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# NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter for Retired SCS and NRCS Employees

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

## NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

*John Stierna*

**Capitol Hill**—Early work on the Federal budget is underway by the House and Senate Budget committees. Many of the agriculture and conservation interests have been engaged in informing lawmakers that the 2014 Farm Bill already has consolidated over 100 programs and made cuts to mandatory spending across many titles—saving an estimated \$23 billion over 10 years, including \$6 billion in conservation funding. These groups are asking the Budget Committees to refrain from additional cuts to programs within the jurisdiction of the Senate and House Agriculture Committees. The Farm Bill required over three years of debate before enactment, and any attempt to re-open the Farm Bill is being strongly opposed by most agricultural, conservation, and nutrition interests.

Secretary **Tom Vilsack** testified before the House and Senate agriculture committees recently. He discussed USDA implementation of the 2014 Farm Bill, including the various conservation programs. You can read his prepared testimony by scrolling down to his name at <http://www.ag.senate.gov/hearings/the-agricultural-act-of-2014-implementation-after-one-year-and-farm-credit-administration-pending-nominations>. In the Q&A, Secretary Vilsack made reference to the imbalance between conservation program funding and the workforce needed to deliver the needed conservation assistance.

**RCPP Projects**—NRCS announced selection of the first projects of the new USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program. These 115 high-impact projects across all 50 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico will receive more than \$370 million in Federal funding, and projects are leveraging an estimated \$400 million in partner contributions to improve the nation's water quality, support wildlife habitat and enhance the environment. The RCPP program is a new initiative created in the 2014 Farm Bill that promotes coordination between NRCS and partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. For more information about the program and the projects selected, go to the RCPP home page at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/farmbill/rcpp/>. Another application period for RCPP project proposals is anticipated in the spring. Over \$200 million in Federal funds will be available for this second round of RCPP proposals.

**Conservation Easements**—The interim final rule for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) is at the Federal Register for official publication. ACEP is the consolidation of the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program, the Grassland Reserve Program, and the Wetland Reserve Program. Upon publication, NRCS will be able to proceed with both agricultural land easements (working through eligible entities) and wetland reserve easements. The rule is likely to be published on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Public comments are invited on the rule during the 60 days following publication. The official rule can be found at: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=FR>. Please click on the year, then the month, and then the date.

**WOTUS**—EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers have officially withdrawn the interpretive rule regarding conservation practices as part of the Waters of the United States proposed rule. As stated in the last newsletter, the withdrawal of the interpretive rule was mandated in the CROmnibus appropriation act passed by Congress in December 2014.

**Drones**—The Federal Aviation Administration released the proposed rule for use of small drones (unmanned aviation systems) for commercial uses. (Recreation and hobby uses are covered under different rules.) Agriculture, including conservation, has been viewed as a major application for commercial use of small drones. Among the significant items in the proposed rule are the following requirements:

**ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES**

- Limited to a maximum altitude of 500 feet above ground level
- The drone must remain within visual contact of the operator at all times
- Drone must weigh less than 55 pounds
- Drone may not operate over any person not directly involved in the operation
- The operator must obtain an unmanned aircraft operator certificate
- The operator must be at least 17 years old

For those interested in commenting on this proposed rule by the April 24, 2015 deadline, the full rule can be found at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-02-23/pdf/2015-03544.pdf>.

**Agricultural Outlook**—The 2015 Agricultural Outlook Conference was held February 19-20. It covered a number of interesting topics, including “big data” in agriculture, conservation, climate change, protecting our food supply, and other topics. For those who are interested, many of the presentations are available online. Go to <http://www.usda.gov/oce/forum/>. Click on the Thursday or Friday label on the left hand panel to show the detailed program and click on the presentation for more information.

**Farm Data Privacy**—Several private companies have collaborated to develop a paper labeled “Privacy and Security Principles for Farm Data.” These principles address the growing concerns about access and use of farm-level data that are increasingly critical to improving productivity and efficiency on farms. The paper can be found at <http://www.fb.org/tmp/uploads/PrivacyAndSecurityPrinciplesForFarmData.pdf>.

