside on the ground where no vibration can reach into the frame of the house. More on mini-splits next month.

We are just finishing up our high school basketball tournament this week (2/16-24) which is vacation week. The games are no longer covered by PBS or the local channels, so I get to see none of them, just what is in the paper. Till next time take care and God bless.

MASSACHUSETTS

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Well, it's been a quiet few months for the Massachusetts retirees. We had a few sub-zero nights in January, but I only needed my snow blower guy five times this season. We even had a 73-degree day that captured the record for warmest February day since record-keeping began. On a fiscal note, this has been the first year in three where I made the right decision by pre-paying for my heating oil.

This issue of the newsletter brings retiree good news and sad news. For the sad news we note the passing on February 21st of **Bruce Thompson**, retired Regional Director of the MLRA-12 Soil Survey Regional Office in Amherst. Bruce was born on April

5, 1940 in Worcester, MA about the same time and place as his brother **Ron**, the retired DC from the Holden NRCS office. Bruce spent most of his career in Missouri, returning to Mass. for a few years before his retirement. I remember Bruce as being a top contender for the Best Dressed Soil Scientist Award. I can't picture Bruce without a necktie, except when he was in a soil pit during an Envirothon. He always brought six different olives for lunch and could tell me where they were from and their taxonomy. It's only because of Bruce that I know there are **dystrochrepts** in the world, and some of them are frigid.

December, 2017 marked the retirement of **Jane Laborde**, the contracting officer in Amherst. If my memory is correct Jane is the third contracting officer in a row to escape from the VA and find a home with NRCS in Amherst. Jane skillfully handled the contracting duties for Mass. and was then assigned to the national contracting group somewhere in cyberspace, and she began doing contracts throughout the southeastern states for people she hardly knew. And she never even got a government-paid mid-winter trip to Louisiana to check on those contracts.

The first working day of January 2018 became the first retirement day for **Shawn Finn**, Data Quality Specialist for the MLRA-12 Regional Soil Survey Office. Shawn had been threatening to retire for many months, and although I counseled him to use his sick leave before he retired, I doubt he followed my advice. It's probably best that he did retire because his computer had become possessed by demons. The disk would suddenly fill up, and the computer would slow down to a crawl. Shawn would delete files, and the next day the disk would fill again. It only seemed to happen when he was using the NASIS soils program, so it's probably best that Shawn retired and the computer be exorcised.

It's now raining and 35 degrees with no snow to be seen. Crocuses are thinking about popping up, and robins have been sighted.

MISSOURI

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We welcome new retirees: **Terry Hill** (50 years with SCS/NRCS!), **Gail Sallee** (the glue that held the state office together for the past several years) and **John Preston** Soil Scientist.

The Columbia area retirees met for their quarterly breakfast on February 14th at the Denny's in Columbia. Those in attendance were **John and Carol McCarthy**, **Maurice and Gloria Davis**, **Richard and Marjorie Koenig**, **Frank and Kay Miller**, **Bob and Lenore Ball**, **Gail Sallee** (new retiree), **Jerry Edwards**, **Mike Wells**, **Odie Swanegan**, **John Turner** and **Dave Rastorfer**. The next breakfast will be on May 9th at Denny's in Columbia.

Dennis Shirk: We have had quite a dose of winter here in central Missouri. Our coldest temperature was -10 degrees. We are really dry but don't want to see snow or ice (yes I know, I'm picky). We're looking forward to spring. See you down the trail.

Nancy Caldwell Ayers: A lot has been going on in **Van's** and my life this past year. We started building our dream farmhouse on Van's Family farm in November 2016 and moved in October 2017. The farm is located between George Dickel and Jack Daniels (TN), which I figured is a good place to retire. Van will officially retire from the University of Missouri March 31st. (I told him he really retired over a year ago). I've been taking care of the livestock; 160+- cow-calf operations, 97 chickens-egg production, 100+- Tennessee Red Quail.



Some of Nancy's Tennessee Red Quail



Nancy Ayers on her new Tennessee Walking Horse

Putting up 468 ac of warm season grass hay; eastern gamma, switchgrass, and Indian grass. I got my turkey limit for Bedford County, TN, spring four Toms and fall six birds. When Van asked me to marry him over 35 years ago, he said he would buy me a Tennessee Walking Horse.

Well, I finally got my TWH a few weeks ago! **Vanessa** (my daughter) and her husband are having their first baby in June. They live in Charleston, MO and farm somewhere over 7,000 ac of cropland. Van and I will be grandparents for the first time to a granddaughter. Speaking of grandparents, my son, **Harrison**, (age 19), is younger than the grandchildren of some of my friends, with whom I graduated (oh well, keeps us young). Folks can't believe I'm in my 60s. Harrison is a freshman at SEMO University. He was offered two football scholarships (taking after the Caldwell side of the family; my brother and two nephews played at MIZZOU), but decided to take the academic scholarship at SEMO and is now in the ROTC Air Force program. He wants to fly planes and drones. We just got back from our first retirement trip to the Hill country of Texas. We visited my

favorite History and Spanish teacher in San Marcos, where he retired with his wife from Texas State University (where George Straight went to college). He now plays in a band, *Dr. G and the Mudcats*. They have three CDs out. My high school classmate, from South Shelby, **Mike Hartgrove**, plays the fiddle in the Lonesome River Band. When I played with him in the high school band, Mike played the Banjo. Van and I heard the most amazing country, honky-tonk music we have witnessed. We were humming all our way back to Tennessee. It's a good thing these guys will be back in Nashville in September during the American Music Conference! Some of them may stay with us on the farm depending on their schedule. Van and I are planning our next trip in May to Canada. We'll be taking the Rocky Mountain Train through the Rockies between Calvary and Vancouver for 10 days. Another thing crossed off on our bucket list!

Jack Schneider: We spent the last two weeks of January on a tour of New Zealand. Lots of hiking, biking and ocean kayaking. Nice weather except for one 100+ day and cyclone. Grandson #4 due in August. And, yes, gardening will be here before you know it.

Alton Taylor: We have another great grandson, and a grandson getting married in May. Hope to spend April in Arizona again. I think that is enough for elders.

Bill Pauls: We are headed down to Gulf Shores to visit **Dennis and Bonnie Potter** for a week. Congratulations to **John Preston** on joining the retirement club! Still loving the Lake of the Ozarks and still running marathons, now training to run three in six days in three different states (ME, VT, RI). Still volunteering and active in our new Parish here. Had **Doug Wallace** down to help me look at our forest where our church is developing a new cemetery. I'm the "dirt" guy on the project. Crappie are bitin' and I hope you all got your Valentine something nice. God Bless you all. (Kris's birthday on Monday [39 again]).



The Jacksons (Keith and Lori), the Noel's (Gary and Natalie) joined the Lingwall's (Jay and Leigh) for a great week of kayaking, biking, boating, fishing, and a little volleyball in southwest Florida during some awesome warm weather in mid-February. Left to right, Keith and Lori Jackson, Leigh Lingwall, Natalie Noel, Lay Lingwall and Gary Noel.

Jack Walker: Many thanks for all the good wishes from our SCS friends! **Jack** is progressing well with his rehab therapy for his broken hip. He's been home from the Health Center for about two weeks, and we've stayed busy since then with home health therapy people coming several times a week. He has been walking with a walker, and doing pretty well with it. Not quite ready for a cane yet, but not too far into the future.

MONTANA

Dick Gooby, ARCSE Representative

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Montana Big Sky Report

Scott Hoag Report: The past couple of months haven't been very eventful for **Scott and Nancy**, just winter, snow and cold. Snow covers the lawn, so the voles are having a hay day digging tunnels in the grass. We were in Seattle and Bainbridge Is., over Christmas and New Year's, visiting family—daughter and granddaughters, Nancy's mother and sister, along with nieces and nephews. Nancy is writing and selling articles. Scott volunteers with Habit for Humanity and does a little consulting, working on PL-566 Watershed Rehab projects. A sad piece of news, **Hal Hunter** passed away on Thursday, Feb 15th after a short illness. Judy's address is 1125 Landmark Dr., Belgrade, MT 59714.

