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# NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter for Retired SCS and NRCS Employees

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## NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

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

**Farm Bill**—The 2018 Farm Bill process officially kicked off with a field hearing in Manhattan, KS on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017. The hearing was convened by Senate Agricultural Committee Chairman **Pat Roberts** and Ranking Member **Debbie Stabenow**. The panelists at the field hearing focused on the agricultural safety net, trade, and risk management. Commodity payments and crop insurance are expected to be a focus of this Farm Bill. Dairy, cotton, and wheat groups are especially interested in policy changes in the Commodity Title of the Farm Bill. Expectations are that funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the largest program in the Farm Bill, will be eyed as a source for funding other higher priority programs.

In addition, the House Agriculture Committee will be holding two hearings on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017, one at 10:00 am EST convened by the House Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry entitled "The Next Farm Bill: Conservation Policy;" and one at 2:00pm convened by the House Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture entitled "The Next Farm Bill: International Market Development." There is some concern about conservation funding, especially if the Conservation Reserve Program is expanded.

Finally, the Agricultural Committees will closely follow immigration and trade issues, since immigrant labor and foreign markets for US agricultural goods play a huge role in the agricultural industry. For example, the American Farm Bureau Federation estimated that net farm income would increase by \$4.4 billion per year if the Trans-Pacific Partnership were put in place.

**2017 and 2018 Budgets**—The December 2016 Continuing Resolution expires on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017, and the Administration is working on the President's 2017 budget with a goal of delivering the budget to Congress on or about March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Treasury Secretary **Steven Mnuchin** said on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017 that the first budget from the Trump Administration will not cut entitlement programs such as Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare. Mnuchin said that when **President Trump** addresses Congress on February 28<sup>th</sup> he will be "touching on tax reform and that the budget plan would cut the number of tax brackets" and "create a level playing field for US companies to be able to compete in the world." In addition, the President's budget will target several smaller programs for cuts, like the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Legal Services Corporation, AmeriCorps, and the National Endowments for the Arts and the Humanities. The expectation is that the President's budget will significantly increase military spending, which will be paid for with cuts in domestic programs. EPA is expected to see a large decrease in funding.

The 2017 appropriation bill that was approved in the House and the Senate Appropriations Committees late last Spring called for increasing NRCS funding by \$13.6 million over the 2016 level and \$4.1 million over President Obama's request. The Bill included \$150 million for the Watershed and Flood Protection Operations Budget. The Watershed Program has not been funded since fiscal year 2010.

**Secretary of Agriculture**—On January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017 President Trump nominated former Georgia Governor **George Ervin "Sonny" Purdue** to be Secretary of Agriculture. The announcement of Purdue's nomination, the last cabinet position to be announced, was reportedly put on hold a couple of times as factions within the Administration argued over the nomination. Purdue has an agricultural background, having grown up on a farm, and has a degree in veterinary medicine. In addition, Purdue has three small businesses including "Purdue Partners," a company that promotes global trade and the export of US goods. Purdue's confirmation hearings are expected to be held in mid-March.

Note that **Leonard Jordan** is currently the acting Chief for the NRCS. **Jason Weller**, the former Chief, will be replaced by the incoming administration. The NRCS is also operating under a hiring freeze.

See Page 3 for Instructions Concerning 2017 Dues and Additional Fees for Hard Copy of the Newsletter.

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Cecil Currin**

I really look forward to reading our "Notes From the Potomac" in this newsletter. Maybe it will make some sense of what's happening in Washington. There seems to be confusion in the Nation's Capitol and division across the country. With a freeze on federal hiring, NRCS will be negatively impacted, and what about conservation programs? Environmental programs, clean water, clean air and carbon sequestration all seem to be on the chopping block. We all spent our careers and most of our lives conserving and protecting natural resources. I hope we have the wisdom and the will to continue this stewardship.

As you read this newsletter and enjoy hearing about the exploits of our retired colleagues, try to think back a little about their careers and your career. Some of us mapped soils and provided a base for good land use decisions. Some of us developed conservation plans to conserve and protect natural resources. Some of us planned, designed, and built structures for flood control, erosion control, clean water, and clean air. Some of us provided support functions for managing all these activities. We are an association of very special people, and we can be proud of the work we did to take care of mother earth.

Even though we are retired, we are not finished. When you read between the lines, our members still have major impacts with second careers, volunteer work, committees, boards, and churches. We are doing many things worthy of recognition, and now is the time to nominate individuals in our ranks for special awards. The **ARCSE President's Award for Outstanding Community Service** provides recognition for postretirement activities which have significantly impacted others. You will find all the details at ARCSE.org and below.

The ARCSE Meritorious Service Award recognizes members who make uniquely outstanding contributions to ARCSE. The recipient may be a member or the spouse of a member. We all know someone who deserves recognition so please take the time to initiate the award process for a deserving member. The deadline for nominations is May 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **ARCSE President's Award for Outstanding Community Service**

It is time once again to start thinking about potential nominees for the award. Nominations for the award and documentation (no more than two pages) of the qualifications of the nominee are to be made by the ARCSE Representative. Nominees' names and qualifications will be sent to the Regional Vice President **by May 15<sup>th</sup>**.

**Purpose:** To publicly recognize ARCSE Members who have distinguished themselves in sustained and outstanding contributions in local, state, and regional community service.

#### **Qualifications:**

- Nominee is an ARCSE Member.
- Nominee demonstrates strong character and high ethical and professional standards.
- Selection will not be based upon his/her achievements while employed by SCS/NRCS.

**Criteria for Nomination:** Nominees will be those individuals who have distinguished themselves by providing sustained high quality service, possibly using their SCS/NRCS area of expertise, to local, state, or regional entities. Recipients of their service may include volunteer work for hospitals, churches, schools, youth organizations such as Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, SWCDs, NRCS Earth Teams, environmental groups, or other units of government or service organizations.

## A BIT OF HISTORY

**Douglas Helms, Historian**

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

Many of you have read **Walter Lowdermilk's** *Conquest of the Land Through 7,000 Years* that has been in print for over 60 years. I think of it practically every time I see a television, newspaper, or magazine report on the destruction of the archaeological sites in the Middle East. There have been quite a few reports on Palmyra in Syria and I would think, "That's the city in the cover photograph of the Lowdermilk publication." On further examination, I find that my recollection was faulty, as the photograph I remember was actually Timgad in Algeria, which is another UNESCO World Heritage Site.



**Timgad, Algeria**

Lowdermilk did visit and photograph Palmyra, which he counted as one of the “hundred dead cities” in northern Syria. Once this city served as capital for the eastern portion of the Roman Empire, but it declined over centuries as erosion destroyed the capacity of the surrounding area to produce food.



Palmyra, Syria (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/23/>)

Loudermilk's report is available for download at <http://www.grassfednetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Loudermilk-Conquest-of-the-Land-Through-Seven-Thousand-Years.pdf>.

## ARCSE ELECTION BALLOT

Deadline: Ballots must be received by April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

### **Candidate for ARCSE President-Elect: Cheryl Simmons**

**Cheryl Simmons** grew up in and around Omaha, NE while living on a farm near the Missouri River. Active in 4-H and FFA, Simmons majored in Agriculture Education and Soils. She completed an MPA in '86. She began her career in 1978 as a soil conservationist student trainee with SCS at Hays, KS and has served in several locations, including 14 years as District Conservationist in Wabaunsee County located in the Flint Hills of north central Kansas and in Howard County, Maryland. In 2000, Simmons took a position in NHQ with the Farm Land Protection and Community Planning Staff. In 2003 she moved to support CSP. She then accepted a position at the Central National Technology Support Center as a Technology Specialist in 2005. A career highlight was serving on a Pakistan Soils team for three years. After 37 years in NRCS Cheryl retired in January, 2016, and is continuing the work as an Earth Team Volunteer and with ACES. Simmons is a long time SWCS member and served as a regional representative and on the board.

She and her wife Donna are moving to the Palouse area in Idaho to be close to family and grandson. Simmons continues to support conservation by speaking to groups about agriculture and climate, volunteering at local schools and with community organizations.

### **Candidate for ARCSE East Region Vice-President: William J. (Bill) Bowers**

Bill Bowers retired in 2008 after a 40-year career with SCS/NRCS. Starting as a student trainee, Bill worked two summers before graduating from Penn State with a degree in Agricultural Engineering. He served as Project Engineer in three locations, Area Engineer, and Assistant State Engineer before spending 22 years as the State Conservation Engineer in Pennsylvania.

Bill has served as the president of the Pennsylvania chapter of ARCSE since 2008 and is the state representative to ARCSE. Bill is completing his second two-year term as the Northeast Region Vice-President. He is a Life Member of ARCSE.

Bill and his wife Mary Ann are the proud parents of two grown daughters and have a granddaughter and grandson. Bill has a large vegetable garden, an apple, pear and peach orchard and grows blueberries and red raspberries.

### **Candidate for ARCSE South Region Vice-President:**

#### **Arnold King**

**Arnold King** retired from NRCS in 2005 after 39 years of service. His career began in his home state of Texas, then on to Colorado where he served as Area Conservationist and State Agronomist. From there **Arnold** transferred to NHQ where he served as Staff Agronomist and Conservation Tillage Specialist. Then it was back to Texas at the National Technical Center where he served as the Agronomist and Head of Staff for Ecological Sciences and Planning. Since retirement, he has been active in ARCSE while serving as the Texas State Representative. An ARCSE Life Member, **Arnold** is currently completing his third two-year term as the Vice-President for the South Region.

### **Candidate for ARCSE Midwest Region Vice-President: Norman R. Kempf**

**Norman** retired in 2001 after a 40-year career with NRCS. His career started in SD in 1961 where he worked as a WAE, soil conservationist, district conservationist, and as an area conservationist in Pierre, SD. He served as Assistant State Conservationist for Programs in Bismarck, ND where his duties included leadership for the implementation of the Food Security Act. In 1989 he joined the Conservation Planning Division in NHQ as a Conservation Planning Specialist. He also served as national wetlands leader, national highly erodible lands leader, Deputy Director, and Acting Director of the Conservation Planning Division. In 1995 he was transferred to the Northern Plains Regional Office where he was a resource conservationist on the Oversight and Evaluation Team.

Since retirement in 2001 at Lincoln, NE, **Norman** has been active in the NE chapter of the ARCSE, has served as its vice-president and president, and has been state representative to ARCSE for nine years. An ARCSE Life Member, **Norm** is completing his fourth two-year term as Midwest Region Vice-President.

**Norman and Sylvia** are the proud parents of four children, eight grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. They are active in the Lutheran church and other organizations. They also pursue many hobbies including travel which has led them to all 50 states, many foreign countries, and all seven continents

### **Candidate for ARCSE West Region Vice-President:**

#### **William A. (Bill) Ward**

**Bill Ward** retired at the end of 2010 after a 36 year career with SCS/NRCS. Starting as a student Trainee Bill worked one summer before graduating from California State University at Humboldt with a Degree in Environmental Resources Engineering. Bill worked as a Field Office Engineer in two locations and Area Engineer in Santa Rosa, CA before transferring to the State office in Davis, CA where he went back to school and in 1984 obtained a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering from California State University, Sacramento. Bill then began work as a Design Engineer on the California Design staff. In 1989 Bill became the Design Staff leader (for a staff of 4 to 6) for the California Design staff and worked in that position until he retired at the end of 2010. Design work included various Watershed Projects, Flood Control Dams and Channels, and a significant amount of Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) work. Bill is a registered Professional Engineer (Civil) in the State of California. Bill has served as the ARCSE State Representative for California since 2012.

## **Status of 2017 Membership Dues and Additional Fee Payment**

In years past ARCSE has sent a post card to those who have not paid their annual dues by March 1. This year we have chosen to include a list in the March/April newsletter of those members who have not paid their 2017 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 number of post cards mailed.
2. To ensure that members get correct information as there 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 2017 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](mailto:arcse@cox.net) stated such or call Ron Marlow at 703-503-9219.

Last Name	First Name
Anderson	Mike W.
Appel	Mike
Arnold	Richard
Austin	Shirley R
Bailey	Joseph Roderic (Rick)
Beck	Leonard R.
Boyer	William
Bright	W. Esther
Brubacher	John I
Burch	Martin (Buck)
Burgess	James
Calhoun	Thomas E
Chapman	Dana C
Chase	Debbie
Coller	George N
Collins	Monte J
Conrad	Daniel L
Cook	Maurice
Coombes	Raymond
Cooper	Donald L
Crowe	Allen T
Culp	Arlie F.
Culver	James
Dayton	Bob
DeGroot	Jon V
Drown	Robert W.
Ealy	Edward P.