**Gray Wolf**—The Fish and Wildlife Service has officially reinstated Endangered Species Act protections for the gray wolf in certain states in the western Great Lakes and Wyoming. This is the result of a court order from last year. Several other states (e.g., Montana, Idaho) are not affected by this reinstatement of ESA protections.

**Soil Health**—Here is another short video in the soil health series put out by NRCS. While not new information, it demonstrates how NRCS is using modern communication technology to increase awareness about farming and conservation systems. The website is: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JDLkAUYRAnI&list=PL4J8PxoprGa3wFYSXFu-BW\\_mMatlelt0&index=18](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JDLkAUYRAnI&list=PL4J8PxoprGa3wFYSXFu-BW_mMatlelt0&index=18).

**People—John Larson** has joined American Farmland Trust as Executive Director for Programs. John had been with the National Association of Conservation Districts as their Chief Executive Officer for the last several years.

Former NRCS Chief **Dave White** has joined with former Senate Ag. Committee conservation staffer **Tina May** and former House Ag. Committee staffer **Pelham Straughn** to create a new firm called the 9b Group. The name is a reflection on the nine billion world population projected by mid-century and the need to ensure that the resource base is protected as we ramp up production to feed that many people. Dave, Tina, and Pelham are doing consulting work on agriculture and conservation for a number of organizations in Washington.

In the Senate, **Pat Roberts** from Kansas will assume the Chairmanship of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Current Chair, Michigan **Senator Debbie Stabenow**, will become the ranking member for the Democratic side.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Warren M. Lee**, [wandblee@comcast.net](mailto:wandblee@comcast.net)

We are back in Virginia for a couple of weeks to greet our new grandson, **Carter James Bray**, or CJ as his big brother calls him. Although it's been fun getting acquainted with him, I'm looking forward to returning to warm weather in Arizona.

In our last newsletter I asked for your input on whether to include our telephone numbers in the membership Directory. Everyone who responded supported including the telephone numbers as long as we gave each member the opportunity to opt out and not have their number listed.

On our February 19, 2015 teleconference, our ARCSE Board of Directors unanimously approved a decision to include telephone numbers in our next directory which comes out in May 2015, with the provision to allow members to not have their numbers listed.

**Action on your part: Notify Ron Marlow, ARCSE Secretary-Treasurer, at [ARCSE@cox.net](mailto:ARCSE@cox.net) if you do NOT want to have your telephone number listed. The deadline for providing Ron with this information is April 15, 2015.**

We also need your help on another issue. The ARCSE membership continues to decline, and our membership is getting older. We need your help to recruit new retirees as members and retain those we have. The newsletter and Directory of our membership provides us with valuable tools in keeping in contact with former colleagues and people we've met throughout the years. A membership application is attached to the email transmitting the electronic version of the newsletter for your use in recruiting members. The application is also available for download at <http://arcse.org/qFormMember.htm>.

### **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.

## **ARCSE ELECTION BALLOT**

### ***Candidate for ARCSE President-Elect*** ***Dana D. York***

**Dana York** retired from the Natural Resource Conservation Service in January 2011 after a 34-year career with the Agency. She has formed a consulting group, Green Earth Connection, to bring her expertise to the agricultural and environmental communities. Prior to her retirement, she was the Director of the Watershed and Landscape Programs Division, NRCS-NHQ, in January 2010, where she directed the NRCS Watershed, Conservation Technical Assistance and Conservation Initiatives Programs. Prior to returning to Washington, she was the Senior Advisor to the Chesapeake Bay Program in Annapolis, MD. From 2004 to 2009 she served at the Associate Chief for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. As the Associate Chief she managed the agency's overall programs and operations, including a \$3.2 billion annual budget.

**Dana** began her 34-year career with the former Soil Conservation Service (SCS) as a student trainee while attending Tennessee Technological University. She has held various positions with the agency in Tennessee, Georgia and Ohio, including soil conservationist, district conservationist, State Resource Conservationist, Partnership Liaison and Deputy State Conservationist, before moving to NHQ in 1999.

**Dana** received a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Science from Tennessee Technological University and a Master's degree in Industrial/Organizational Psychology from Middle Tennessee State University. In September of 2007 Dana was awarded the President's Distinguished Rank Award, which is the highest award a career employee can receive for their career as a Senior Executive. In 2008 she received 2008 Alumnus of the year from Tennessee Technological University.