Phillis Phillips Report: Well let's say that the grass is still not growing under my feet or over my head. I had a brain tumor removed last May and since then I've been running around like a crazy woman getting lots done! I feel great and it took me about two weeks to get back to running. I was back teaching my fitness class last fall and am still teaching. Then I was off for the summer hiking in South Dakota and Banff National Park and busy with the grandchildren. In fact, we just had another little girl on February 14th so that makes four now. Three girls and one very precocious little boy who will carry on the Philipps name

and be the fifth generation farmer if he so chooses. Working on fundraisers and grants as well. We finally have enough funds to move forward with a dressing room addition to the Orpheum Theatre in Conrad. I'm the general contractor, and we start construction this spring. That's been a five-year journey, so I am very excited to see that one come to fruition. I finished a grant for a recreational trail in Conrad. I'll present the proposal in April and keep our fingers crossed. I've directed two theatre productions. Just finishing one up called "Carol and Friends." I also got to be on stage, so it was doubly fun. Going to spend the month of April in beautiful Delaware with my daughter and her two girls. Always excited about that because she lives at the beach and I get an actual spring. Monday we are heading to the Cayman Islands where the temperature is 80 degrees and the only white to be seen is the sand! A nice break from winter.

Gooby Ranch Report: The other day we were separating bulls, and one decided he didn't want to be separated, so he made an attempt to jump over the gate. He got about half way over and landed on top. The gate is made out of pipe, and he bent the top pipe down about a foot. The pipes are thick, and I couldn't believe he would be able to bend it. When the other bulls saw what he did, they thought they should jump the gate too. As each one jumped, they bent the top pipe a little more. The gate is key for separating animals. But now it's worthless. I was trying to figure out what to do since we don't have a gate that we can replace that one with. About that time Mary Ann said she had an idea on how to fix the gate. She went over to the pickup and got the tow chain. Then she climbed up the gate and stood on the pipe a foot below the bent pipe, squatted down, hooked the chain around her waist and around the bent gate pipe. She straightened her back and started lifting with her legs. I couldn't believe it: the pipe began to straighten and Mary Ann kept lifting until she got the pipe straight. I was totally impressed. All the training I did teaching Mary Ann to lift with her legs really paid off. Mary Ann is one tough kid.

For Christmas I got Mary Ann a new Wheel Barrow. It's a lot bigger than her old one. Mary Ann can haul twice as much now as she could before. She was really proud of me.

A while back we had to make a trip to Bozeman which is over 100 miles each way. When we make a long trip, I have a beer before we leave and that way Mary Ann has to be the designated driver. Mary Ann always gets up first in the morning and does her early morning chores. Then when she has breakfast on she wakes me up. The morning of the Bozeman trip I came out in the kitchen, and in front of Mary Ann's plate there were two empty beer cans. I asked Mary Ann what happened, since she doesn't drink beer. She said for some reason she was real thirsty and nothing seemed to work, so she thought having the beers would cure the thirst problem.

That meant I was going to have to drive. What a bummer. All day long I kept wondering why Mary Ann drank the beer. When we got back home I decided to check the recycling container. Sure enough, there were two empty cans missing.

NEBRASKA

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The January 17th meeting was called to order by **Norm Helzer**, President. There were 15 members present. These included the following: **Paul Bartlett, Val Bohaty, Joe Calder, Jim Carr, Chris Chapman, Jim Culver, Gus and Donna Dornbusch, Bill Hance, Norm Helzer, Harold Klaege, Gary Muckel, Steve Scheniost, Dave Camper, Bob Engel, Norman Kempf, Steve Stover, Don Williamson, and JoAnne Thiele**

Norm Helzer also opened our February meeting. A small energetic group of 14 were in attendance on this 6-degree morning, including **Paul Bartlett, Val Bohaty, Joe Calder, Jim Carr, Chris Chapman, Jim Culver, Gus Dornbusch, Bill Hance, Norm Helzer, Harold Klaege, Gary Muckel, Steve Scheniost and JoAnne Thiele**. Minutes were recorded by **Joan Thiele**.

Louie Buller had a knee replaced and is doing well. **Larry Brown** had a heart valve replaced. **Gary Muckel** reported that his wife **Nancy** had cancer surgery in Omaha and is doing well. Influenza has taken its toll on our members this month. **Joe and Flo Calder** have both been ill, as have **Gus and Donna Dornbusch**. Others have been suffering from bronchitis, colds, etc.

Bob Pollock is currently in Bryan Hospital. It was not known what his illness is. His wife, **Doris**, recently celebrated her 90th birthday.

Bill Kipper died on January 31st, 2018. He retired in Colorado, but attended the retirees' breakfast for many years. **Dorothy Post**, wife of **Gerry Post**, died November 8th, 2017 at the age of 88. Gerry was employed at the National Technical Center in Lincoln prior to retirement. **Gene Daniels** also died. See the In Memoriam section for more details.

Harold Klaege reported that he and his wife had all their family together for Christmas. Harold also took his three grandsons to see the Harlem Globetrotters. The boys enjoyed it immensely. It was noted that a former Nebraska Wesleyan player is with the Generals, the team that travels with the Globetrotters.

Norm Kempf reported that he and his wife had family from Africa, Minnesota, Montana, and South Dakota to their home for the Christmas holidays.

The **Bartletts** took a cruise to Hawaii—the weather was bad, cold and rainy. They did get to see old friends from when they were stationed there. Both came home with bad colds and sinus infection.

Helzers went with the Lincoln Center Kiwanis Zoo group to Costa Rica. They were on the Caribbean side of the island near the rain forest. It rained! However, they were very pleased to observe over 55 different birds during their time in Costa Rica.

Gus and Donna Dornbusch went to Champaign, Illinois for the retirement of Gus's son, **David**, from NRCS.

Bill Hance had an 80th birthday celebration on January 13th. Gus congratulated Bill on his outstanding efforts and accomplishments in his prison ministry.

Norm Kempf reported that there is a problem recruiting new retirees for ARCSE in states all across the nation. He encouraged the group to consider joining the group. Benefits include a monthly newsletter and the opportunity to stay in contact with retirees nationwide.

The Nebraska Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society held its 35th Annual Legislative/Information Breakfast on February 6th, 2018, in Room 124 of the Federal Building.

Four retirees had perfect attendance at the retiree breakfasts during 2017 and received a free breakfast this month: **Chris Chapman, Paul Bartlett, Norm Helzer, and JoAnne Thiele**.

Norm Helzer noted that our next meeting will start at 7:30am on March 21st rather than our winter starting times of 8:00am.

NEW YORK

Nancy Lee, ARCSE Representative

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We extend our sympathy to **Lenny Prezorski** and his family on the unexpected loss of their son, **Nathaniel**, on January 3rd, 2018.

Looking forward to Spring in six weeks. New York has had a lot of cold weather and snow, but it is to be expected, as this is New York and it is February.

OHIO

Jon Gerken, ARCSE Representative

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Emery Saunders, former Mail and Supply Clerk for the State office, passed away. See the In Memoriam section for more details.

In October I scratched another item (or two) off my bucket list. I visited Hawaii, and in doing so, have now visited all 50 states. Thanks to one of my sisters, who has a timeshare on the big island, my wife and I and another sister joined her for a week of sightseeing and relaxation.

Our trip began with my wife and me driving from Ohio to Los Angeles to meet my two sisters and spend a couple of days visiting with them in their homes, and seeing several of our nieces and their families, who live in the area.