Edmonds	Larry
Farnes	Phillip
Firor	Edna Bartlett
Garrett	John J
Garrett	Tim
Gerbaz	Olice "Ted"
Gilgert	Wendell
Glocker	Carl L.
Guy	Daniel
Hammitt	Larry
Heidecker, Jr.	Robert T
Henderson	Wayne
Henry	Johnnie F
Hopp	Russell
Hurtz	Dennis L
Jacobson	Erling T
Johnson	David & Joan
Jones	Harold D.
Kile	David O
Klopfenstein	Norman R
Knabach	Marvin L
Krall	Loretta
Krause	Keith
Lamont	Gary
Lawrence	Douglas J.
Lebeda	Chuck S.
Maddux	C Owen
Magee	Anna R
Maine	Charles

Malot	Jana L.
Maresch	Wayne M.
Martin	Rodney L
Martinek	Robin
McDougal	Luther F
McDowell	Doreen
McLeese	Bob
Michael	James R
Miller	Dennis G
Miller	Norman
Milliken	Billy W
Mitchell	Wayburn D
Munkittrick	Graham T
Murray	Neil R
Nestoss	Jon
Neu	Albert
Newman	Don F
Newton	Robert D
Nielsen	Charles R
Norris	Sharon
Nutt	Ellen
Pitney	Kenneth
Poenisch	John
Porter	Marion S.
Poss	Hilda G
Price	Lane
Ralston	David C
Ramsey	Wesley W.
Reed	D.J.

Reeves	Delores (Dory)
Rhoads	Clifford E
Robertson	Donald R
Ross	Elwin
Sanders	David W
Schaefer	Garry L.
Schardt	Larry
Schenkel	Suzanne C
Schwieen	Jerry D
Shelman	Meleia
Shutts	Lynn M
Simon	John J
Somerville	Mike
Spencer	C Wilson
St. Claire	Samuel
Swartzendruber	Joyce
Sykes	Walter E.
Theurer	Fred D.
Theurer	Margaret
Ververs	W. Kent
Vlieger	Steven
Warner	Elizabeth
Welsh	Alice
Wenberg	Mary
Wilton	Neil D
Wolfrom	Norman G

**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 2017, the \$12 fee must be paid. In lieu of payment, a member may provide a valid email address to receive the electronic newsletter. Please also check the above list to ensure your dues are paid.

Last Name	First Name
Abbott	Everett L
Adams	John W
Allen	Malvern
Austin	Shirley R
Bauer	Ronald F
Boecking	Robert H
Boyd	Hurshal
Brooks	David C
Brubacher	John I
Buchta	H Glen
Burkeen	James O
Cohen	Herman C
Coller	George N
Collins	Monte J
Creech	Harold F
Culp	Arlie F.
Drechsel	Leroy J
Eubanks	Johnny M
Evans	Earl Eugene

Firor	Edna Bartlett
Garlinghouse	Jennings W
Gonzalez	Hector
Griffin	Frank A
Haenisch	Charles
Harben	Ron
Haynes	George T (Tom)
Hedlund	John D
Hunt	James C
Johnson	David & Joan
Johnson	Ralph C
Jones	Martha J
Jongewaard	Russell V
Kile	David O
Krall	Loretta
Lamborn	Charles F
Lincoln	Ernest E
Lindgren	Gary
Maine	Charles
Maples	Robert C
Marshall	Raymond L

McClure	Neal A
McKinney	Doris
McMasters	Jesse
Miller	Norman
Moreland	George W
Mull	Norman
Nelson	Robert J
Newton	Robert D
Nielsen	Charles R
Nutt	Ellen
Patterson	Esther
Paulsgrove	Glenn H
Poss	Hilda G
Quisenberry	Dwight & Norma
Rhoads	Clifford E
Richards	William
Richardson	Frank
Rutherford	James L
Setness	Duane K
Shreve	Sterling P
Shutts	Lynn M

Simmons	Stanley R
Simon	John J
Smith	Richard F
Spears	M J (Whitey)
Stamatel	Henry S
Steinkamp	James F
Stovall	Robert T
Ten Haken	Irwin
Thomas	Jimmy D
Ververs	W. Kent
Weaver	John W
Westom	Don
Weston	Delores R (Dee)
Will	Roger A
Williams	Clifford L
Wilton	Neil D
Yolton	William P
Weston	Delores R (Dee)
Will	Roger A
Williams	Clifford L
Wilton	Neil D

### 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 hardcopy of the newsletter must pay an additional fee of \$12.00 per year*

**Ron Marlow, Secretary Treasurer**  
**New Members**

Meyer, Kenneth	IA	Miller, Scott	OH
Cochran, Chris	AZ	Cornwell, Jim	ID
Ogle, Daniel	ID	Icenhower, Joe	ID

## ARIZONA

**Ken Cookson, ARCSE Representative**  
**Email: [ckcookson@aol.com](mailto:ckcookson@aol.com)**

**Glen Johnson Report:** I am thankful to be here in Arizona this winter. I have a security camera in the front room of my house in North Dakota, and the picture is taken mid-January. The front door to the house is just to the right. I don't think I could get out. In front is the shop and parked in front of it is my Cadillac, all covered with snow. I go in for a left knee replacement on Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>. Old parts are wearing out.



**Glen Johnson house in North Dakota**

**Ken Cookson Report:** On February 16<sup>th</sup> five former SCSers met at Chompie's Restaurant in Scottsdale to rekindle friendships and to share past experiences. Those in attendance were **Hugh Curry** (MO) and wife **Sharon**, **Warren Fitzgerald** (AZ) and wife **Rita**, **Steve Black** (AZ) and wife **Licia**, **John Lowrey** (AZ) and wife **Rose**, and **Ken Cookson** (AZ).



**Arizona Retirees' Luncheon.** Left to Right: Sharon and Hugh Curry, John and Rose Lowrey, Warren and Rita Fitzgerald, and Licia and Steve Black.



**Arizona Retirees.** Left to Right: Ken Cookson, Steve Black, Hugh Curry, John Lowrey, and Warren Fitzgerald.



**Bill (91) and Joyce Fobair (89) celebrated Christmas with family.**

Hugh and Sharon have been coming to the Viewpoint Park in Mesa, AZ for a couple of months, January/February, for the last several years. Hugh worked in MI, WI, and MO during his career and retired as the State Conservation Engineer in MO. He thought it would be fun to have a luncheon with the people retired in AZ who he worked with during his career. He made the contacts and all the arrangements.

The weather was nice, the food was good, and the conversation was enlightening, and we all had a good time being together.

## CALIFORNIA

**Bill Ward, ARCSE Representative**

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

Greetings to all our fellow Retirees across the Nation! It's been extremely wet here in California with our total rainfall amounts in many parts of the state close to or above 200% of normal for this time of year. As such, we've had flooding problems, threats in many parts of the state and will face significant flooding threats through the spring runoff period well into the summer season.

You may likely have seen on National News Broadcasts the biggest and still current flooding threat California is dealing with associated with the Oroville Dam and problems with both its Primary Spillway and its Emergency Spillway.

The Oroville Dam, owned and operated by the California Department of Water resources, (DWR) is the Nation's tallest dam at 770 feet and was completed almost 50 years ago. The Primary Spillway is a large concrete chute spillway with supercritical flow, with eight gates to control discharge amounts and a design capacity of 150,000 cfs (cubic feet per second). The Emergency Spillway consists of a 1,700-foot long overflow weir of varying height up to 30 feet. It was designed for a capacity of 250,000 cfs. It has a relatively short concrete apron at the base of the weir that transitions to a natural earth slope that ultimately takes water down the earth slope a few hundred feet in elevation to the Feather River. The Emergency Spillway had never been used to this point in the dam's history.

**On February 7<sup>th</sup>** during routine operation of the Primary Spillway it was discovered that a large hole had developed in the chute section of the spillway, which threatened the spillway and its safe operation. The two photos indicate the size and scope of the problem. There was no time to consider any kind of repair, as a very significant storm event had just filled the reservoir to near capacity, and significant releases from the reservoir were critically needed within the next few days.



**Primary Spillway Damage**



**Primary Spillway Damage**

Some initial small releases were made down the Primary Spillway to observe and monitor performance. It appeared the spillway would be able to function up to some unknown level of flow with the knowledge that the upper portion of the spillway was founded on good rock. At that point the general plan was to try not to overtax the damaged primary spillway with large releases, based on the assumption that if necessary the Emergency Spillway could be used for the first time.

**On February 11<sup>th</sup>**, it did become necessary to utilize the Emergency Spillway for the first time in the dam's history. It did not take long, however, before erosion and significant scour below the Emergency Spillway began to be a concern for its safety, with the risk of failure and the potential for an uncontrolled release of floodwater. Considering this scenario, on **February 12<sup>th</sup>** authorities ordered a mandatory evacuation of 188,000 people from cities and towns downstream.

**On February 13<sup>th</sup>**, DWR staff began inspecting the eroded area below the Emergency Spillway and started work immediately and around the clock to repair eroded areas downstream of the Emergency Spillway. Literally hundreds of contractors were mobilized, and large amounts of rock came from quarries far and near for use to repair the damaged areas. Even helicopters were used to place large "rock bags." At its peak, placement of rock reached 1,200 tons per hour! Much of the rock is being grouted in place.



*Early stages of flow over Emergency Spillway.*



*Peak flow over Emergency Spillway, approx. 10,000 cfs.*

**On February 14<sup>th</sup>**, water levels had dropped to the point where authorities lifted the mandatory evacuation order but asked residents to be prepared in case of the need for another evacuation.

The decision was quickly made to ramp up the discharge through the damaged Primary Spillway to 100,000 cfs with the intention to lower the water level in the reservoir below the Emergency Spillway Crest elevation as quickly as possible to reduce the risk of an Emergency Spillway failure. With this action there was risk and concern of further damage to the Primary Spillway, but this choice and associated risks were considered the better of two difficult choices. When this was done, the reservoir water level dropped below the crest of the Emergency Spillway in less than a day.

At this time there was still a critical need to push as much water as possible through the damaged Primary Spillway to gain back critically needed flood storage. Dam managers elected to maintain the flows through the Primary Spillway at 100,000 cfs to lower the water surface elevation 50 feet below the crest of the Emergency Spillway. **On February 19<sup>th</sup>** this goal to restore critical flood storage was achieved. At that point some further reductions were made to the Primary Spillway discharge rates.



*The damaged primary spillway at 100,000 cfs after evacuation orders!*



*Repair work being done on eroded areas below Emergency Spillway.*



*Repair work being done on eroded areas below Emergency Spillway.*

At this point, the flood threat had great been reduced. Critically needed flood storage had been restored. Much of the erosion around the spillway had slowed as it reached rock surfaces. The assessment was that the critically needed but damaged Primary Spillway had not suffered further damage that could be considered a threat to its continued operation through this emergency.

**Another Challenge still to be addressed!** The erosion damage to the Primary Spillway and surrounding area resulted in an estimated 150,000 cubic yards of soil, debris, rocks, and broken concrete being deposited into the Feather River at the base of the spillway.



*Primary Spillway after eight days at 100,000 cfs, now discharging at less than 100,000.cfs.*



*"Debris Pile" blocking channel at base of Primary Spillway.*

This debris pile has essentially "plugged or blocked" a normal reservoir discharge option of about 14,000 cfs through a power plant that discharges into the river immediately below the dam and just upstream of this current blockage. Flood managers would desperately like to gain this other option for controlled releases of flood water. The plan to remove this blockage includes use of dredging equipment from barges. And, of course, this has to be coordinated to still be able to release flood discharges down the damaged spillway as needed.

As of **February 23<sup>rd</sup>**, 2017, the threat of flooding damage to the downstream residents has been greatly reduced. The California Department of Water Resources, along with all the other Emergency Management folks, have done an outstanding job in response to this emergency. Repair work, inspection, and monitoring activity has been continuous and around the clock.

As a retired Engineer who was involved in the design of small dams and Emergency Watershed Protection Projects, I tip my hat to all the responders! This was a very scary but fascinating scenario to observe! Thank God a major catastrophe was averted, and the long term outlook is now positive.

**The Safety of the Dam itself:** Before leaving the Oroville Dam subject, I believe it is important to clarify that throughout this incident the safety of the dam itself was never an issue. Even if the Emergency Spillway had failed, it would have done its primary job to protect the 770-foot high earthfill dam from failure. The location of the Emergency Spillway is on the other side of a natural hill from the dam, at least 1,000 feet away from the dam. There is a substantial amount of bedrock in that hillside.

If the downstream scour below the Emergency Spillway would have reached a point to undermine that spillway footing and wall and cause it to collapse, there would be an uncontrolled release of water from behind the spillway wall. The wall was 30 feet high at its maximum and less than five feet at the other end of its 1,700-foot width. The downstream flooding from this scenario is what the dam managers were working so hard to avoid. While downstream flooding from this scenario is scary, it would not come close to the unimaginable scenario of a failure of the 770-foot high dam itself.