**Dana** is a native of Tennessee, and she lives on her family farm outside of Jonesborough.

### ***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 second two-year term as the Vice-President for the South Region.

### ***Candidate for ARCSE West Region Vice-President*** ***Jerry Richard***

**Jerry Richard** of Spokane, WA served in various soil scientist positions, with his last assignment as State Soil Scientist for NRCS in ID. He has worked in ID, WY, PA, WA, Afghanistan, and Nepal. **Jerry** retired in 1989 and has served the past thirteen years as the WA ARCSE Representative. An ARCSE Life Member, **Jerry** is completing his fourth two-year term as West Region Vice President.

### ***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 first 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 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 seven years. An ARCSE Life Member, **Norm** is completing his third 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.

**A BIT OF HISTORY****Douglas Helms, Historian**

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

**Historical Agriculture and Soil Erosion in the Upper Mississippi Valley Hill Country**

CRP Press has published **Stanley W. Trimble's** Historical Agriculture and Soil Erosion in the Upper Mississippi Valley Hill Country. The studies and data collected by the Stream and Valley Section of the Sedimentation Division of the Soil Conservation Service were central to Trimble's research.

Trimble first learned of the work of Stream and Valley Section when he studied soil erosion in the Southern Piedmont as a graduate student and then began his studies of the Upper Mississippi Valley while teaching at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He later moved to the University of California-Los Angeles.

When **Hugh Hammond Bennett** studied soil erosion prior to the creation of the Soil Erosion Service (SES), he identified this area as one of the primary soil erosion problem areas needing detailed study and changes in farming practices. Coon Creek in southwestern Wisconsin became the first demonstration set up by SES in 1933.

Trimble's book, on which he worked 39 years, is much more than a follow-up of the sedimentation studies, as it discusses geological and natural history, European settlement and land use, development of agriculture and the coming of soil conservation to the area.

It is available at:

<http://www.crcpress.com/product/isbn/9781466555747>





**Aerial photograph of terracing and contour strips on farms of Elmer and Albert Manske (foreground) and Joe First & Rudolph Schlicht (beyond) 18 miles northwest of Viroqua, Vernon County, Wisconsin. National Archives. Record Group 114. Photograph. WIS-1290.**



**Repeat photograph taken by Soil Conservation Service in 1994**

**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

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT***by Ron Marlow, Secretary Treasurer*

## New Members

**Swartzendruber, Joyce** MT**Simmons, Mike** CA**Shaffer, Mary** KS

Members, please be sure that your dues are current by April 15, 2015 to ensure that you are listed in the annual Directory. Those who have not yet paid their dues for 2015 will be receiving a Post Card Reminder in the mail in early March. Be on the lookout for it.

**ARCSE Representatives Report***by Ron Marlow, Secretary Treasurer*

**Complimentary membership:** When you have retiree social functions or any other time that you see new retirees from NRCS, be sure to remind them that they are eligible for a **one-year free membership** if they retired on or after January 1, 2003. All that is required is that they submit a membership application. Previous members of ARCSE are not eligible for the complimentary membership. The application is available for download at <http://arcse.org/qFormMember.htm>.

Many of you are planning your annual state retiree social functions. These functions are a good opportunity to make our ARCSE membership brochure available to retirees. If you need additional brochures, please send a request to Ron Marlow at [arcse@cox.net](mailto:arcse@cox.net). For a digital copy use this link: <http://www.arcse.org/qFormBrochure.pdf>

State Representatives are encouraged to keep a close working relationship with someone in the NRCS State Office. Many of you do this by having the State Conservationist or other State Office representatives attend local ARCSE social events. If you have not had an opportunity to ensure that close working relationship recently, now is a good time to schedule a visit. This will also provide an opportunity to pass along a supply of the ARCSE brochures for placement in each retiree's packet. To further improve communications, some Representatives have their email address added to the State Office's emailing list for newsy items. This gives you another venue for finding out about new retirees and deaths of retirees.