After a couple of days to get used to that time change, we got on the plane to head to Hawaii. We had an unfortunate experience during that part of the trip. There was a medical emergency on board, and when we were 1 ½ hours out we had to turn around and go to San Francisco for medical assistance. Unfortunately, the passenger didn't survive, so the rest of that trip was rather subdued, in addition to being delayed by 5-6 hours. The delay was significant since I had the rental car waiting in Hawaii and my two sisters were on a different plane that was scheduled to arrive in Hawaii the same time as ours. Luckily our communications got through to them about our delay and they were able to get a shuttle to the resort rather than sitting around waiting for us to arrive.

I found the island of Hawaii very interesting. While it isn't as populated and commercial as Oahu or Maui, it has lots of interesting sights to see. The west coast and the city of Kona is the touristy side of the island, which fits well with its approximately 10 inches of annual rainfall. The east side of the island, which is more populated with native islanders, receives over 40 inches of rainfall annually, and so has lots of lush vegetation and numerous rain forests.

We had the opportunity to visit a coffee plantation, a macadamia nut processor, the beautiful Akatsuka Orchid Gardens, and the Parker Ranch, the largest privately owned cattle operation in the country, among other things. We saw the most southern bar in the USA while on an island tour. Unfortunately it wasn't one of the tour stops. We also saw lots of vegetation that we had never seen before. One of the interesting plants was the Banyan tree with its unique trunk, shown in a picture below. And of course we had to visit Volcanoes National Park while there.



Some of the beautiful sights on our drive from Ohio to California, this scene approaching Indio, CA.



The timeshare where we stayed during our week in Hawaii



Rainbow Falls, one of the beautiful sights on our bus tour of the island.



A banyan tree seen on our bus tour of the island.



The beautiful Akatsuka Orchid Gardens, one of the stops on our bus tour of the island.



Diane and Jon Gerken at Waipi'o.

After flying back to California, and as we started our drive home, we got a call from my wife's sister telling us their mother had suffered a heart attack and was in intensive care in the hospital. From there our trip was as quick as we could make it, anticipating the possible need to get to an airport so my wife could fly the rest of the way home. Thankfully her mother survived several more weeks and was aware and recognized the family members almost up to the end.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Scott and Debra Nace (a DC in Ohio) who passed away unexpectedly February 3rd, 2018 from injuries sustained in an automobile accident. See the In Memoriam section for more details. A GoFundMe site has been set up to donate money to their minor children Bowen and Hannah. Here is the link. <https://www.gofundme.com/bowen-and-hannah039s-fund>.

OKLAHOMA

Randy Freeland, ARCSE Representative
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Errata. Some names were left off the participants list for OK retirees' meeting of Oct. 27 in the previous issue. The complete listing is as follows: **Ken Awtrey, Don Bartolina, Tony Boeckman, Jim and Mary Brewer, Lester Brockman, Steve Chessmore, Everett and Helen Cole, Duane Crider, Brad Elder, Wayne Fjeseth, Randy and Bonnie Freeland, Roberta and Jim Frie, Gayle Goforth, Bill and Jan Harney, Sandra and Terry Hough, Otho Lamar, Nick Lambeth, Jim McCampbell, Eunice and Glen Mullen and daughter Marilyn, Gary O'Neill, John and Joy Pewthers, Dan Runnels, Chris Shepherd, Milly and Bob Smith, Betty Todd, Keith and Phyllis Vaughan, Carolyn and Bob Webb, and Jamey Wood.**

OREGON

Don Stettler, ARCSE Representative

Email: don.stettler@comcast.net

Oregon retirees met for their spring quarter lunch at the Peppermill Restaurant in Aloha, including **Lowell and Marian Kenedy, Joe Sahlfeld, Dick and Kathy Sylvester, Jack Kanalz, Gary Formanek, Ralph Wadleigh, Clifton and Marva Deal, Pat Smith, Chad McGrath, Jeff Repp, Beth Zetter, Roy Bright, Kay Denfeld, Garry Schaefer, Ralph Wadleigh, Jeff Repp, Lamont and Karen Robbins, Beth Zetter, Eldena VanderZanden, René and Rosavita Walls, Leland Saele**, and yours truly, **Don Stettler**.



Jack Kanalz pontificating.

After fifteen years of spending his winters in Tucson, Arizona, **Roy Bright** is now residing the entire year at his Portland home. He continues to golf, but still finds that those birdies fly awfully fast. **Kay Denfeld** enjoys playing her ukulele with a group entertaining at nursing homes. **Joe Sahlfeld** recently made a trip to New York and Portland, Maine. **Gary Formanek** gave his granddaughter a special gift for Christmas this year—his precious slide rule. **Leland Saele** safely barbequed the family Thanksgiving Day turkey this year. Last year it was a disaster. **Jeff Repp** is pretty much staying at home these days. He enjoys playing his guitar at church. **Lamont Robbins** continues to enjoy his photography hobby and keeping the home fires burning when **Karen** has her wings on. **Beth Zetter** was recently in a car accident in which her car was totaled. Fortunately, she is okay. **René and Rosevita Walls** recently celebrated their forty-fifth wedding anniversary. **Eldena VanderZanden** found a great grandfather's grave who had fought in the Civil War. She also found more information about him at the National Archives. **Lowell Kenedy** attended and danced at **Marcel Tingey's** 90th birthday celebration.



René and Rosavita Walls. Recently celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary.



Clifton Deal, Eldena VanderZanden, and Lowell Kenedy.

Other news includes word that **Jack Land** recently celebrated his 81st birthday and that **Bruce and Wendy Newton** have a trip planned to Vietnam and Cambodia.

The spring quarter lunch will be held at The Old Spaghetti Factory on Wednesday April 25th at the Clackamas. Watch your email for details. My computer crashed so if you don't hear from me, let me know.



Beth Zetter and Kathy Sylvester.



Jeff Repp and Chad McGrath.



Marian Kenedy, Marva Deal, and Leland Saele



Karen and Lamont Robbins.

PENNSYLVANIA

Bill Bowers, ARSCE Representative

Email: wbowers@comcast.net

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



L to R: Jean Kirkaldie, Carolyn Gehlen, Jane Resides, Tom Iivari, Joyce Iivari, Fred Schuetz, Jane Schuetz, Helen Brossman, Frank Reside, Pat Burkett, Len Beck, Mary Beck, Shirley Thomas.

At the end of 2017 there were six retirements from NRCS announced by **Denise Coleman**, State Conservationist: **Lorin Briggs**, Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations Lebanon; **Omer Brubaker**, Natural Resources Specialist, Lancaster; **Don Graybill**, Civil Engineering Technician, Dauphin/Perry; **Bill Stidfole**, Civil Engineering Technician, Mifflin;

Louann Swope, District Conservationist, Clearfield; **Peter Zakanyicz**, District Conservationist, Northampton. Each of these conservationists served over 30 years, and the total service time of these six is over 230 years! That's a lot of experience, skill, knowledge! Congratulations to each of you and welcome to a new chapter in your life—Retirement! We welcome you to the PA Retirees' Group and hope you will keep us updated and share what retirement from NRCS is allowing you to do. Please consider attending our annual event in September.

HOW TO BECOME AN ARCSE MEMBER?