#### **Back to the more normal news to share!**

California continues to have a monthly breakfast as well as a monthly luncheon for our retirees. At our luncheon on February 1<sup>st</sup> the following folks were in attendance: **Gary Bullard, Harold Honeyfield, Peggy Holebrook, Walt and Bev Sykes, Helen Flach and myself (Bill Ward)**. We have a pretty good regular core group who make most of our lunches, and we always enjoy catching up with each other on the latest about activities, family and other news.

**Chester Bush**, a lifetime ARCSE Member has been added to our roles here in California. Chester enjoyed a 39-year career spent in Florida and Tennessee and recently moved to Fresno, CA. Chester started work as a Soil Scientist in Volusia County, FL in 1972. He made the change to Conservation work in 1976. He retired December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011 with the last 30 years of his career as the District Conservationist in Crossville TN. From his description of what all he has worked on, it sounded like virtually every kind of conservation practice you could think of. Welcome to California, Chester. We hope to get to meet you at one of our future lunch gatherings.

We regret to have to share the news of the recent passing of two California Retirees.

**John Weatherford**, 69, Retired, Agronomist and Soil Conservationist with SCS/NRCS passed away due to multiple Myeloma on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. John was a very special person who will be missed by all who had the opportunity to work with and/or know him in any capacity. John is survived by his wife of 40 years, **Deborah Weatherford**, children, **Brian Weatherford** and **Elizabeth (Weatherford) Hickman** and four grandchildren.

**John Rule, 73, Retired, Soil Scientist with SCS/NRCS** passed away November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from Lymphoma. John was another very special person in the SSCS/NRCS family as evident by the following tribute shared about John by Soil Scientist **Kerry Arroues** and his wife **Heidi**. "John was so kind and helpful, always of service and a great smile. I will forever remember him as a friend, dedicated to life and the love of his faith. A diamond for sure and always engaged to pass on his knowledge to others and instill the sense of wonder in all of us! Your light shines still in all that you shared."

That's all for this time around folks. Wishing you all the best from California!

## IDAHO

**Jim Cornwell, ARCSE Representative**

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It might be faster to get this report sent out if I use Pony Express. The new computer we got at Christmas is not being kind to me.

Our first meeting of the new year was fairly well attended, considering the weather we have been experiencing. We have set several records for cold and snow. There was some concern about what might happen to retiree's benefits as well what changes current active employees might experience. It was decided to invite a representative from NARFE to our February meeting to give us a briefing on current status in Congress and the new administration as it may affect us.

Our February meeting was well attended. Attendees were: **Mitch Flanagan, Dan Ogle, Stan and Kathy Hobson, Ralph Swift, Dennis Feichtinger, Amos Garrison, Paul and Harriet Calverly, Mark Weatherstone, Ken Beckman, Hal Swenson, Phil Morrissey, Floyd Bailey, Rob and Kate Fredrickson, Wayne Faude** (retired Idaho Soil Conservation Commission), **Darrel Gallup and his son Darrell, Joe and Lori Icenhower, Keri Gibbs and Jim Cornwell**. There were no activities reported from any of the attendees, I think everyone was sticking close to home in this winter weather.

**Keri Gibbs**, representing NARFE, gave us a briefing of current activities and concerns they are dealing with to protect our earned benefits as well as the protections that current employees have. With the new administration and Congress there are lots of questions and speculation, but indications are that there will be attempts to change benefits. Everyone was encouraged to become active in contacting our Congressional delegation and express their concerns.



*You can see that Keri Gibbs (NARFE rep.) had the attention of the group.*

## IOWA

**Mark Jensen, ARCSE Representative**

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The January ice storm almost kept **Roger and Donita Link** from getting out of Des Moines. However, when their plane finally got off the ground, they headed to Honolulu, HI, for a little time in the sun. The view from their hotel on Waikiki beach included blue Pacific water, white sand, and a few surfers. They visited the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument and the USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor. Other highlights of the trip included the Maui Gold Pineapple Plantation, Kauai Coffee Company, and the Monsanto Hawaii Testing Facility on Oahu. Monsanto tests seed corn at this facility.

**Dennis Peterson** recently retired from his second career as a draftsman for some patent attorneys. However, another "career" has emerged. In January, 2016, Denny started a company called Creative Industrial Art or CIA. Denny combines his drafting skills, artistic flair, and love of cars into beautiful pieces of art. He takes a picture of a car and builds it into a 3-dimensional picture with whatever background the client wants. The owner's name and car information is placed on a banner in the picture. After selling a picture to the president of the Iowa Street Rod Association and having a discussion with him, Denny has now started incorporating lights into the pictures. He will be attending a car show in Nevada, IA, on March 26<sup>th</sup> and will have at least 33 works of art at that

show. If you are interested in looking at these or would like to discuss purchasing one, you can contact Denny directly or attend the Nevada car show!



*Denny Peterson working on one of his pictures and one of his completed works of art.*

**Lee and Alice White** have recently sought out some warmer winter weather than the normal that Iowa has to offer. In December, they traveled to San Jose del Cabo for some R & R at a resort in Mexico. One of the highlights was a sunset cruise to the famous arch. In early February they flew to Naples, FL where they enjoyed visiting with friends and relatives who live in the area. Walking the beaches was a favorite and frequent occurrence.



*Lee and Alice White on the beach near Marco Island, FL*



*Lee and Alice on sunset cruise by Arch of Cabo San Lucas*

Thanks to **Dick Hall** who sent the following: I am finally fully retired now since the state is short on funds and has quit contracting with me, and I assume **Larry Dorgan**, for dam inspections. I thoroughly enjoyed the dam inspections due to the fact that it gave me a chance to see a lot of dams that we had designed with the SCS. I said "fully retired," but I am still somewhat active with officiating track and cross country. This spring will be my 42<sup>nd</sup> year of track officiating. **Marian** and I do a little traveling, going to Kenosha, WI to visit our oldest daughter and her family at least once a year and to Oklahoma City to visit our second daughter and her family at least once a year. We also make an annual trip to Branson, MO to see some shows and the sights. We're not getting any younger but are still in good health, with our five children ranging in age from 38-59. **Marian** and I will be celebrating our 62<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary in July of this year. We have seventeen grandchildren and just today (Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>) we got another great granddaughter, giving us sixteen great grandchildren. We also manage to get together for an annual family campout at Gavins Point dam each summer, usually in July or early August, with 35-40 of the family members.

In January, we were saddened to learn about the passing of two of our fellow retirees. **Deane Glen** passed away on January 13<sup>th</sup>. He was 90 years old and had worked as a Civil Engineer on the Watershed Planning Staff in Des Moines for many years. He was my supervisor when I was a student trainee on the Planning Staff in 1973. On January 14<sup>th</sup>, **Bart McAninch** passed away at 91 years of age. He was a long-time District Conservationist.

## KANSAS

**Deanne Lull, ARCSE Representative**

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

What a mild winter we are having in the Salina, KS, area. In February Ron and I enjoyed a picnic in the park, which certainly is not a typical activity for this time of the year.

**Jeff Hart** is helping his community by serving as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Saline County Commission on Aging (COA). The COA, a legal entity of Saline County, is a non-profit organization that operates the Salina Senior Center and Salina Meals on Wheels. **Jeff** retired in 2008 as the State Resource Conservationist in the Kansas State Office.

**Mary Shaffer** was the program at a recent Salina NARFE Chapter meeting speaking about traveling in Kansas in search of chicken fried steak and coconut cream pie. She covered the state pointing out interesting places to visit and where to find good meals. The secret is to get off the interstates and travel the back roads. **Mary** served as the Public Affairs Specialist in the Kansas State Office, retiring in 2013, and she continues to explore our state in her retirement.

The end of the year brought a number of retirements. **Larry R. Sabata**, Area Soil Scientist headquartered on the Technical Staff in Topeka, KS, retired November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016. **Darla A. Juhl**, District Conservationist in the Norton, KS, Field Office retired December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016. Also retiring on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016, was **Muriel E. Morgenthaler**, the State Conservationist's Secretary in the Kansas State Office in Salina, KS. **Keith D. Kisner**, Supervisory District Conservationist in the Atwood, KS Field Office retired January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**Paul R. Finnell, Sr.**, retired January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017. At the time of his retirement, **Paul** was not headquartered in Kansas but was working out of the Kansas State Office. He had worked as a soil scientist in Kansas until February, 2004 when he transferred to Lincoln, NE, where he became the National Soils Database Manager.

This holiday season has been a sad time for several of our retiree families. **Fred E. Minzenmayer** passed away on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016, in Franklin, TX. He was the Assistant State Soil Scientist in Kansas until the late 1980's. **Verne M. Bathurst** passed away December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016, in Arizona. **Verne** began his career in Kansas serving in several Kansas communities before leaving Kansas to advance his career. **Kelso L. Williams** passed away on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017, in Edmond, OK. Kelso retired in the late seventies as the District Conservationist in the Hill City, KS Field Office. **Orville W. Love** passed away January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, at the age of 99 years and 8 months. **Orville** retired in 1980 as the Area Conservationist in the Topeka, KS Area Office. **Cornelius A. "Tony" Adams** passed away January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Tony retired in 1993 as a Civil Engineering Technician on the Engineering Staff in the Kansas State Office.

One spouse was also lost. During the holiday season it was learned that **Dorothy M. Horsch** passed away November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016. **Dorothy** was the spouse of **Marcellus L. "Mark" Horsch** who preceded her in death in 1987. **Mark** worked as a soil scientist during the 1960s.

Mark your calendars. The 2017 Annual Meeting of the Kansas SCS/NRCS Retirees Association will be held the fourth Friday of June (June 23<sup>rd</sup>), in Salina. The location has yet to be announced.

## MAINE

**John J. Simon, ARCSE Representative**

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### JANUARY

Attending our regular 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday breakfast on January 10<sup>th</sup> were **Art Taylor, Roger Ashe, Steve Davis, and John Simon**. Steve is a new member of ARCSE who lives in Presque Isle. We welcomed Steve to our group. Steve has been retired since 2012 and has been caring for his Dad and Mom up in Presque Isle, which I am sure keeps him busy. God bless you, Steve. Steve has had a lot of moves in his career. If I heard Steve correctly (I was not wearing my hearing aids that day) he has worked in NJ, RI, MI (as state engineer) and in Maine. Some of you out there will probably remember Steve. **Phil Christensen** is another ex-state engineer who lives up in Fort Fairfield, close by to Presque Isle. Many of you also know Phil for sure.

Steve indicated he did not drive down from Presque Isle just for the pleasure of having breakfast with us! He has a friend who was shoveling deep snow off his roof in Presque Isle and fell off the roof onto some equipment and severely injured his arm and shoulder. The Presque Isle hospital immediately transported him to a much bigger hospital of EMMC at Bangor to get "repaired." Steve was going over to visit him after breakfast and spend some time with his friend, and I am sure to cheer him up. Steve is an interesting guy. We all need to learn more about Steve as time goes by.

Steve did know **Bill Bowers** in PA. Bill was State Engineer in PA after I left Harrisburg to come back to Maine in 1980. Lots of old memories were shared by us.

Now that we have another warm body up in Aroostook, we may have an easier time scheduling a noon luncheon up there this fall. Again I will urge anyone in Maine who knows of any Maine retiree not on our retiree list to let me please know the name and a phone number so I can contact them for permission to add them to the list.

### FEBRUARY

The February 14<sup>th</sup> breakfast on the second Tuesday was attended by **Art Taylor and John Simon** only. The Blizzard we had on Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> of about 22" in the Bangor area really slowed us all down--big time. We were actually both surprised to see that we showed up! The blizzard put 3+ foot drifts in my driveway that were a big problem, except for my neighbor, Ken, who has a

riding lawn mower with a four-foot snow blower attached who came over to help so I was able to get opened up in time to get to the breakfast. The rest of the retirees I am sure were snowed in. Art Taylor was still working on the long driveway into his new house on Tuesday after the breakfast. This storm was the largest single storm since I have been in Hampden (19 years)!

I saw **Charlie Boothby** at the wake for **John Fogler**. John Fogler was a well-known farmer from Exeter, Maine who besides operating a dairy farm was active on the District board, and town and state positions. The U of Maine in Orono has their library (Fogler Library) that is named after the family.

For any of you interested in heat pump operations I have the following to pass along. The following information was inspired by a recommendation from Art Taylor on using all my data.

The several winters of operation of my mini-split heat pump have given me lots of daily records for both my oil furnace and my M-S. As a result of plotting all the data, I have fit a simple regression line to the data which you may find useful in your own planning of the operation of a heat pump mini-split if the situation of M-S size of unit and area heated is similar.

Use the following equation for determining the kWh of electricity used per day by a 12,000 BTU/hr M-S that is heating a 1,000 sf area. HDD stands for heating degree day, and kWh stands for kilowatt hour of electricity.

$Y \text{ [kWh/d]} = 0.33 \times X \text{ [HDD /d]} - 2.22$ . In words: Y [in kWh per Day] equals 0.33 times X [in heating degree days per day] minus 2.22

Example: for a day with a HDD of 40 the kWh value consumed for that day would be 0.33 times 40 - 2.22 for a value of 10.98 kWh; i.e. 13.2 - 2.22.

The 10.98 kWh at a cost of \$0.17355/kWh would amount to a bill of \$1.91 for that day.

In Bangor we have about 7,000 HDD a season and if the season is assumed to be about 180 days long. The average for the winter is about 38.9 HDD/day or 10.62 kWh per day or 1,911 kWh per season.

Without considering the Emera power company discount, this would cost a person about \$331.66 per season. This is about the cost of 145.5 gallons of oil at \$2.279/gal, or about 1.5 tons of pellets at \$225.00/ton. I have lots of data so if anyone is interested let me know and I can get some of it to them.

Not much else to share for now. Till next time keep warm and God bless.

**DEADLINE FOR THE MAY/JUNE 2017 NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS IS APRIL 25, 2017**

## MISSOURI

**Dave Rastorfer, ARCSE Representative**

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The quarterly breakfast of the Columbia area retirees was on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Those in attendance were: **John McCarthy, Gena Michalson, John Turner, Frank and Kay Miller, Bob Ball, Jerry Edwards, Don Williams, Neil and Louise Randall, Jean Herman and Roger Hansen**. The next breakfast will be on May 10<sup>th</sup> at Denny's in Columbia.

Recent retirees (or soon to be): **Pat Hufford**, AC in St. Joe; and **Darrel Campbell**, Area Engineer in Jefferson City.

**Dennis Shirk**: Hello Folks. I am sending you SPRING:



*Spring bursting forth in Missouri, courtesy of Dennis Shirk*

We have had a very mild winter so far. I have had a bout with acute pancreatitis that knocked the soup out of me, and it was very severe, the sickest I've been in a very long time. I'm feeling much better and watching my diet very closely (low fat). I have had several good rides lately. Nothing much else to report. See you down the trail!

**Lane Thurman**: I got some bad news to pass along, but on me. I had a colonoscopy a couple of weeks ago and things did not go well. There was a tumorous thing found in the colonoscopy. So that means some treatment for me starting soon, don't know all the details yet but sure they are not going to be fun. I think it will include a bunch of radiation treatments and some chemo as well. Not looking forward to it at all. Nancy is doing well after her treatments; she has not gotten all her strength back yet but is doing well. Looks like the fishing for this spring is not going to be good for me, but will still try to get out some. Take care and tell

everyone hello for us. *New update from Lane:* Just got a call from the Dr. who did the lung biopsy on me yesterday. She had the results of the biopsy and they were negative for cancer. So that relieves me quite a bit on not having the cancer in the lungs. It is only in the colon and that can be taken care of I am told. Great news for me this time!

**Bill Pauls:** We believe spring has already sprung down here at the lake. It has been simply beautiful. No trees budding yet, but I did see a flock of bluebirds and several robins. We have been busy with kid and grandkid events (in and around STL). I'm still training for marathons and busy with several church activities. Kris and I have also been volunteering one day a week at the local Pregnancy Help Center.

We spent yesterday morning celebrating Valentine's Day early by renewing our vows (after 46 years of marriage and counting) at Bridal Cave, where the draw was a free lifetime pass to the cave, flowers, a photograph (and it's right over our very own Thunder Mountain, not a stone's throw away). If you ever visit the cave, look for our picture, as we are now Bridal Cave wedding couple #3333.

I renewed a few of my former soil scientist skills as I am assisting our church in developing a new cemetery on church property. Even had some of the gang from the Springfield office come up for an onsite soil investigation. Thanks to NRCS soil scientists, JP and AJ. Also attended the March-For-Life in Washington, DC with a group from the Jefferson City Diocese (five buses). The kids are really inspiring and give great hope for the future of Pro-LIFE. I may be getting a wee bit old for the two "all-niters" on the bus with a night on a tile floor in a sleeping bag sandwiched between! But it was well worth it. We enjoyed VP Pence's talk very much before the march at the rally. Got to march with my son **Jeff**, as he was there representing the Vitae Foundation. On a sad note for our family, our son-in-law Jeremy's dad, **Ron Monroe**, passed this past week. We will be attending his funeral service in Columbia this weekend. We are looking forward to the "lake" season of boating/swimming/fishing/family and friend vacation time visits gearing up here soon. To all of our ol' SCS/NRCS family/friends, "Why don't y'all come on down and sit a spell?"

**Jess and Phyllis Epple** (near Muskogee, OK): Things are looking better at J P Ranch. It has started to rain! This area has been in severe drought conditions for several months. The 2016 hay crop was half of what is considered average. Cattle prices have declined, and making a profit will be a challenge in 2017. **Jess** celebrated his birthday early at the Oktoberfest in Herman, MO thanks to daughter and son-in-law, **Debra and Boyd Hughes** of Raymore, MO. They booked the *Epple Haus B&B* near Morrison. The Schwinkee family bought land and house from a farmer named Epple and now offer the house as a B&B. The second celebration was hosted by Jess's youngest daughter, **Kandi Herring**, of Brentwood, TN and granddaughter, **Bailie Harden**, from Franklin, TN. The setting was an old 1890 mansion B&B in Hot Springs, AR. The baths were great and the area very unique. After recovering from those trips, we went to Goodwell, OK, home of Oklahoma Panhandle State University and Phyllis's home town. It was OPSU's homecoming and Phyllis's High School Alumni meeting. It was a fun time, and the University is growing.

The Civil War Battle of Honey Springs Depot at Rentiesville, OK now has new paved roads. The new Visitors Center will be open this spring, so if you are traveling down Oklahoma 69 Highway South of Muskogee, take the tour. Jess's Dad wrote the book that helped get it all established. Best wishes to all SCS/NRCS retirees.

**Pat Beneke:** We have enjoyed this mild winter. **Bill** and I just got back from staying in the lodge at one of Missouri's newest state parks, Echo Bluff. It is located north of Eminence and just opened in 2016. We learned that the campground is open year round also. There are various activities to do including mountain biking. Bill and I also drove a short distance to see the wild horse herd which was grazing at Round Spring campground. We are fortunate to have so many state and federal parks to enjoy.

**Jack Schneider:** We spent the first two weeks of February in Hawaii. We visited the Islands of Oahu and Kauai. If you go, you might want to consider the Polynesian Cultural Center, the Dole plantation and the Pillboxes hike, all on Oahu. In Kauai, we did a river kayaking and hiking tour to a waterfall. The surf was way up this time of year, so there were some surfboard contests to watch.

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## MONTANA

**Dick Gooby, ARCSE Representative**

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### Montana Big Sky Report

**Hal Hunter report:** Hal Hunter, Joe Fidel and Pete Husby have finished their chapter for a special issue of "Rangelands" magazine, a publication of the Society for Range Management. The special issue will discuss factors contributing to the poor ecological condition of the Northern Range, both inside and outside Yellowstone National Park (YNP). Copies are to be sent to all members of Congress.

Impetus for our effort was a call from a rancher neighboring YNP, saying: "We have got to do something to save YNP for my kids." We agreed to volunteer time to help. Among many other activities is the special issue of "Rangelands."

Since 1968, with the adoption of the natural regulation hypothesis, the range resource has deteriorated significantly. 55 sites have been described in detail, 32 miles of transects walked and the data incorporated in the chapter "Upland Health" of the special issue.

In 1963, USDA-SCS completed a range inventory of the Northern Range within YNP. At that time 53 percent of the Northern Range was scored as being in good or excellent ecological condition. Today, our work indicates that there is none. Production is 60 percent of what it was in 1963 and less than 25% of potential.

**Gordon Watson Report:** I don't know what is going on, but I haven't seen the creek in my back yard for a couple of months now--just a lot of snow and ice cover it up. Maybe a glacier is forming! Could this be the end to global warming?

**Scott Hoag Report:** Hope your lane is free of snow. If not, spread some black plastic out and it will melt faster. Here's our report. Winter continues in Bozeman, although we're enjoying warmer weather: 40s in the day and 20s at night. And when it gets to 50 or so the gophers come out. Can't shoot in the neighborhood, but they sure are an inviting target.

I thought I would do a follow-up to **Carl Bouchard's** prostate cancer discussion. In 2013 my PSA went up and my GP sent me to urology where I had a biopsy: twelve samples. One had 5% cancer so we decided to "wait and watch." 2014 and an upward tick in the PSA and another biopsy. Same result: 12 samples with one at 5% cancer, "wait and watch." Then in 2015 a third biopsy: no cancer found but an increase in PSA. I went to Seattle Cancer Care Alliance (SCCA) for MRI-guided biopsy where they found a "high-grade" and "aggressive" cancer. So back to Bozeman to start radiation. They implanted three gold seeds and then started radiation. In the meantime they also started me on Lupron Depot: one shot every four months for two years. It takes testosterone and PSA to near zero. They've discovered testosterone feeds prostate cancer. So, 44 radiations over a broader area and the last 19 focused on the prostate. All is well. A couple of notes: through all of this you discover not to worry about modesty; and the oncologist said "and one of the side effects of Lupron is hot flashes," and looking at **Nancy** said, 'but don't expect any sympathy from her.'

On a happier note, we've read about all of those trips you're all taking, so we've signed up for a couple, and we'll see if we opt to go or stay home. That's what contentment does to a person, not to mention age. Also, Nancy has signed up for a writers' conference in May, so we'll drive west and then see family and hopefully look again and even find a house!

**Gooby Ranch Report:** We have about 250 elk that have moved next to our place. They are eating the neighbor's hay and getting closer to eating our hay. All the ranchers close to us are using fire crackers and anything else they can think of to keep the elk out of their hay stacks.

The reason the elk are moving into the fields in our area is because the wolves have chased them out of the mountains.

**Mary Ann** has to spend the night out at our hay stack to be sure the elk don't move in and destroy our hay. We don't have any fire crackers. So I gave my wolf call to her so she can blow the wolf call to keep the elk away from the hay. The wolf call works great. So far the elk have stayed away.

Mary Ann is concerned that if she keeps blowing the wolf call, the wolves will move in. Since she can't come back to the house until after daylight, that means I can't get breakfast before 8:00 in the morning. The one good thing is that I can sleep in since there is no sense in me getting up until breakfast is on. Of course, each day Mary Ann gets my breakfast about six seconds earlier.

The first of February we had a blizzard that lasted three days. We could only see out about a 100 yards. I felt real bad that Mary Ann had to spend the night at the hay stack while I was able to sit by the fire. I drove the tractor down that has a cab on it so Mary Ann could get out of the wind. Of course she had to agree not to run the tractor and waste any fuel. Every few minutes she opens the window and blows the wolf call. So far no elk or wolves. I offered to spend the night at the hay stack so Mary Ann could get some rest but she said she'd better to do it since I would fall asleep and the elk would move in and destroy the hay stack.

I've spent a lot of time in the mountains trying to call in a wolf. So far I have had no luck. You would think as much as Mary Ann uses the wolf call some wolves would have come by. I'm starting to think that the wolf call was developed by the Save the Wolf Organization.

The road to our house is so drifted full there is no way to get it cleared so we can drive out. We will have to wait until most of the snow melts before Mary Ann can clean out the road. In the meantime, when the ground is frozen, we can drive across a field to get to the county road. But the way the weather has been the last couple weeks, it freezes at night and thaws during the day, so the only time you can drive across the field is early morning. It's either that or park the pickup on the county road and walk back and forth. But then we have to take the wheel barrow to haul the feed and groceries. The only place we can buy food and supplies is at stores that are open all night, and the closest one is over 100 miles away. When Mary Ann needs to go to a store she heads out about 2:00am and gets back before 8:00 while the field is still frozen. That works fine with me since I still get breakfast served to me by 8:00am.

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## NEBRASKA

**Norman Kempf, ARCSE Representative**

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

The January breakfast was called to order by Chairman, **Bob Engel** with 17 people attending. The February meeting was also called to order by Bob Engel with 17 people attending.

**Mike Cowan** passed away on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 78 years of age. He was an IT specialist in the NTC and later in the regional office in Lincoln, NE. **Richard Middendorf** passed away on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 at the age of 94. He worked for the SCS in Lincoln and later in Lyons, NE. **Kenneth Dermann** passed away on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017. He worked in the National Soils Mechanics lab Laboratory in Lincoln, NE during the 60s and 70s. **J. Cameron Loerch** passed away on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the age of 61 after a battle with cancer. He was a soil scientist and worked in many places in the USA and retired after 37 years. He last worked in the National Soils Laboratory.

**Francis King** is doing well. **Joe Caulder** reported that his wife **Flo** had a good check-up. **Jim Carr** is doing well after undergoing surgery for spinal problems resulting from his recent chemotherapy. **Gus Dornbusch** reported that he began treatment on December 27<sup>th</sup> and is doing very well.