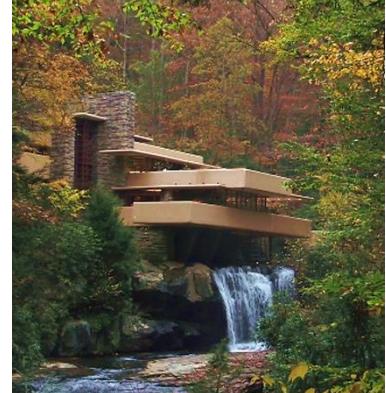
APPLICATION AT

<http://www.arcse.org/qFormMember.pdf>

Speaking of our annual event, **September 16-17, 2018** we will gather in southwestern PA. **Nevin and Judy Ulery** and **Chuck and Debbie Shrump** have planned a great meeting. Highlights of the meeting include the Sunday evening meal at Brady's Restaurant; lodging and Monday morning meeting at Holiday Inn Express, Donegal, a speaker from the Western PA Conservancy, and an afternoon tour of **Fallingwater**, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright for the Kauffman family (<https://www.fallingwater.org/>).

Check your calendar and plan to attend this event to learn some things and renew and refresh friendships with other SCS/NRCS retirees! Thanks to the **Ulerys** and **Shrumps** for the excellent planning for this event.

See you in Donegal in September!



Fallingwater by Frank Lloyd Wright

SEPA Retirees Meet for Lunch, from Frank Resides

Thirteen lucky and dedicated members of our group met on November 17th at the Chicago Pizza Grill in Newtown Square, the perfect venue for a get-together. We had a private room, with a fire in the fireplace, a TV that nobody was watching, and large windows affording a view of the great outdoors. It is also conveniently located to some who may prefer not to drive too far. Thanks to **Carl DuPoldt** for recommending it. Unfortunately, some who planned to attend had to cancel for various reasons, but the efforts of those present are appreciated.

Ann Magee has serious medical issues and is getting some home nursing care. We need to pray for improvement in Ann's condition.

Howard Hall was contacted before the meeting. Howard still lives alone in his apartment in Quarryville. He doesn't drive far any more, nor does he participate as much in the various activities offered there. Howard sounded good, and it was nice to hear his voice after several years. We wish him well.

Let's try to have a good turnout for our summer meeting, probably in July at the same place. We hope everyone has a good winter.

John Akers shares: "It has been an interesting adventure the last four years as I became a District Director for the Bedford Conservation District. I had been an Associate Director, and when one of the directors moved away, I was selected to fill out that term. About two years ago the South Central Region of PA Association of Conservation Districts needed a chairperson, and I was contacted to fill the position. I said yes without really knowing what all was involved, so it has been an interesting journey. In the middle of January this year we had our winter meeting with all districts from around the state invited to attend the two-day meeting and also included is the State Conservation Commission. It has been a different experience sitting on the other side of the table listing to the reports from cooperating agencies after being one of the persons giving the reports for 40 years with NRCS.

Two of our grandsons who live in Lynchburg, VA, each had new daughters in the past few months, so we now have seven great-grandchildren. Just wish they were a little closer, so we could see them more often.

**DEADLINE FOR
MAY/JUNE 2018 NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS
IS APRIL 25TH, 2018**

Alan and Judy Wood spent the holidays in Breckenridge, CO with their children, including a new grandson. Judy is staying through January to help with childcare and to train at high altitude (10,000 ft) for her impending climb up Mt. Kilimanjaro (as a fund raiser for Lifewater International which she and Alan volunteer with).

Fred Bubb writes: Life in the mid-80s is not the most exciting, but **Carol** and I are doing okay. Downsized over two years ago. Living on one floor is good, but why is it that almost everything I need is in the basement? For years when I went to the cardiologists, the doctor blamed it on my lungs; when I went to the lung doctor, he said it was a heart problem. This friendly jesting is no more. From not being expected to make it with the genetic Alpha form of COPD, my doctor has now proclaimed, "you will never die of COPD." The doctor reports he has never had a case make such a recovery. I am still on medication and inhalers as a precaution, but now I know it is my heart that misbehaves. I thank my doctor and add, "to God be the glory."

Ann and I took another bus trip after Christmas. We went out to Oglebay at Wheeling, WV to see the Winter Festival of Lights. It took us about an hour to drive through and see all the different light displays that are set up throughout the park. They are very beautiful displays to see all the different scenes that are made with Christmas lights.

We had a short visit with our daughter **Janice**, who lives in Richmond, VA, and her husband, **Isaiah**, who is assigned on the Ronald Reagan aircraft carrier stationed at Japan. He hopes to be reassigned to the states this summer. Hope all keep warm this winter and get ready for spring.

Geoff Cerreli was spotted ice fishing at Gifford Pinchot State Park in the midst of our early January cold spell, on the front page of the Harrisburg Patriot News and on ABC27 News. The focus of the news stories was safety on the ice. Geoff offered great tips and examples of essential safety equipment. Knowing Geoff, he probably hit the fish real hard.



Bill and Mary Ann Bowers report: Thanksgiving was truly a thanksgiving this year as we celebrated with family, and Bill was able to eat turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and three pieces of apple pie. Bill's recovery from the side effects of melanoma

treatment is going very well. Mary Ann is an excellent caregiver! Bill is walking, talking, eating and seeing normally! Thanks for all the cards, emails, texts, prayers. Support is very important to recovery. Bill has ordered vegetable seeds and orchard sprays for the growing season, if this cold winter ever quits. Granddaughter **Emily** is enjoying her freshman year at Goucher College (near Baltimore) studying biology and dance. Grandson **Ben** has signed his national letter of commitment to attend in the fall of 2018 and play golf for Drexel University (in Philadelphia), studying mechanical engineering. Boy, do they grow up fast.

Rose Marie Updegraff writes: **Dale** and I enjoyed three days in New York City this past December. Our main purpose was to see **Andrea Bocelli** in concert at Madison Square Garden. He was sensational and sold out the Garden both nights. Rosie took a tour of Madison Square Garden. It's a fascinating place and underwent a billion dollar renovation in 2013. The tour guide took us to the locker rooms of the Knicks and Rangers, the million dollar suites as well as more information than I could remember on all the events that were held there. We saw the Broadway show "A Bronx Tale" and liked it. We heard great jazz at "Dizzy's Club" overlooking the New York skyline. Tried some new restaurants and old favorites so had lots of good food. The city always sparkles at Christmas time.

Many Engineers and those who worked at the NTC in Upper Darby will remember **Larry Knight**. Here's a note **Dan Dostie**, SRC in Harrisburg shared: "I recently met with our ENTSC Regional Economist, **Lynn Knight**. She has fond memories of growing up in Havertown, PA (Delaware County) from 1972-75 when her dad was a civil engineer for SCS at the tech center in Upper Darby. Larry retired from SCS Vermont as an IRM manager during the buyout of the early 1990s. He recalls working with **Len Beck**, **Fred Theurer**, and a soil scientist named **Dick Hutchins**. Someone nicknamed "Harry the Cigar" wouldn't stop reviewing work until he found a mistake, so the staff always made sure there was a mistake somewhere in the project to get the review done quicker, LOL!"

Don Lindsey provided the history of The Maple Syrup Trail: "In 1963 I was assigned to Wellsboro, PA as the District Conservationist. One of my first duties, according to **Ivan McKeever**, was to continue supplying the State Office staff with maple syrup. I was to get the syrup at a certain supplier whom **Bob Bond** had been getting it from. So for the 24 years I was in Tioga County, I would get a consolidated order from the state office and put my order in with the Heylers (the supplier). It amounted to over \$400 most years - back when the syrup was a lot cheaper than today.

I would pick the syrup up when it was ready and send it to Harrisburg with the first person going that way. Then I was transferred to Adams County in 1987. That's when **Walt Bolles** started taking the syrup orders in the state office, and he would then pick up the order when he visited his daughter in Tioga County. When Walt retired, **Jeff Mahood** took over the ordering. When he retired, **Hosea Latshaw** took over. Now that he is retired, **Gwendolyn Crews** is continuing the maple syrup tradition.