**Gary Muckel** reported that he fell on the ice in front of his house and cracked three vertebrae. He is walking carefully and informed the group that it would be some time before he joined us on the golf course. **Key Westerman** also fell on the ice and broke a hip. She and her husband are staying in Manor until she finishes rehabilitation.

**Norman Kempf** told the group about a recent trip to Rochester, MN. His wife received a call from Mayo that her pain pump was nearly out of medication about 2:00. A storm was moving in from the west so we left in about a half an hour to beat the storm. No such luck. The storm caught us at Des Moines and it was ice, blinding snow and backed up traffic for 200 miles. We did arrive at midnight safely after 9 hours of white-knuckle driving.

**Keith Sheets** sends greeting from sunny Texas. **JoAnne Theile** is planning a trip to Hawaii in three weeks. **Norman Helzer** spent a week in Florida where he visited Disney World, and they had a one-day attendance of 250,000 people. **Steve Stover** recently made a trip to AZ, drove many miles on icy roads. **Don Manly** traveled to CA to visit daughter and two grandchildren.

**Craig Derickson**, State Conservationist for NE visited the breakfast group and gave an update on current events. NRCS is now running on a continuing resolution and is also under a hiring freeze. **Jason Weller**, Chief of the NRCS, has left his job due the change in administration, and **Leonard Jordon** is the acting chief until a new chief is appointed. Hearings are being held throughout the country to gather input for a new farm bill.

## OKLAHOMA

**Randy Freeland, ARCSE Representative**

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

The next meeting for Oklahoma Retirees is scheduled for Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017, at the Golden Corral Buffet, 520 South MacArthur Blvd. in Oklahoma City. It is located between I-40 and Reno behind the Shell Station. Take Exit #144 off I-40. Go north on MacArthur Blvd. The doors will open at 10am. We invite all former SCS/NRCS employees from Oklahoma and other states to join us. No reservation is required.

Oklahoma Retirees have their own website at [joepad.com](http://joepad.com). They have found it quite helpful in our effort to keep retirees informed. This website also has a posting of the attendees, minutes and pictures from each of the meetings.

## NORTH CAROLINA

**Jim Canterbury, ARCSE Representative**

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

Eleven retirees and guests from the Raleigh area met at Bob Evans Restaurant in Cary for breakfast on January 31<sup>st</sup>. This event takes place several times each year. Attending the breakfast were **Jim Canterbury, Dr. Maurice Cooke, Frank Evans, Dick Gallo, Coy Garrett, John Garrett, Ed Helme, Hubert Hawkins, Roger Montague, Cecil Settle, and Horace Smith.**

## OREGON

**Don Stettler, ARCSE Representative**

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

Oregon's winter quarter retiree lunch was held on January 25<sup>th</sup>. The timing of the lunch was good, because had it been scheduled two weeks earlier it would have been canceled due to a snow storm. Fortunately, temperatures warmed and roads cleared to allow a nice turnout at the Peppermill Restaurant in Aloha.



*The biggest snow storm in twenty years brought eight to twelve inches of snow to the Portland region. Since there is little equipment for dealing with snow, the Portland Metropolitan area came to a standstill for several days.*

Those attending the lunch were **Eldena Vander Zanden, Gail Vogue, Lowell and Marian Kenedy, Dick and Kathy Sylvester, Ron Avarado, Kay Denfeld, René Walls, Jack Kanalz, Gary Formanek, Tom Fujii, Stefanie Aschmann, DD and Howard Kido, Bill and Jean Hughey, Chad McGrath, Bunny Leuthold, Lamont and Karen Robbins, Beth Zetter, Joe Sahlfeld, Terry**

**Mitchell, Pat Smith, Don Wallin, Jean and Em Trainor, Gene Sturtevant, Bobbie Hart, Mark Parson, and yours truly, Don Stettler.**

**Ron Avarado**, Oregon's State Conservationist, updated us on progress on the agency's priority programs. **Jack Kanalz** reminisced about when he was the State Conservationist in Hawaii. During that time he and the rest of the office enjoyed watching the developing office courtship between **Howard** and **DD Kido**. Jack served as the emcee at their wedding.



*Oregon retirees' luncheon.*



*Oregon retirees' luncheon.*



*Oregon retirees' luncheon.*

**Danny Burgett** asked me to tell everyone hello. He is now living in Idaho. **Russ Hatz** reported that he is inspecting farming operations for the Food Alliance. He went on to say that he will conduct about fifty farming operations this year.

**Dave Johnson** told me that he and **Joan** could not come to the lunch because they were once again dealing with a water leak in their kitchen.

The spring quarter retiree lunch will be held at the Clackamas The Old Spaghetti Factory on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

**Grady Adkins, ARCSE Representative**

**Ellis Morrow, ARCSE Representative**

**Email: [grady.adkins2@gmail.com](mailto:grady.adkins2@gmail.com), [emorrow41@bellsouth.net](mailto:emorrow41@bellsouth.net)**

**Byron and Mary Thompson** have been traveling over the past few months. "We went with a group to the northeast visiting eleven states. In Oct. we were in the Tennessee Mountains for a week, and now we are in Florida with family members--a total of 15 states visited. Also I will have four more years on McCormick County Council. As the picture shows, we ran onto Santa in the South, resting for the big trip."



**Mary and Byron Thompson with Santa and Mrs. Claus, reindeer herders.**

The next scheduled meeting of the South Carolina Retirees is scheduled for April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in the Midlands SC Area.

**Luke Nance** reports that a second granddaughter has decided to attend Clemson University. Both went to high school in Aiken--one to Aiken and the other to South Aiken. The older one will be a Junior next year. A number of Clemson graduates who are members of this retirees group are still wearing Orange to celebrate the National Football Championship.

**Grady Adkins** is staying busy inspecting dams that were damaged during Hurricane Matthew.

## TEXAS NORTH

**Arnold King, ARCSE Representative**

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

The North Texas Chapter continues to have monthly meetings where refreshments are served and informative programs are often presented. During the January meeting **Larry Butler** presented a program concerning his RFD TV program entitled "Out on the Land." It has been a popular program and well received by viewers. The programs are outstanding and promote conservation in many ways. However, he has to spend most of his available time planning and producing the conservation segments, and there wasn't enough time to promote and market the program to sponsors. Regrettably, Larry's contract will soon expire and he has chosen not to renew the agreement with RFD. Larry also gave an interesting review of the process candidates use to apply or be considered for positions within a new administration. Many of us were inspired to apply for department head jobs.



[www.arcse.org](http://www.arcse.org)



**2017 Texas Reunion Planning group. Left to Right: Frank Sprague, Bailey Mayo, Joe McEntire, Henry Bogusch, Sharon Johnson, Rhett Johnson, Barbara Perritte, Debbie Melton, Larry McEntire, Beade Northcut, Tim Holland, and Arnold King. Don Newman and Willeene King are in the center.**

During January the planning group met at a ranch near Granbury where BBQ was served and plans were firmed up for the 25<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of Texas retirees. The meeting/reunion is planned for April 25-26 at Schlitterbahn Resort in New Braunfels, TX. Attendees will spend most of two days talking about the "good old days," playing golf and participating in a silent raffle/auction. The proceeds from the auction fund scholarships for students to attend conservation youth camps. \$4,000 was raised during the 2016 meeting.

**Clyde Goodman** and his wife were recently on a Disney Cruise that proved quite "thrilling." Clyde reported that the cruise ship was buffeted by winds ranging from 45 to 53 knots all the way from Galveston to Key West. The decks were closed, and they even had to drain the swimming pools. After that, the rest of the cruise and time on Disney's private island in the Caribbean were quite pleasant.

**Arnold and Willeene King** recently returned from a trip through the Panama Canal. It was a cruise leaving from Ft. Lauderdale, FL. The ship went up three levels into a lake where ships wait their turn and water is collected to operate the system of gates and levies. They rode a train along the Canal from the lake to Panama City. Interestingly, no pumps are necessary. The entire operation is gravitational. It is a tremendous engineering feat. The enterprise is worth trillions of dollars and we gave it away. Not mentioning any names, but Arnold suggested the word "peanut" is a hint concerning who gave the Canal Zone to Panama.

**Dennis Gaster** continues to work with Arlington Boy Scout Troop 68. On January 21<sup>st</sup>, Sid Richardson Scout Ranch was the location where Troop 68 scouts learned to rappel and climb. Although Dennis is too old to rappel down the side of the cliff, he can still hold a camera! Dennis does some great work with the Boy Scouts.

## VIRGINIA

**Kenneth Carter, ARCSE Representative**

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

**Rachel Hollins** has been busy. In 2016 she took a total of five cruises, in addition to the trips described here. In December she and her daughter took a trip to New York City. High temperature was below freezing, and the wind was blowing. They took in three shows: Something Rotten!, Beautiful, and the Radio City Rockettes. All were great shows.

In January, Rachel took a cruise around Cape Horn. Quite windy in that part of the world, but extremely interesting. According to the Captain, after you travel around Cape Horn you can wear an earring in one ear and eat with one leg on the table. That explains all those pictures of pirates sitting around with legs on the tables. Got to mingle with Magellanic Penguins on Magdalena Island, toured the battlefields on the Falkland Islands, took in shows and barbecues on several farms, and did the Tango.



*Magellanic Penguins on Magdalena Island.*



*Rachel Hollins doing the Tango*

**Rachel** has idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, but it is not getting her down. The disease has progressed, and the cough is a nuisance, but the scarring is not too much worse than when originally diagnosed.

## WASHINGTON, DC, NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

**John Peterson, ARCSE Representative**

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

**John Peterson** attended the world's largest soil and water event, the International Erosion Control Association's (IECA) 2017 Environmental Connection held in Atlanta, GA from February 21-24. In addition to seeing industry and SWCS friends at this conference, he also saw retiree **Earl Norton** from AL, who also attends. John currently is Chairman of IECA's International Regional Council.

**Doug Helms** will soon be leaving for Monaco and some Formula 1 Grand Prix racing. He makes these trips every few years with friends. *We want to see some pictures and stories when you return, Doug.*



*Barbara Osgood with rescued dogs, Daffy and Molly.*

**Barbara Osgood's** passion in her retirement has been rescuing old Labrador Retrievers, with two pictured. Daffy was a breeder dog in an Amish puppy mill; and Molly, who was obviously a breeder dog as well, was a stray to the shelter.

**Warren Lee** reports "I had the opportunity to present **Gordon Klofstad** his Community Service award at a joint meeting of Venture Out RV Resort's condo board, social board, planning committee and infrastructure committee, which is the leadership of our home owners' association. He received a standing ovation from this group and heartfelt thanks from our President, **Bruce Johnston** who is shown here in the picture."



*Gordon Klofstad receives the Community Service Award from Warren Lee and Bruce Johnston*



*Ron Marlow accompanied by Kristen Chandler and Andrew Carroll from the MATHCOUNTS Foundation Board.*

At the Northern Virginia Regional MATHCOUNTS Competition on Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at George Mason University, **Ron Marlow**, P.E. was recognized for his "generous support and service in fostering excellence in mathematics". Ron has assisted with MATHCOUNTS competitions for 33 years and as part of the Regional Planning Team, has served as the head proctor for the test room for nearly 20 years. The regional competition combines the Fairfax, George Washington, and Northern VA Chapters of the Virginia Society of Professional Engineers. Over 420 sixth through eighth grade students from 49 elementary and middle schools competed at the February 4<sup>th</sup> event. These students have been practicing since the fall and were selected to represent their schools at the competition. Students compete as school teams and as individuals. MATHCOUNTS is a national middle school math enrichment program offering competition and club activities designed to foster appreciation of math among U.S. students so as to prepare students for future career opportunities and success. More than 6 million students across the U.S. have participated in MATHCOUNTS programs since 1983. There are a large number of SCS/NRCS employees and retirees who help with these events across the nation. You may remember **Mark Jensen** having provided information last year on his assistance with MATHCOUNTS in Iowa. In addition to Ron, other Northern Virginia NRCS employees/retirees who assist are **Bill Irwin** and **Dave Thackeray** (both since the 90s), **Claudia Hoeft**, and **Jo Johnson** and in the past **Mark Locke**, **Jin Zhang**, **Megan Stubbs**, and **Sheryl and Ed Kunickis**. All of you are encouraged to look for opportunities to help with competitions or coaching in your local area.

## WASHINGTON

**Gerald Richard, ARCSE Representative**

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

We're having one of our winters where the snow keeps piling up, enough so that our gang is starting to have a good case of cabin fever. Our January and February luncheons at the Timber Creek Grill and Buffet were cancelled because of snow. However, **Jud Melton, Larry Edmonds and Carl Vennes** had a lunch together in January. A little snow (or a lot) doesn't slow these guys down. And **Larry Edmonds** is still doing well and doing follow-up cardio rehab twice a week at Deaconess Hospital. **Phyllis Richard** returned home on December 28<sup>th</sup> from rehab and is currently receiving hospice and homecare.

## WEST VIRGINIA

**Peg Reese, ARCSE Representative**

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

**James Dodson**, Conservation Engineering Technician in Beckley, retired on December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Retirees as of January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017, include **Howard Butts**, Soil Conservation Technician in Martinsburg; **Ray Carr**, District Conservationist in White Hall; and **Dan Lynch**, Resource Conservationist in Moorefield. Congratulations to our newest retirees.

**Ken Haid**, Soil Conservationist in Beckley, died from cancer on January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Read more about Ken in the obituary section of this newsletter.

NRCS Employees **Norm Bailey** and **Joe Hatton** resigned their positions at the Morgantown State Office to join the West Virginia Department of Agriculture as Chief of Staff and Assistant Chief of Staff.

In early February, **Jim Clevenger** fell and broke a bone in his neck. He is home now after a short hospital stay with no numbness or paralysis. Jim reports that the "Doctors say I should be OK in about 8 weeks. Wearing a collar (brace) sure is inconvenient. I will survive."

## WISCONSIN

**Jim Enlow, ARCSE Representative**

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The Wisconsin retirees met for lunch on February 9<sup>th</sup> at Grandma Mary's Cafe in Arena, WI. **Gene Hausner** was the gracious host.

Those attending included **Gene and Georgene Hausner, Bill and Virginia Conner, Roman and Bea Statz, Stan and Marlene Dingle, Keith Behling, Jim and Lynnette Enlow, Dan Cotter, and Bob Uhrig.**

The group enjoyed lunch and fellowship during the noon hour. After lunch some of the group participated in a tour of the Arena Cheese Company. The next luncheon is scheduled for April 13<sup>th</sup> at Grizzly's Wood Fired Grill in Eau Claire, WI.

## WYOMING

**Veronica Schadegg, ARCSE Representative**

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Wyoming NRCS retirees in the Big Horn Basin got together at the home of Don Tranas in Greybull, WY. Front: Vern Nieters (standing), Al Destefano, Jerry Forster, Geri Sullivan, and Don Viktorin (kneeling). Back: Nick Biltoft, John Richards, Gavino Leyva, Bill Wesnitzer, Don Gaddie, Jerry Gladson, Frank Neal, Don Tranas, and Glenn Mitchell. 3<sup>rd</sup> row: Gary Buckingham and Tom Gustafson.

**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.*

Harold L. Lile  
Robert J. Nelson

Durham, NC  
Kernersville, NC

Harry S. Rucker  
Victorin J. Ruhland

Alexandria, LA  
St. Paul, MN

## SENIOR CONSERVATIONIST CHRONICLE

Harold L. Lile

by Marc Safley, Chronicler, Senior Conservationist

Senior Conservationist **Harold Lile** was born October 7, 1933, at Jackson, Tennessee. Jackson is the county seat of Madison County and is about 70 miles east of Memphis. Harold, the youngest of five children, was raised on his family's farm which was about five miles east of Jackson. It was a general agricultural enterprise of the time--cotton, corn, cattle, and a few hogs. Harold attended local schools, and upon graduation from high school entered the University of Tennessee at Martin. He graduated in 1955 with a B.S. degree in General Agriculture.

Prior to graduation in 1953, Harold worked as a Student Trainee with SCS in Decatur County, Tennessee. His first assignment with SCS was as a Soil Conservationist in the Wilson County (TN) Work Unit in Lebanon following his graduation. He was there until April 1956 when he was drafted into the US Army. Upon returning home following basic training, he married **Jeaneen Edwards** who he had met and dated though his college years. He was posted to Japan, and Jeaneen was able to be with him during the two years he was there. Following his Honorable Discharge in 1958, he was sent to the Trousdale County Work Unit in Hartsville, TN, as a Work Unit Conservationist. He was there for less than two years and was then transferred to Covington, TN, as a District Conservationist for Tipton County in 1960. In 1966 he was selected for a Kellogg Fellowship at North Carolina State University where he completed requirements for a M.S. degree in Agriculture with emphasis in economics in 1967. That same year he was promoted to the SCS State Office in Nashville as Assistant State Administrative Officer. In October of 1970 he accepted the position of State Administrative Officer for SCS in North Carolina and relocated to the State Office in Raleigh. Harold worked in that job until his retirement on December 31, 1988. During his last year of SCS service he also worked as Assistant to the State Conservationist. It was during this period that he developed evaluation and selection criteria for field positions that better matched personnel to resource needs and classification grade to job complexity.

Following retirement Harold and Jeaneen remained in North Carolina where he did handyman work in the Durham area. He was also Financial Administrator for Triangle Church of Christ. They were very involved in the activities of their four children and in their church. Sadly, Jeaneen passed away in August of 2012; she and Harold had been married for 56 years. In addition to their four children, there are also nine grandchildren. Harold wrote that among his activities is traveling to keep up with all the family. His current activities, apart from those with his family, involve church-related visitations and teaching home Bible studies.

Harold says that he really enjoyed every phase of his career in conservation. Whether it was working directly with land owners or with colleagues, he found it all worthwhile and satisfying.

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.arcse.org))

- Adams** **Cornelius A. "Tony" Adams**, 81, of Salina, Kansas passed away on January 24, 2017. He was born in Coffeyville, Kansas. Tony worked as a Structural Draftsman for the USDA Soil Conservation Service, retiring in 1994. He was a veteran of the United State Air Force and Kansas National Guard. Tony was a member of the Sacred Heart Cathedral and Salina Astronomy Club; he enjoyed astronomy and astrology. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, **Barbara**, of the home; a daughter, **Adrienne Anastasia Lukens (Bob)**, of Galesburg; seven grandchildren; and fifteen great grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be given to Sacred Heart Cathedral or Salina Astronomy Club, in care of Ryan Mortuary, 137 N. Eighth St., Salina.
- Ankle** **David Ankle** (83) of Perry, Oklahoma passed away on the evening of February 21, 2017 at the Green Valley Nursing Home in Perry surrounded by loving family. He was born in Beardsley, Kansas. He married **Vivian Roots** on August 17, 1957. She preceded him in death in 2014. David served in the US Army 1955-1957 and earned the rank of SP-4. David graduated from Fort Hayes State University with a Master of Science in Botany in 1963. Upon graduation, David worked for the USDA Soil Conservation Service in McAlester and Tishomingo Conservation Districts before taking a position in the Perry District in 1969. He served the public for over 30 years in conservation at both the state and county levels. He was an active member of the St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, the Knights of Columbus of Oklahoma where he received Knight of the Year in 2006, and the Elks Lodge of Perry along with numerous others associations with many awards and recognitions. David loved farming, working on old cars, and gardening. Survivors include two daughters, **Sybil (Glen) Rahn** of Perry; **Clarinda (Cameron) Rackley** of Claremore; seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. David was preceded in death by his beloved wife, **Vivian**. Memorials may be made to the St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in care of Brown-Dugger Funeral Home, 1010 N 7th Street, Perry, OK 73077.
- Bailey** Senior Conservationist **Oran "Bill" Bailey** (92) of Peralta, New Mexico passed away on November 17, 2016. He is survived by his wife, **Edith Bailey** of 15 years and one son, **Joseph Carl Bailey**, Chickasha, OK. He was preceded in death by his son, **William Harold Bailey**. Oran served in WWII. He was in the Combat Engineer Battalion. He retired from the Soil Conservation Service in 1980 as the State Soil Scientist. Bill was a talented fiddler. As a hobby while in college, he joined the

"Aggie Rambler." Later he formed his own band, "Bill Bailey and the Country Classics." After retirement, playing music turned into a full time job. He ended all of his performances with the song, "Bill Bailey, Won't You Come Home." He enjoyed playing and competed in many contests over the years. That was his life. Bill enjoyed every minute of it.

- Bathurst** Senior Conservationist **Verne Milo Bathurst**, (92) of Scottsdale, Arizona passed away on December 26, 2016. Born on a farm outside a small town on the eastern edge of Kansas' Flint Hills, he translated his experience with the Dust Bowl, Great Depression, modern medicine, and WW II, into a successful lifetime career in the USDA's Soil Conservation Service (since renamed the Natural Resources Conservation Service). His elementary education was in a classic one-room schoolhouse. As a teenager, Verne nearly succumbed to pneumonia. Standing within earshot of his sick bed, the physician told his parents he doubted Verne could survive, but he had heard of a new drug that might have promise fighting lung infections. After a discussion, they decided to spend the \$20, and the drug was ordered from Kansas City. It traveled overnight on the train to Emporia, then 20 miles by car to town, and finally five miles by bulldozer through a blizzard to the farm. It proved the cure. That drug was sulfa. Upon graduating second in a class of five from Admire High School, Mr. Bathurst enlisted in the Army Air Force, training as navigator for B25 aircraft, although reassignments meant he never left US soil. The GI Bill enabled him to graduate from Kansas State University in three years, majoring in Natural Resource Conservation, and joined the SCS directly upon graduating. His career in the SCS began with assignments as District Conservationist in many rural Kansas towns, assisting local farmers in laying out contours, waterways, and retention ponds, to control erosion. In later years, his career took him to the head of the Michigan SCS, the youngest person in the history of the SCS to achieve that rank. He was then sent to Harvard for his Masters in Public Administration. After a long stint at the Service's HQ in Washington, DC, as a top-level administrator, he returned to the state level as SCS Chief in Arizona, until his retirement in 1988. Verne is survived by his wife of 67 years, **Carolyn Ilene Anderson Bathurst** of Miller KS, three children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.
- Borine** **Roger Harold Borine** (66) of Bend, Oregon passed away on February 21, 2017. He was born in La Grande, Oregon. **Roger** graduated from La Grande High School where he lettered in baseball, basketball, and was quarterback for the Tigers. He attended Eastern Oregon College and Oregon State University, where he studied soil science, receiving his Bachelor of Science Degree in 1973. During summers, he financed college by smoke-jumping out of McCall, Idaho. Roger's work as a soil scientist for the Natural Resource Conservation Service took him first to Baker City, then Klamath Falls and Medford, and finally to Bend in 1984. After 35 years of federal service, he retired and began a soils consulting business. While competing in the Brittany National Championship in 2007, he was invited to Norway to experience their field trials and to hunt ptarmigan and grouse in Sweden. **Roger** is survived by his loving wife, **Debra (Smolt Mischel)** whom he married in 1997, and her daughter **Amy (James) Westcoat**, and two grandchildren. Contributions in his memory can be made to the Oregon Brittany Club or the Oregon Hunter's Association.
- Buchanan** **James Bernard "Buck" Buchanan** (93) of Somerset, Kentucky (formerly of West Liberty, Kentucky) passed away on January 28, 2017 at the VA Hospital in Lexington Kentucky. "Buck" was born in Hazel Green, Kentucky. He was a graduate of Wolfe County High School and attended Hazel Green Academy and Lees Junior College. He was a WWII veteran serving as a tank mechanic with the US Army's 274<sup>th</sup> Armored Field Artillery Battalion in France. After the war, he worked for E.V. Treadway Engineering Company and was the first city letter carrier for the USPS in West Liberty, Kentucky. For a time, he served as the basketball coach for the Wolfe County High School Boys basketball team. He retired from the USDA Soil Conservation Service as a Soil Conservation Technician in Pulaski after 23 years of service. During his life, he was an active member of the First Christian Church (Somerset, Kentucky) where he served as an Elder and participated in the Men's Choir and the Sunday evening radio broadcast. After retirement, he served on the City of Somerset Planning and Zoning Commission, as well as the Pulaski County Conservation District Board of Supervisors. He is survived by his wife **Billie Wrae (Hammond) Buchanan** formerly of Cottle, Kentucky; son **Richard Layne Buchanan** of Somerset; daughter **Mary Buchanan (Samuel) Moore** of Columbus, Ohio; and three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.
- Bushey** Senior Conservationist **Lawrence E. "Larry" Bushey** (93) passed away peacefully on February 16, 2017, at Sanford Hospital, Bismarck, North Dakota, after a short illness. He graduated from Kenmare High School and North Dakota State University and spent three years in the US Navy in World War II. He worked for SCS in various locations in ND, and after he retired worked as a private land surveyor. He lived at home with his daughter until a week prior to his death. Larry is survived by two sons, **Bruce**, Tucson, AZ; and **Jon (Jenny)**, Salt Lake City, UT; one daughter, **Lauri Desir**, Bismarck; one brother; one sister-in-law; twelve beloved grandchildren living out of state; **Sam Desir** and **Joey Desir** formerly of Haiti, now Bismarck; and four precious great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife **Carol**; his parents; one brother; one sister; and one son, **Robert**. Memorials can be made to Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, Shiloh Christian School, or donor's choice.
- Byrd** **Clifford "Cliff" Harry Byrd** (73) of Casper, Wyoming passed away February 15, 2017 at his home surrounded by his loving family. Clifford was born in Okanogan, Washington. He graduated from Washington State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Agronomy. He worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (now Natural Resources Conservation Service). During his career he worked in Mansfield, Davenport, Okanogan, Clarkston, and Ephrata, Washington and moved to Sundance, Wyoming in 1978 and finally to Casper in 1984. After 32 years of service, Clifford retired in 1999 as the State Administrative Officer. Clifford's hobbies were hunting and "Fixing Things," especially cars. One of his favorite sayings was "If man made it, then it will come apart and I can fix it," and he could. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, **Mary Ann Byrd**; two sons; a daughter; and eight grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Patrick's "Blessing Fund" or Casper's Meals on Wheels in Clifford's memory.
- Cagle** **John Sherman Cagle, Jr.** (87) of Stillwater, Oklahoma passed away on December 24, 2016 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. John was born in Pauls Valley, Oklahoma. On July 5, 1958, he married **Vivian Melissa Gray** who preceded him in death. He graduated from Oklahoma State University where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Geology. He was the state geologist for the USDA Soil Conservation Service during the period when most of the watershed dams were planned, designed, and constructed in Oklahoma. John retired in 1990. He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Stillwater, Oklahoma and an avid Cowboy fan. He is survived by one daughter, **Lori Strickland**; and husband **Parker** of Tulsa, Oklahoma; and two grandchildren. Condolences may be emailed to the family and an online obituary viewed by visiting <http://www.strodefh.com>.
- Cowan** **Dr. C. Michael Cowan** (78) of Lincoln, Nebraska passed away on November 9, 2016. Mike graduated in 1968 with a Ph.D in