Either **Bob Bond** or **Chuck Slayton** started this in the late 1950s. So it has been a continuing project for over 57 years. **John Heyler**, a former SCS Engineer, and his brother operate the dairy farm and produce the syrup. I still get my syrup with the state office order. My son, **Bruce**, is in contact and takes care of our order. Three or four of our friends in Maryland and Adams County are also supplied."

Who Was The First State Conservationist In PA?

In going through old (historical) materials I found some interesting information. I remember **Ivan McKeever** claimed the title of Pennsylvania's first State Conservationist. But not so fast there, Ivan, oops, Mr. McKeever. An official SCS publication on the first 50 years of SCS in Pennsylvania tells a different story.

Here is some background. The agency began in 1933 as the Soil Erosion Service in the Dept. of Interior. In 1935 it was transferred to USDA and renamed the Soil Conservation Service. The agency began in 1934 in PA operating Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in nine counties. Listed in the publication with the title of State Conservationist was **Harry Kimmel**, pre-1940. Kimmel was replaced as state conservationist by **Walter Gumbel**, who served from 1941-1946. Then, finally, in 1946 Ivan McKeever became StC, serving until 1968.

We will be meeting in Westmoreland and Fayette Counties on September 16-17. Registration details will follow in a future PA Bugle newsletter. Lodging will be at the Holiday Inn Express located one-half mile east of the Donegal exit of the PA Turnpike on State Route 31. Room rate is \$109 plus tax.

Sunday evening meal will be at Brady's Restaurant located approximately two miles west of the Donegal Exit on Route 31. We will order from the menu. We will have a continental breakfast at the Holiday Inn Express on Monday morning.

Our guest speaker for Monday morning will be **Charles Bier**, Senior Director of Conservation Science from the Western PA Conservancy to speak about their various programs such as Historical Preservation (Fallingwater and Kentucky Knob), Land Acquisition, Beautification, Water Quality Improvement (Mine Drainage, etc.) and other current programs. Lunch will be catered at the Holiday Inn Express.

Travel to Fallingwater by car (Approximately 28 miles). Cost per person is \$23 for a group of 20 or more; \$30 per person for less than 20. The tour will require about two hours at the site. An additional tour is also being planned.

"Too many people have lost sight of the fact that productive soil is essential to the production of food." **Hugh Hammond Bennett**, first chief of the Soil Conservation Service

TEXAS

Arnold King, ARCSE Representative

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Sixteen members attended the December 15th meeting, including **Earl Blakley, Dennis Gaster, Elaine and Billy Don Davis, Bernelle Baxley, Clyde Goodman, Dennis Erinakes, Jim and Jere Rickman, Doug Seibel, Dave Drennan, Ken and Judy Twitty, Marie Garsjo, Tom Hodes, and Dave Buland.**

Marie Garsjo: "This was my first book for the Society of Petroleum Engineers: Nodal Analysis of Oil and Gas Production Systems. The author, Jan-Dirk Jansen (Delft University of Technology) was so happy with my nitpicking that he sent me one from his personal stash. The one I am working on now is Hydraulic Fracturing in the 21st Century--18 chapters, 1,000 pages. It may or may not be done by the end of the year."

Dave Drennan and his wife have planned a Carnival cruise leaving from Galveston on February 1st and touring the Caribbean islands.

Doug Seibel reported that his wife is feeling better. They were in Kansas for Thanksgiving.

Tom Hodes said it is important that your kids know your business. (Note: NARFE has a publication entitled "Be Prepared for Life's Events, What Your Survivor's Should Know.")

Dennis Erinakes is continuing his physical therapy, and his right leg is getting better. He is training a Great Pyrenees for service dog duty. *Note: This is not the dog, just an example of what they look like.*



Dave Buland has been helping the NRCS Texas State Office deal with Hurricane Harvey work. He has provided assistance in 40 counties. He mentioned that they had 20 relatives for Christmas and that his wife is planning her retirement.

Ten members attended the January 15th meeting, including **Earl Blakley, Bernelle Baxley, Clyde Goodman, Dennis Erinakes, Dave Drennan, Dave and Barb Stockbridge, Anita Plummer, Bernie Owen, and Don Kapalka.**

Dave Drennan reports they are going on another cruise.

Dave Stockbridge reports he is once again going on a fishing trip to Canada. He and a few friends go each year to a remote fishing camp where they have access to all the modern conveniences and catch walleye and northern pike.

Clyde Goodman reports they are going on a family cruise in the western Caribbean for the Christmas holiday.

Bernie Owen gave an update on his health and talked about the looming government shutdown. The old SNTC has instituted a new telework policy which limits telework to one day per week starting February 1st. He also talked about a handout regarding the new tax law which contained much of what is contained in the 2017 and 2018 tax laws.

VIRGINIA

Kenneth Carter, ARCSE Representative

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My wife and I traveled back to Europe with friends and started to explore the waterways of Europe via Viking Cruises. Yes, it is as beautiful as the commercials on PBS make it out to be. We cruised from Budapest in Hungary up the Danube River through a total of four countries and then did an extended stay in the Czech Republic. I would highly recommend this form of travel to anyone considering it.

We are saddened by the loss of several family members in our conservation community in the last week. Though not members of ARCSE, **Rita Yager**, wife of retired DC **Gordon Yager** from Charlottesville, VA passed away last week as did **Jasper L. Faulkner**, father of Economist **David Faulkner** of Richmond.

WASHINGTON, DC, NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

John Peterson, ARCSE Representative

Email: jwpeterson@cox.net

Ron and Ann Marlow report that the family's computer engineer, their son **Ryan**, has been walking a little lighter since February 6th. Under his recent contract with Space X, he integrated wireless radio signaling into the ground support system for the Falcon Heavy Rocket, contributing to the rocket's successful test flight from Kennedy Space Center at 3:45pm February 6th. Here's a link to a video of the Falcon Heavy launch if you missed it and would like to see it (the launch is about one minute from the beginning). https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sB_nEtZxPog.

John Peterson attended the International Erosion Control Association's (IECA's) annual North American Conference in Long Beach, CA from Feb. 10-15. He enjoyed seeing **Earl Norton** from AL who also attends these conferences. While there, he had a chance to explore and eat on the Queen Mary, which is now berthed in Long Beach as a tourist attraction. The ship is

magnificent, and the food excellent. **John and Blanche** also attended the Land Improvement Contractors of America (LICA) conference in Charleston, SC the week of Feb 19th. There they toured Fort Sumter and historic Charleston. At both these conferences the nation's Conservation Districts were well represented. **John** is still the Chairman of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors.

John reported: "Some of you have been to our Ocean Cove at Palmetto Dunes Hilton Head Island time-share(s) and know what it is like. Usually warm and lush. Yesterday, for the first time in years, they had snow and temperatures in the 20s. Here are some pictures. The island came to a complete stop. We really enjoy Hilton Head. Today it looks like VA."



**Sculpture of man walking alligator.
This time in snow.**



Ice on alligator man



Palmetto Dunes entrance.



Palmetto Dunes entrance.



Our 3-BR condo, 3rd from left. There is a space between our place and the neighbor on the left.

WISCONSIN

James Enlow, ARCSE Representative

Email: jjenlow@att.net

The Wisconsin retirees met for lunch on February 8th, 2018 at Grandma Mary's Cafe in Arena, WI. **Gene Hausner** was the gracious host. Those in attendance included **Gene and Georgene Hausner, Stanley and Marlene Dingle, Keith Behling, Dan Cotter, Bob Uhrig and Jim Enlow**. Everyone enjoyed the lunch and fellowship afterwards. Many of the retirees told of recent trips and planned trips for 2018.

The next luncheon is scheduled for April 12th at Grizzly's Wood-Fired Grill in Eau Claire, WI.