Zoology/Physiology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. While attending the University, Mike was a starter on the 1957 Nebraska football team. After serving in the Marine Corp Reserves, he set off on a series of adventures that would lead him all over the world. He panned for gold in Idaho, traversed the mountain ranges of Colorado, and worked in the oceanography department at Columbia University-New York. While in residence there, he accompanied an expedition to Central America, was lost for three days in the Bermuda Triangle, and survived a hurricane at sea. He served as professor of biology at Nebraska Wesleyan. Ultimately, Mike retired as an IT professional from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Survivors include: wife, **Cherie Cowan** of Lincoln; two daughters; two sons; eight grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter. Memorials to Pius X High School, Science Department. Online condolences can be left at [www.bmlfh.com](http://www.bmlfh.com).

- Crowley** Member **Claude Douglas Crowley** (89) of Fort Worth, Texas passed away at home on December 16, 2016. In 1944 at age 17, Claude volunteered for the US Navy. He was a plank owner on the destroyer USS Richard B. Anderson. A graduate of Tennessee Tech, he had a career with the Soil Conservation Service in Tennessee and Texas, ranging from district conservationist to information director for 13 southern states. After retiring in 1982, he had a public relations practice, advising clients and providing training in strategic planning. He was an accredited member of IABC (International Association of Business Communicators). He published many magazine articles and two novels, and wrote book reviews for the Star-Telegram. His woodworking hobby yielded several mountain dulcimers and numerous unique clocks for family and friends. When an active member of First Congregational Church, he served as moderator and as a leader in the refugee resettlement program. Survivors: His wife of 62 years, **Carolyn Whitaker Crowley**; children, **Claudia, Charles (Beth), and Clinton**. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the First Congregational Church, 4201 Trail Lake Drive, Fort Worth, 76109 Wildflower Fund or Refugee Fund, or to a charity of your choice.
- Dalton** **Harry Oliver Dalton** (88) of Smithfield, Virginia passed away February 10, 2017. Oliver was born in Pittsylvania County, VA, on his mother's birthday. Oliver is preceded in death by his wife, **Marion Dalton**, March 4, 2006. He leaves to cherish the memory his daughter, **Deborah Stafford** and her husband, **Billy**; son, **Mark Oliver Dalton**; and grandson, **William Oliver Stafford**, affectionately called, Sir William. Oliver worked for the USDA Soil Conservation Service for 42 years, followed by 21 years for the Virginia DCR-Division of Soil and Water Conservation. He was an active member of Smithfield Baptist Church, a deacon and past chair of board of deacons. He was past Sunday school superintendent, and served on the building committee to rebuild the church after it burned. The family requests memorial contributions be made to Smithfield Baptist Church, 100 Wainwright Dr., Smithfield, 23430. Memorial contributions may be made to Casper's Meals on Wheels or St. Patrick's Catholic Church's Blessing Fund.
- Dermann** **Kenneth W. Dermann**, Brigadier General, US Army Reserve National Guard (retired) (89) of Lincoln, Nebraska passed away February 4, 2017. He was born on the family farm near Talmage. He attended the University of Nebraska where he was a Nebraska football letter winner. He later completed his B.A. degree at Columbia College, Columbia, MO. Ken began a distinguished military career upon enlisting in the US Navy, serving aboard the USS Harrier minesweeper in the Pacific Theater during WWII. He subsequently joined the Nebraska Army National Guard in 1947 as an NCO, received his officer commission in 1951, and during the next 35 years rose to the rank of brigadier general. Ken received numerous military citations and awards and held many notable leadership positions, including that of Commander, 67<sup>th</sup> Sep. Inf. Bde. (Mech), and Ass't. Adjutant General of Nebraska. He retired from military service on June 30, 1987, and was inducted into the Nebraska National Guard Military Academy Hall of Fame in 1995. In addition to his military career, Ken was employed by the USDA Soil Conservation Service and worked in the National Soils Laboratory in Lincoln, NE. Ken was a dedicated volunteer at the Bryan Medical Center for more than 20 years and a member of their volunteer board of directors. He also served his church in many ways. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, **Shirley** of Lincoln; sons, **William (Sharon)** of Omaha; **Robert (Donna)** of Tacoma, WA; two grandsons and one great-grandson, a granddaughter, and four great-granddaughters. Memorials in lieu of flowers to Bryan LGH East Hospital, 1600 S. 48<sup>th</sup> St., Lincoln, NE 68506-1299 or Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church, 8300 East Pointe Road, Lincoln, NE 68506. Condolences online at [Roperandsons.com](http://Roperandsons.com).
- Fujii** **Mary Nakata Fujii** (84) of Hillsboro, Oregon passed away peacefully February 6, 2017. She will be remembered for her cheerful smile, strong work ethic, and resilience during hard times. Born **Sumiko Nakata** in Portland, she attended St. Paul Miki, a Catholic school for Japanese-American children. During WWII, her family was held with others of Japanese descent at the North Portland Stock Yard. They were later sent to an internment camp in Minidoka, Idaho. Mary earned an AA at Hastings Business College in 1951. In 1954, she married **Tom Fujii**, an engineer with the SCS who retired from the training section at the WNTC. She was a water quality specialist for the EPA from 1980 to 1995. A woman of faith, Mary was an active member of the Hillsboro United Methodist Church. Surviving are her husband, **Tom**; four children and five grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, please send remembrances to Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center.
- Glen** Senior Conservationist **Deane Glen** (90) Des Moines, Iowa passed away on January 13, 2017. Deane retired from the USDA Soil Conservation Service in 1987 as a civil engineer on the Watershed Planning Staff. Survivors include his daughters, **Sue (Tony) Putz** and **Rebecca (Edwin) Everett**; and six grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Donna**. Memorials may be given in his name to the Free Store, 834 10<sup>th</sup> St., Des Moines, IA 50309. Online condolences may be made at [www.overtontfunerals.com](http://www.overtontfunerals.com).
- Gonzalez** **Flavio Rene Gonzalez** (86) passed away on January 25, 2017, surrounded by his family at Porter Adventist Hospital in Littleton, Colorado. He was born in Rio Grande City, Texas. After graduating from Texas A&M in 1952, he was commissioned into the Army as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. and began his tour in Korea where he served with the Third Infantry Division as an artillery officer. He was wounded in action at outpost "Harry," but continued to fight the enemy, refusing to be evacuated until American forces were enroute. His actions inspired his fellow soldiers to continue to fight the North Koreans and earned him the Silver Star for valor and a Purple Heart. He is one of only three soldiers recognized at Silver Star Veterans Park in Starr County, TX. Flavio became a civil engineer and worked for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service until his retirement in 1995. He served as State Conservation Engineer of Colorado for 15 years. Flavio married **Edna Oliverez** in 1955 and had four children: son **David (Angie)** of Pocatello, Idaho; daughter **Elina (Jeff) Swadling** of Indian River, Michigan; son **Andres (Michelle)** of Eagle Pass, Texas; and daughter **Rosina (Dino) Aragon** of Highlands Ranch, Colorado. Also surviving are 13 grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a donation to the American Lung Association or to Colorado Public Radio.
- Haid** **Kenneth Anthony Haid, Jr.**, (58) of Fayetteville, West Virginia passed away on January 16, 2017 after a battle with cancer. Ken was an accomplished musician and an avid skilled motorcyclist and trained Motor Cycle Safety Instructor. Ken was a

1981 graduate of West Virginia University with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. He worked as a livestock inspector for the state and was a longtime employee of the USDA NRCS as a Soil Conservationist. Ken worked in many areas around West Virginia, most recently in Fayette, Raleigh and Wyoming counties and previously in Hardy, Kanawha and Pocahontas counties. Ken is survived by his wife **Melinda (Dolin Shipman) Haid**, two sons, and a granddaughter. Online condolences may be sent to his family by visiting [www.highlawnfuneralhomechapel.com](http://www.highlawnfuneralhomechapel.com).