NEW SENIOR CONSERVATIONISTS: *They have reached the minimum age of 83 years and have completed the Senior Conservationist Questionnaire. See IN MEMORIAM for the Senior Conservationists who have left us since the last Newsletter. Please help us identify retirees who should be named Senior Conservationists. Please provide their contact information to your ARCSE Representative or Regional Vice-President.*

Marvin Knabach	Lee's Summit, MO
M. Bruce McCullough	Ozark, AR
Hagner R. Mister	Prince Frederick, MD
Earl A. Terpstra	Washington, IN

SENIOR CONSERVATIONIST CHRONICLE

by Marc Safley, Chronicler, Senior Conservationist

Senior Conservationist Earl A. Terpstra

Senior Conservationist **Earl Terpstra** was born May 13, 1933, on his family's small dairy farm near Moline, Michigan, about 10 miles south of Grand Rapids. He graduated from Michigan State University in Agricultural Engineering. He served in the military in Europe with Special Troops stationed in Heidelberg, Germany Headquarters United States Army Europe (USARUR). He is a life member of the VFW. Following his honorable discharge in 1958 he went to work for the Soil Conservation Service.

His first job with SCS was as an engineer on the Prairie Creek Watershed in Washington, Indiana. While there he met his future wife **Judy**; they married in 1959. He was transferred to Rensselaer, Indiana, as Area Engineer and later served as Acting Area Conservationist. Another transfer took him to Indianapolis as a planning engineer on the state-funded planning staff. This was a time when getting a OS 12 in Indiana required multi state experience so Earl took a position in Michigan as a planning engineer on a river basin planning staff. Later positions in Michigan included State Construction Engineer and Head of Design Staff, acting State Conservation Engineer and Planning staff Leader. The latter position involved work on the Great Lakes River Basin Study as leader of a planning team. He then transferred to Minnesota as Assistant State Conservationist for Water Resources in charge of the planning staff. He was also assigned to lead the Agricultural Service Center Program for SCS in Minnesota. Agriculture Secretary **Earl Butz** recognized the good work being done with the program there and requested Earl move to Washington to work on this program nationally. In 1976 Earl transferred to the SCS Office Management Division at National Headquarters. He was assigned to a USDA committee to work on the National Agricultural Service Program. Later assignments included work in legislative affairs and selection as a Congressional Fellow. Earl was later assigned to an interagency reorganization team for about 3 years in the Executive Office of the President. After this assignment Earl's work at NHQ included the SCS Legislative Affairs office, supervision of a computer staff at Ft. Collins, Colorado, liaison to NACD, and lecturing for OPM. His last few years were spent in the Conservation Planning Division as Program Leader for the western states.

Following retirement April 30, 1994, Earl and Judy bought a small farm in southern Indiana. During his career, Earl had been an avid collector of farm toys. He also collected farm tractors and farm memorabilia. In 2013 he was inducted into the National Farm Toy Hall of Fame. In 2014 he sold 24 of his 36 tractors and most of the old farm machinery at auction. Earl and Judy have one son, Earl Jr. He and Judy continue to enjoy retirement.

OBITUARY INFORMATION

Ron Marlow, Secretary-Treasurer

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

Surname

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

Ackerson Honorary Life Member **Ken Ackerson** (98) passed away at John Knox Village in Pompano Beach, Florida on December 3, 2017. He would have celebrated his 99th birthday on December 11, 2017. Ken was born on the family homestead in Holmdel, New Jersey. He began playing piano for the Dutch Reformed Church of Keyport, NJ at age 11 and by the time he graduated from college he was the Church's regular. His interest in agriculture continued when he enrolled in Rutgers College and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture in 1941. He joined the USDA Soil Conservation Service following college, then entered the Army prior to the start of World War II. He married **Charlotte Zucker**, literally "the girl next door," in 1943 while in uniform. Ken served as a military intelligence officer with the Army Corps of Engineers at Camp Ritchie, MD, as well as in the Philippines, rising to the rank of Captain by the time his service concluded at the end of World War II. Following the war, Ken resumed his career as a soil scientist with the Soil Conservation Service, taking assignments in Delaware and Cobleskill, NY. In 1955, Ken and Charlotte were transferred to the Washington, D.C., area where Ken continued to work for the Department of Agriculture. As a specialist in world soils, Ken traveled to Latin America, the Middle East and North Africa for his work with the World Soil Map Project. They became members of the Silver Spring United Presbyterian Church, where Ken became the organist. They continued to reside in Silver Spring until Ken's retirement from

the government after 44 years of service in 1985. Ken and Charlotte soon moved to Florida. As work took him to new places, he always found a church home that could benefit from his talents on the organ. He continued to play the organ for various services until he was 96. Ken is survived by sons and daughters-in-law **Jeffrey and Sharon Ackerson**, and **Neal and Renee Ackerson**; by daughters and sons-in-law **Sandra and John Goddard**, and **Virginia and Chuck Flynn**; by 10 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. **Charlotte**, his wife of 69 years, passed away in 2012. The family requests donations to the Columbarium Fund of the First Presbyterian Church of Pompano Beach in lieu of flowers.

Daniels	Eugene Andrew Daniels (94) of Lincoln, Nebraska passed away on January 22, 2018. He was born in Sterling, NE. Gene served in the Navy during WWII. He married his wife Phyllis in November of 1946. She preceded him in death. He graduated from the University of Nebraska in Horticulture and Vocational education. He taught high school, was a leader in FFA (Future Farmers of America), sold life insurance, and retired after 25 years with the Soil Conservation Service. He was a counselor for the Billy Graham Crusade in Omaha in 1964 and was a deacon at First Baptist Church (Lincoln). He also started a church in Rushville. He is survived two children, Constance (Douglas) Otoopalile of Lincoln and Scott (Constance) Daniels of Richmond, VA; four grandchildren; two great-grandsons; and two sisters. Memorials to the Billy Graham Ministries.
Finkelson	Ordean Finkelson (92) of Roseville, Minnesota passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on February 16, 2018. Ordean is survived by his wife of 63 years, Dorothy , daughters Barbara (Mike) , Kristi (Mike) , Carol (Mark) and Diane (Greg) , six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Ordean graduated from Fergus Falls High School and served in the Army during WWII, earning the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. He graduated from NDSU and had a successful career as a geologist with the USDA Soil Conservation Service, retiring in 1986. Ordean loved to ski, fish, boat, garden and play golf and bridge. Memorials are preferred to New Life Presbyterian Church in Roseville, The Presbyterian Foundation, or NDSU.
Flaxman	Jane Flaxman (98) passed away after a brief illness on December 19, 2017. She was preceded in death by her husband, Elliott , who was a soil mechanics engineer at the Soil Conservation Service WNTC. A native Oregonian, Jane saw many changes in the Portland area during her lifetime. She also lived through dramatic changes in technology. Always a learner, she evolved with the change - Facetiming and Facebooking to stay in touch with friends and family. She was the only attendee at her 75th Scripps College reunion in 2015. Jane had more energy than most people half her age. She was an active golfer until the age of 96 and frequently played bridge twice a week. Jane is survived by her two children, Joan and Bruce (Lorraine) , a brother, four grandsons, and six great-grandchildren. Should you wish to honor Jane with a memorial contribution, the following are suggested: Community Warehouse, Tigard Public Library Foundation or Jewish Family and Child Service. Please sign the online guest book at www.oregonlive.com/obits
George	Mary Frances (Layne) George (97) passed away peacefully November 27, 2017 at her home in Bunceton, Missouri. She graduated from Bunceton High School. She was married on February 1, 1942 to Warren George , who preceded her in death November of 2012. Warren retired in 1981 as a District Conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service. During their seventy one years together, Warren and Mary lived in Bunceton, Higginsville, Chillicothe, Neosho and back to Bunceton to enjoy their retirement. Besides raising five children and being a busy homemaker, she found time to run her own business, " Mary's Modem Interior ". During retirement, Mary and Warren worked 11 seasons for Hamilton Stores in Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming. When not at the park, they traveled all 50 states and numerous countries. Mary was a member of the Garden Club, Lion's Club, and Federated Church of Bunceton, Mo. In addition to her husband, she is preceded in death by her daughter Linda "Kathy" Mitchell . She is survived by two sons and two daughters and their spouses: Larry (Myra) George , Gary (Carla) George ; Beverly (Jerry) Greever, and Penny (Pat) Brady, her 12 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren.
Hardy-Brown	Renessa Cecelia Hardy-Brown (45) of Hope Mills, North Carolina, formerly of Whiteville, passed away on January 26, 2018. Renessa retired as District Conservationist at the Natural Resources Conservation Service Fayetteville Field Office. She had been courageously fighting cancer for six years. Surviving are her daughters, Courtney Brown and Celine Lewis of the home; father and stepmother, Boice and Jocelyn Hardy of Woodbridge, VA; mother, Brenda Vaughn of Parkton ; and two brothers. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the American Cancer Society or Covenant Love Church. Fayetteville, NC.
Hunter	Harold Everett "Hal" Hunter (75) passed away on Feb. 15, 2018 after an acute illness. Harold was born in Livingston Montana. Harold spent his early years growing up in Livingston, working at his parents Union 76 station. As an avid outdoorsman, his love of the outdoors led him to earn a bachelor's degree from the University of Montana School of Forestry. Upon graduation from forestry school in Missoula, Hal spent a couple years in graduate school in Bozeman, focusing on soil science. He worked as a soil scientist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Cut Bank and Missoula, then re-located to Bozeman in 1972 as the State Staff Forester and held this title until his retirement in 1995. Hal is survived by his loving wife Judy of almost 50 years, and three sons all of Bozeman. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Reach Inc. (322 Gallatin Park Drive Bozeman, MT 59715).
Jacobs	Eullas Herbert Jacobs (92) of Russell Springs, Kentucky, passed away at home on January 16, 2018. He was born in Detroit. At the age of 3, the family returned to Lincoln County, KY where he grew up on the family farm. He attended a one room school house and later the Lincoln County High School where he was drafted into the US Military in 1943, prior to his beginning his senior year. He joined the US Navy, serving with the submarine service in the Pacific Theater aboard the USS Atule (403) on four combat patrols until the war ended. He was honorably discharged on April, 9, 1946 and returned home to Lincoln County. There he completed his high school education, graduating in 1947. He then attended the University of Kentucky, graduating in 1952 with a Degree in Agriculture. He joined the USDA Soil Conservation Service in 1958 working as a soil scientist in Western Kentucky until his retirement in 1985. There were three generations of Jacobs Soil Scientist if correctly recalled--Eullas, Steve and one of Steve's sons. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Betty Louise Blanton Jacobs of Russell Springs, KY; three sons, Michael Neal Jacobs of Manitou, KY; Steve Edward Jacobs (Melanie) of MaysLick, KY; Barry Eullas Jacobs (Sue) of Versailles, KY; one daughter, Susan Renee Jacobs of Russell Springs, KY; a brother, a sister, a six grandchildren, and one great grandchild
Kinsey	Senior Conservationist Franklin C. Kinsey (92) of rural Troy, Kansas formerly of Manhattan, Kansas, passed away January 6, 2018. He attended rural school Climax No. 9, south of Troy, and graduated from Troy High School in 1943. He attended

Kemper Military School one year before serving two years in the U.S. Navy, WWII. He also attended Iowa State University for one year before graduating from Kansas State University, in 1949, with a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering. After graduation, he went to work for the USDA Soil Conservation Service, as an Area Engineer. He retired from the area office in Manhattan, Kansas in 1986. Franklin married **Barbara Jean Daub**, of Highland, Kansas, May 31, 1951. She preceded him in death on November 13, 2004. He was a member of the Troy American Legion Post No. 55, Troy Masonic Lodge # 55, Troy Chapter No. 16, Atchison Commandery No. 2, Salina ISIS Shrine, and ISIS Shrine Legion of Honor. Survivors include: a son, **Hugh C. Kinsey**, three granddaughters, four great-grandchildren, and a sister. Memorials: In lieu of flowers, Janice Kinsey Memorial Scholarship Fund. www.harmanrohde.com.

Kipper

William "Bill" Kipper (96) of Lincoln, Nebraska passed away January 31, 2018. Bill is survived by his daughter **Kathy Kipper**. Bill retired from the Soil Conservation Service in Colorado.

Komarek

Francis J. Komarek (79) of Salina, Kansas passed away February 10, 2018. He was born in Salina. He earned his bachelors of science degree from Kansas State University in 1961. Francis retired from SCS-NRCS as a civil engineer in 1992. Francis was a member of NARFE, served on the Saline County Soil and Water Conservation Board, and was a member of St. Mary Queen of the Universe Catholic Church. He enjoyed farming with his family on their farm west of Salina. Francis married **Linda Hamilton** who preceded him in death. He is survived by his son, **James F. Komarek (Emily)** of Salina, a brother and several nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to: Hospice of Salina, or Bavaria Cemetery, in care of the mortuary.

Lantz

Robert "Bob" Eugene Lantz (88) of Brooklyn, Illinois passed away January 24, 2018, at Culbertson Memorial Hospital in Rushville. He was born in Brooklyn Township, Schuyler County, Illinois. Surviving are his wife of 68 years, **Patsy**, three children **Vicky (Dr. Demir) Saka** of Quincy, **Dr. Patrick (Dr. Shelley Kreiter) Lantz** of Winston-Salem, NC, and **Dona Lantz** of Columbus, OH, three grandsons, and one great granddaughter. Bob graduated from Augusta High School in 1947. He first farmed and worked as a carpenter. In 1962, he began his career with the USDA Soil Conservation Service. He worked at the offices in Carthage, Pittsfield, Macomb, Carbondale and Champaign retiring in 1987. He received a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Agronomy from the University of Illinois in 1967. Bob was a member of the Brooklyn United Methodist Church, served on the Brooklyn Township Board, and was a member of the Camden Masonic Lodge # 648. He was a member of the Culbertson Memorial Hospital Board and the Culbertson Memorial Hospital Foundation Board. He also volunteered as a valet and patient escort at the hospital. He was a former member of the Lions, Kiwanis, and Rotary Clubs. Donations may be made to Culbertson Memorial Hospital Foundation.

Leerskov

Robert "Bob" Eugene Leerskov (70) of Sulphur Springs, Texas, passed away on November 13, 2017 in Oklahoma. He was born on in Talequah, Oklahoma. Bob graduated from Oklahoma State University with a Civil Engineering Degree and retired as Assistant State Conservationist for the Natural Resource Conservation Service in Temple, Texas. Bob also served as Area Engineer in Corsicana, Texas, and as an RC&D coordinator. He was a Mason and a Shriner. Bob was also a member of League Street Church of Christ. He is survived by his wife, **Phyllis**; two sons, **Kevin Leerskov** and **Jason (Christi) Leerskov**; six grandchildren; a great grandchild; a sister, and numerous other family. Memorials can be made to the American Diabetes Association, online at www.diabetes.org or P.O. Box 15829, Arlington, VA 22215.