- Hicks** **Arnie B. Hicks** (89) of Linn Grove, Iowa passed away on January 17, 2017 at Hawkeye Care Center in Sioux Rapids, Iowa. He was born in Lohrville, Iowa. Arnie attended school through the fourth grade in Lohrville before moving to Minnesota. The family then moved back to Lake City where he graduated high school in 1946. On February 28, 1947, Arnie joined the United States Air Force. He was a B-29 Mechanic stationed in England during the Berlin Airlift. He proudly served his country until his honorable discharge on February 27, 1950. He was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Linn Grove and served many years on the church council. Arnie loved going to dances where he met the love of his life, **Donna Joy Sundberg** at Cobblestone in Storm Lake. He worked for the Buena Vista and Clay County Soil Conservation Offices for 31 years. He retired from the SCS in 1983. He remained a loyal conservationist and served on the Buena Vista Conservation Board for 25 years. Those left to cherish his memory include his wife of 60 years, **Donna Hicks** of Linn Grove, Iowa; his children, **Julie (Norman) Vorland** of Clear Lake, Iowa; **Lorie (Tim) Wittmaack** of Linn Grove, Iowa; **Dr. Randy (Marsha) Hicks** of Dylestown, Pennsylvania; and eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren.
- Horsch** **Dorothy Marie Horsch** (84) of Manhattan, Kansas passed away on November 15, 2016. Dorothy was born in Manhattan. She graduated from Marymount College in Salina with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry and worked as a Medical Technician at St. Joseph Hospital in Wichita. Dorothy was preceded in death by her husband, **Mark Horsch**, 1987. Mark worked for the USDA Soil Conservation Service. They had five children, 15 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Dorothy was a long-time member of Seven Dolors Catholic Church in Manhattan. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial donations be made to Seven Dolors Budget Shop, 730 Colorado Street, Manhattan, KS 66502 or the Parkinson's Program at Meadowlark Hills.
- Loerch** **J. Cameron Loerch** (61) of Ashland, Nebraska passed away on February 19, 2017, at home surrounded by family after a battle with cancer. Cameron was born in Lincoln. Cam retired after 37 years with the NRCS as a soil scientist. He last worked in the National Soils Laboratory. He is survived by his wife, **Teri**; children, **Quinn (Jo) Loerch**, **Chad (Renae) Hart**; and five grandchildren. Memorials are suggested to the family for further designation to a favorite charity of Cam's. Online condolences may be left at [www.bmlfh.com](http://www.bmlfh.com).
- Love** Honorary Member and Senior Conservationist **Orville Walter Love** (99) of Village of Loch Lloyd, Missouri reached his centennial year (1917-2017) and passed into new life on January 2, 2017 at the age of 99 and 8 months. Devoted husband of the late **Virginia M. Love**; loving father of **Janet Love**, St. Charles, MO; **Sherry Love (Michael Hunter)** Loch Lloyd, MO; and **Douglas (Patty) Love** Bloomington, IL. Other survivors include three grandchildren and one great grandchild. Orville was born in Neosho Rapids, KS. The Dust Bowl of the 1930s convinced teenage Orville to heed the advice of his mother and high school principal to leave the farm and enroll at Kansas State College (KSU). He graduated with honors in 1941 with a BS in Agriculture. His career was put on hold as he enlisted in the United States Army Air Forces just prior to the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor. During World War II he served in Alaska and the Aleutian Islands, attaining the rank of Major. Orville married **Virginia M. Lammlein** on June 16, 1945. They were married for 62 years. After WWII, Orville began his career ensuring there would not be a repeat of the Dust Bowl. As a young soil and water conservationist, he walked nearly every farm of Johnson County, helping owners implement conservation techniques. Later he was responsible for the eastern third of Kansas. Orville retired in 1980 from the USDA Soil Conservation Service after nearly 39 years of federal employment. At his retirement, he said, "I've always enjoyed the conversation that accompanies conservation, so please keep in touch." The Love family lived in Mission, Olathe, Emporia, and Topeka, KS. Orville was talented in woodworking and made beautiful projects for his family. He was an avid volunteer and a member of the NARFE, K-State Alumni Association, and American Legion. He was the oldest Kansas SCS/NRCS retiree. He took great care of his health, by swimming, into his early nineties, and he exercised to the end. He was a lifelong Methodist and lived his faith through his name and all the things that "LOVE is" (1 Corinthians 13). In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to KSU Foundation, Orville Love Memorial Fund, [www.found.ksu.edu/give/orvillelove](http://www.found.ksu.edu/give/orvillelove) or to an educational institution of your choice.
- Lovins** **Harry L. Lovins, Sr.** (69) long-time resident of Doniphan, Missouri, passed away on, February 28, 2013, at his residence in rural Ripley County. Harry was born in Winona, Missouri. He initially worked three years for the Van Buren Highway Department. Harry then began employment with the Natural Resources Conservation Service as a civil engineering technician and retired after 30 years of employment. He was a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church of Doniphan. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, **Jewel**, four children, six grandchildren, and two step-grandchildren.
- Mabry** **Olzy "O.M." Mabry** (91) of Great Falls, Montana passed away on January 3, 2017, at Peace Hospice in Great Falls. O.M. was born in Arkansas. He was a WWII Navy veteran who moved to Montana early in his adult life to work for the Soil Conservation Service, a career that spanned over 30 years and took him all over the state of Montana and once to Hawaii. He was a very colorful, wonderful and terrific person to know and also was a very fine Western Artist. In 1953 he married **Aline Sweet** from Louisiana. They later divorced. From that marriage came their children, **David** of Helena and **Lisa (Don) Charters**; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his daughter-in-law, **Tracy Mabry**. In 1984, he settled in Great Falls where he spent his retirement. He loved hunting with his trained hunting dogs, and he fished in Alaska every July, a trip he made in his van by himself. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Set Free Ministries, PO Box 6122, Great Falls, MT 59405. Condolences for the family may be posted online at [www.SchniderFuneralHome.com](http://www.SchniderFuneralHome.com).
- McAninch** **James Barton McAninch** (91) of Cedar Falls, Iowa passed away peacefully on January 14, 2017. He graduated from Mount Ayr High School and joined the US Navy in May, 1943. He received an honorable medical discharge, enrolled at Iowa State University and earned his Bachelor of Science degree in forestry in 1948. His working career was spent entirely with the US Department of Agriculture, specifically with the US Forest Service in Washington and the Soil Conservation Service in Iowa. He retired in 1980. He was a member of United Church of Christ-Cedar Falls, American Forestry Association, Prairie Rapids Audubon Society, Hartman Reserve Nature Center, and the NARFE. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, **Marlys**; one daughter, **Melinda (Gene) Grimm** of Indianola, IA; three sons, **Jay (Janet)** of Centreville, VA; **David (Kristine)** of Green Bay, WI; **Kurt (Ruth)** of Pleasanton, CA; ten grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren. Condolences and memorials may be

sent to M. Grimm, P.O. Box 718, Indianola, IA.

- Middendorf** **Richard H. "Dick" Middendorf** (94) of Lincoln, Nebraska passed away on December 22, 2016, at Gateway Vista Senior Living in Lincoln. Dick was born in Bruning, NE. He graduated from Bruning High School and served in the Army in the final years of World War II, receiving an honorable discharge in 1946. He lived in Lincoln and then in Lyons, where Dick worked for the Soil Conservation Service, and then as a rural mail carrier with the USPS, serving in that capacity for 30 years until his retirement. He was a member of various local organizations and while in Lyons, Dick served his congregation of St. John Lutheran as Sunday school superintendent and elder and served in positions in other Lutheran churches. Survivors of the immediate family include his four children and spouses: **Joy (Rick) Golden**, **Lyle (Nancy) Middendorf**, **Larry (Penny) Middendorf**, and **Mark (Julie) Middendorf**; 10 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his wife of 51 years, **Della Mae**. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to Lincoln Lutheran Schools or Concordia University, Nebraska. Lincoln Memorial Funeral Home of Lincoln is in charge of arrangements.
- Minzenmayer** **Fred Edward Minzenmayer** (68) of Franklin, Texas passed away on November 11, 2016. He was born in Winters, Texas, the second of four children. He attended Texas A&M, earning a BS in Soil Science and a Master's in Agronomy. He was employed for 38 years with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. He retired to Franklin in 2008 to fulfill his lifelong dream of cattle ranching. Fred is survived by his wife of 47 years, **Patsy** and daughter **Tracey**.
- Petroskey** **Wilbur J. Petroskey** (90) of Rhinelander, Wisconsin passed away on January 1, 2017, at St. Mary's Hospital in Rhinelander. He was born in Antigo. He attended schools in Antigo, graduating from the Antigo High School in 1944. Shortly thereafter, he was drafted and served his country as a member of the US Army. Wilbur was stationed in Italy in the infantry at the end of WWII. Upon his honorable discharge, he returned to Antigo where he purchased the family farm from his Dad and Mom. At that time also, Wilbur went to work for the USDA and the SCS in soil conservation. Wilbur loved his new venture which turned out to be his life's work. He ended up working for Oneida, Florence, Forest, and Vilas counties for 28-plus years before retiring. Through years of volunteering he was active for the Bells of St. Mary's Drum and Bugle Corps, as a member of the Oneida County Board for 20 years and as an officer of the Veterans Service Commission for 45 years. He was a longtime member of the Nativity of Our Lord Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus. Wilbur also served on the Rhinelander/Oneida Airport Commission for many years. What he was most proud of was being one of the first veterans to be a participant on the "Honor Flights." He is survived by his wife of 68 years, **Gloria**; his daughter **Mona (Charles) Macdonald** of Rhinelander; his three grandchildren and his two great grandchildren. A memorial is being established in Wilbur's name and can be directed to his family. You may leave your private condolences for the Petroskey family at [www.carlsonfh.com](http://www.carlsonfh.com).
- Rappa** **John Joseph Rappa** (73) of The Villages, Florida passed away on January 10, 2017, at Lane Purcell Hospice House. John is survived by his wife, **Bea Noble Rappa**, a son, a daughter, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. John was a graduate of SUNY College of Agriculture and Technology of Cobleskill at Cobleskill, NY. He earned his bachelor's degree in Agriculture and Crop Sciences, specializing in agronomy, from the University of Georgia, Athens, GA. He worked for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Horseheads, NY, and Canandaigua, NY, until his retirement in 1999. He became a resident of The Villages, FL, in 1999. John fought gallantly against cancer for six years. No greater tribute to a father can be made than that of his son, **Eric**, who says of his father, "He is my true hero."
- Rhinehimer** **Dea Jefferson Rhinehimer** (70), husband of **Linda Reynolds Rhinehimer**, passed February 25, 2017. Linda retired from the NRCS as a purchasing agent in Kentucky. Dea was born in Lexington and was a member and Elder of Bethel Christian Church and an avid fisherman. Family survivors are a son, **Dea "Jeff" Rhinehimer, Jr.**; and two grandchildren. Contributions suggested to the Bethel Christian Church Building Fund. Online guestbook at [www.BettsandWestfuneralhome.com](http://www.BettsandWestfuneralhome.com).
- Right** **Joan Groves Right** (92) of Mebane, North Carolina passed away on February 7, 2017 at Mebane Ridge Assisted Living. She was born in Plymouth, NC. She was a homemaker and a member of Graham Presbyterian Church. She is survived by her husband of 69 years, **Craig Right**, an ARCSE member and retired SCS State Conservationist in West Virginia. Other survivors are their daughter **Karla (Michael) Silverman** of Potomac, MD; son **Kirk (Faynelle) Right** of Chapel Hill, NC; five grandchildren, three great-granddaughters and one great-great-granddaughter. Memorials may be made to Hospice and Palliative Care of Alamance/Caswell, 914 Chapel Hill Road, Burlington, NC 27215 or to a charity of the donor's choice. Condolences may be offered at [www.mcclurefuneralservice.net](http://www.mcclurefuneralservice.net).
- Rose** Member **Mark Allen Rose** (56) of La Plata, Maryland passed away on February 21, 2017 at his residence. Mark was a Soil Conservationist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service for several years, and more recently the Director of the Financial Assistance Programs Division. He served in the government for 31 years where he obtained the nickname of "The Legend." Early in his career he was a 4-H advisor for many years. He worked for The Ohio State University Research Farm and was a member of the Ohio Agricultural Leadership and Development Program. He also worked at OSU Farm Science Review in Columbus, Ohio. He worked in Ohio, Oklahoma, Maryland, and Washington, DC for the USDA. Mark was the President of the Clarks Run Homeowners Association and member of the Town of La Plata Planning Commission. He was a member of the Senior Executive Service and was recently inducted into The Hardin County Agricultural Hall of Fame. In addition to his father, **Floyd A. Rose**, he is survived by his wife of 33 years, **Darlene Doll Rose**; his sons, **Evan C. Rose** and **Mark B. (Jessica) Rose**; his daughter, **Lesley A.R. (Jon) McKeel**; and his two grandchildren. Memorials are asked to Trees of Memory through The Arbor Day Foundation ([www.shop.arborday.org/content.aspx?page=commemorative-sample-tim](http://www.shop.arborday.org/content.aspx?page=commemorative-sample-tim)) or The Ohio State University Farm Science Review, 590 Woody Hayes Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43210.
- Rule** **John Chandler Rule** (73) of Sevierville, Tennessee passed away after a long and valiant battle with lymphoma on November 20, 2016. John received his Bachelor of Science degree and worked as a Soil Scientist for the Conservation Service in California. John retired from his soil scientist work in the Sonora Soil Survey Office in 2008 and moved back to his house and orchard in the mountains of Tennessee. It was fitting that the soil survey of Stanislaus County, CA, Northern Part that he authored, was published that same year.
- Smith** **Peter F. Smith** (74) of Alexandria, Virginia passed away on February 23, 2017. Peter retired from the Natural Resources Conservation Service as the Director of the Economics and Social Sciences Division. He is survived by his wife, **Pat**. A more detailed memorial will be in the next newsletter.
- Weatherford** **John Weatherford** (69) of Carmichael, California passed away due to multiple myeloma on January 2, 2017. John was a US Navy veteran. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree from Cal-Poly San Luis Obispo. John was a retired Soil

Conservationist from the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service. John assisted NEDC with the ONE course or Boot Camp in Sacramento for a long time. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, **Deborah Weatherford**; children, **Brian Weatherford** and **Elizabeth (Weatherford) Hickman**, and four grandchildren. Donations may be made to the Center for Land-Based Learning [www.landbasedlearning.org](http://www.landbasedlearning.org) or Sharing God's Bounty <http://sharinggods bounty.com/>.

**Williams** **Kelso Lee Williams** (93) of Edmond, Oklahoma passed away on January 11, 2017. He was born on the family farm just outside of Rocky, Oklahoma. The day after graduating from high school at Rocky, Kelso enrolled in a welding school in Cordell. Kelso completed two sessions, then moved to California to work in the Kaiser Shipyards, helping build one Liberty ship a day. He was drafted into the US Army and served his country during WWII as a mechanic and crane operator in numerous countries in the Pacific Theater. Upon returning home to Oklahoma, he earned a degree in soil science in two years and seven months from Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, graduating in 1951. Upon graduation from college, Kelso accepted a job in Kansas as a soil conservationist with the US Department of Agriculture. He assisted landowners in southwestern and northwestern Kansas with erosion control and irrigation, retiring in 1978. He also helped survey and build some of the first floodwater control projects (often known as SCS structures) in the United States. In Kansas, Kelso volunteered as a member of the Lions Club of Meade, as a member of the Rotary Club of Hill City, and was active in the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, member #21784. He loved to restore vintage tractors to showroom quality, especially the red ones (Farmalls), and then drive them in parades. He was a life-long member of the church of Christ. He leaves to cherish the memory of **Lillian**, his wife of seventy years; two daughters, **Becky (Cleon) Rogers** of Little Rock, Arkansas, and **Pam (Glen) Hammonds** of Edmond, Oklahoma; six grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter. Memorials may be made to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, Oklahoma.



*Spring*



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