Lindahl

ARCSE Member **Bruce Arthur Lindahl** (80) of Steamboat Springs, Colorado passed away on December 4, 2017 following surgery in Denver. Bruce is survived by his wife of 60 years, **Dorothy Lindahl**; his children and their spouses **Kevin and Ben, Kirk and Diane, Kris and Jamie**; his daughter-in-law **Cynthia Lindahl**; and five grandchildren all of Colorado. Born in Tilden, Nebraska, Bruce graduated from Colorado State University receiving a degree in Range Management from the Forestry School in 1958 and a commission as 2nd Lt. through the ROTC program. As a Captain in the Colorado National Guard, Bruce served as Battalion Commander in Craig. His employment with the Natural Resource Conservation Service spanned nearly 40 years. A long time Colorado resident, he lived and worked in Moffat, Routt, Arapahoe, Larimer, Weld, Pueblo, and Douglas counties and several locations in Utah. His titles included: range conservationist, district conservationist, area conservationist, budget analyst (Washington, DC), and advisor to EPA. Professionally, Bruce enjoyed being part of the Soil and Water Conservation Society, Society for Range Management, Grazing Lands Initiative Committee, and National Association of Retired Federal Employees. Bruce was involved with the community in Larimer & Routt County by volunteering as a Master Gardener, enjoying the activities of Farmer's Market; the Yampa/White River Basin Roundtable, Routt County Weed Advisory Council, Routt County Council on Aging, and the Steamboat Springs United Methodist Church. In addition, he loved volunteering at the Humble Ranch Horse Therapy program. In earlier years, Bruce served as a 4-H leader and assistant Boy Scout leader and troop committee chairman.

Moyers

Douglas Wilson Moyers (96) of McMinnville, Tennessee and Claiborne County, TN native passed away on January 28, 2018 in NHC Healthcare of McMinnville following a brief illness. He was a veteran of the United States Army and retired supervisor with USDA Soil Conservation. After retirement, he and his wife, **Nettie**, traveled to all 50 states and capitols and four continents. Survivors include two nieces, great-nieces and nephews, great-great-nieces and nephews, and great-great-great-nephews. Online condolences may be made at www.highfuneralhome.com

Nace

William Scott Nace (55) and **Debra Anne (Hunt) Nace** (47) both of Delaware, Ohio passed away unexpectedly February 3, 2018 from injuries sustained in an automobile accident in Somerset County, PA. Scott and Debra met on RAGBRAI (Registers Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa) and were married on April 1, 2000. Scott was born in Lansdale, PA. Scott was currently working for Whiteside Manufacturing. Debra was born in Des Moines, Iowa. She graduated from Iowa State University with degrees in Agronomy and French. After graduating, she served in the Peace Corps in Senegal, Africa. Having a passion for soil conservation, Debra worked for the USDA NRCS in Iowa, Pennsylvania, Idaho, and more recently Ohio. Debra Nace was the current District Conservationist in Marion and Morrow Counties in Ohio. Just recently, she served a 45 day stint with FEMA in the Puerto Rico Recovery stationed in Biloxi, Mississippi. She was a co-leader with the Girl Scouts, member of the Women's City Club and active in her church. Scott and Debra are survived by their children, 16 year old **Bowen** and 12 year old **Hannah**. Scott is also survived by his parents, **David and Audrey Nace**; two sisters and a brother. Debra is also survived by her parents, **Donald and Judith Hunt**; a sister and a brother. To share a fond memory of Scott and Debra or to offer a condolence to their families, please visit www.snyderfuneralhomes.com. Additionally, a GoFundMe site has been set up to donate money to their children Bowen and Hannah. Here is the link.

<https://www.gofundme.com/bowen-and-hannah039s-fund>

Post	Dorothy L. Post (88) of Lincoln, Nebraska passed away November 8, 2017 at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital. She was preceded in death by a grandson Steven Gremling and her husband, Gerry Post who was employed at the Soil Conservation Service National Technical Center in Lincoln prior to retirement. Survivors include four sons Paul (Patricia) Post of Thornton, CO, Michael (Sharon) Post of Hilliard, OH, Thomas (Karen) Post of Lincoln, NE, Larry (Kristie) Post of Lincoln, NE, a daughter Theresa (Gary) Gremling of Columbus, OH, 10 grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.
Rightmeier	Virginia Lee Snyder Rightmeier (87) of Mankato, Kansas was passed away on February 18, 2018. Virginia's spouse, Lyle , preceded her in death in 2016. He retired in 1980 as a Soil Conservation Technician in the Mankato Field Office. She spent the early years of her childhood in the Effingham, KS area, before moving with her family to the Montrose, KS area. She obtained her teaching certificate from Hays, KS following her high school graduation, teaching for 1 year in Montrose. She was very active in the Mankato area, devoted to her church (Mankato United Methodist) and community participation. She is survived by her children, Paula (Terry) Cherney , Agenda, KS, and Roger Lyle Rightmeier , Mankato, KS, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.
Saunders	Emery Saunders (90) was born in Brooklyn, WV, an old coal miners' town. He departed this earthly life on Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at his residence in Columbus, Ohio. Emery was a U.S. Army Veteran and the Mail and Supply Clerk for the State office of USDA Soil Conservation Service. He was preceded in death by wife Dollie Hill Saunders ; and seven siblings. Emery leaves to cherish his memory his children Sandra Saunders (Gregory) Gillins , of Massillon, OH and Abrie E. Saunders Jr. ; two grandchildren; two great grandchildren; and many close family members and special friends.
Thompson	Bruce Whyatt Thompson, Sr. (77) passed away Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2018 at Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton, MA. Bruce was born in Worcester. As a younger man, Bruce enjoyed track and field. He had worked for many years as a soil scientist with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services, retiring as the MLRA-12 Soil Survey Regional Director in Amherst, MA. Bruce was a member of the Amherst Golf Club. He also enjoyed fishing, hunting, and coaching little league. Predeceased by his first wife Linda (Smith) Thompson , he leaves his partner of 10 years Susan Wright of Sunderland, his sons Bruce (Karla) Thompson, Jr. of MO and Larry (Dawn) Thompson of MO, his daughter Mary-Beth (David) Vise of NM, a brother, a sister, seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to Conservation Federation of Missouri, 728 W. Main St., Jefferson City, MO 65101 www.confedmo.org
Treat	Ronald David Treat (74) passed on January 14, 2018 in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Ronald was born in Wewoka, Oklahoma. He served in the U.S. National Guard with the 45th Division. Ronald graduated from OSU with a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture in 1980. In the mid-late 1990's, he finished his career of 37 years with NRCS as a State Water Quality Specialist. He loved to fish, hunt, and spend his time outdoors. He was a member of The Stillwater Bass Masters from 1991 to 2018, and past president two times. Ronald was predeceased by his parents, a brother, a sister and a grandson. Ronald is survived by his wife of 56 years, Patsy Spurgeon Treat ; two daughters Kay Lynn Ruoff of Broken Arrow, OK and Kristin (Brent) Turner of Boise City, OK; four grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren; and three brothers. Donations may be made to The American Cancer Society or charity of choice.
Ward	Ronald "Ron" Ward (79) of Cumming, Georgia passed away on January 26, 2018. Ron was a Soil Conservation Service economist in AZ, a watershed staff leader in OH, and Asst. STC in NM. Ron retired in 1995 as a National Watershed Planning Specialist in Washington, DC. Ron initially retired to FL, and then moved to GA some years ago. He was an avid private pilot. Survivors include his loving wife and partner of 55 years, Linda ; his sons Ronnie and Ray ; six grandchildren and one great grandchild. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the charity of your choice.
Yager	Rita Kyle Yager (76) of Charlottesville, Virginia passed away on February 17, 2018. She was born in Danville, Virginia. She was preceded in death by her parents and daughter, Elizabeth Yager Walton . She is survived by her husband, Gordon Yager , retired NRCS DC from Charlottesville. Also surviving are son-in-law, John Walton ; son, Jimmy Yager ; daughter-in-law, Beth Yager ; and four grandchildren. Rita attended Longwood College and the University of Virginia. She began her career in elementary education and transitioned to a career in real estate in the Charlottesville area until her retirement in 1999. Rita was an active member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: The Aldersgate UMC, 1500 Rio Drive E., Charlottesville, VA 22901



Shoshone River