**ARIZONA****Karl Klingelhofer, ARCSE Representative****Email:** [krklingel@aol.com](mailto:krklingel@aol.com)

**Bob Addison, Portal**—It was a cool and cloudy Jan. here, but the last couple days in Jan. produced around two inches of rain which is always welcome, barring the disastrous flood which occurred in and around Portal in early Sept. 2014. No fatalities but lots of road damages for which we're still recovering and a lot of flooding of houses etc. I moved my wife, **Jeanne**, from a nursing home in Lordsburg, NM to one in Douglas, AZ, in November. Visits to her are a bit easier for me as I do my grocery shopping, etc., in Douglas, which is around 55 mi. from home. Will try to keep in touch as it is such a pleasure to keep in touch with the old 'SCS'ers.

**Steve Black, Phoenix**—Retirees who had a connection to Missouri or Michigan met for lunch in Scottsdale, AZ on Feb 5<sup>th</sup>. **Hugh and Sharon** were in Arizona for the winter and live in Columbia, Missouri. The remainder of those in attendance are residents in the Phoenix area. Several other retirees who had worked in those states were invited but were not able to attend. The group plans to meet again in Phoenix next year. **Ken McManus**, however, is planning to move to Florida this spring.

**Ken Cookson, Tucson**—In the middle of December, **Ken and Connie** Cookson traveled to Arthur, IL (near Champaign) to be at their annual "family together" for an early Christmas. Son and daughter-in-law from Rantoul, IL and daughter and son-in-law from Gaithersburg, MD made the trip. We always meet at Ken's brother and sister-in-law's. The weather was quite different this year, no nine inches of snow, just overcast, foggy, rainy, windy and cold. That, however, did not deter us from enjoying our time together.

Shortly after New Year's, **Ken and Connie** spent five days in Santa Fe, NM enjoying museums and galleries. The Museum of Indian Arts and Culture and the Museum of International Folk Art were particularly good. They enjoyed wine tasting at the Estrella Del Norte Winery and had an enjoyable lunch at the Compound Restaurant.



**AZ Retirees' Lunch, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>.** From left to right in the photo are **Steve Black, Licia Black, Warren Fitzgerald, Rita Fitzgerald, Don Paulus, Hugh Curry, Sharon Curry, and Ken McManus.**

**Bill Fobair, Cottonwood**—See below, a photo of the first car I ever owned, purchased when I was 14 years old. It belonged to a farmer who lived three miles from Butte NE. It was formerly a touring car which he converted into a pickup. It had 30x3" tires in front and 30x3.5" in rear. He sold it to me for \$5, and for good measure he added in an extra set of tires.



**Bill Fobair's first car, a 1919 Model T Ford Pickup**

In February of 1938, my goal was to raise tomatoes on Badger Island, three miles downstream from my old homestead, which is why I bought the car. Within a week I had three volunteers to assist me in this endeavor. The understanding was that we would clear two acres, plant three hundred tomato plants and assist in the harvest. When the work was done we could go fishing or swimming. The pickup would carry six bushels. I sold my first harvest in July and the last two bushels in September—all for seventy-five cents per bushel. Imagine that was just over a penny a pound. Nonetheless, I made \$300 that summer.

**Gordon Odell, Tucson**—**Gordon and Carol Odell** took an RV trip with three other motorhomes in mid-February to see the Western Pyrotechnic Association Winter Blast in Lake Havasu City, AZ. We saw fantastic fireworks displays for four nights by the manufacturers of the finest available to communities for their 4<sup>th</sup> of July shows. This summer will again be spent at Vallecito Reservoir near Durango, CO.



**Karl Klingelhofer, Tucson**—A Ford Tri-Motor came through Tucson on Feb. 13, and I paid for a ride in this bird. It lasted for about 40 minutes over Tucson. It was built in 1929 by **Henry Ford** and was reported to be the 1<sup>st</sup> commercial airliner in this country. 199 were built and cost \$55,000 at the factory. They took eight people at a time on this flight for \$70 each, which I thought was reasonable.



**1929 restored Ford Tri-Motor.**



**Karl Klingelhofer took a flight in the Ford Tri-Motor**

The following Friday, the B-29 "Fi Fi" stopped in Tucson for three days. 4,000 were built in the early 40s, and this is the only one left that flies. Not this one, but B-29s dropped the atom bombs on Japan. I was able to take a tour inside for \$10, and that was very interesting. The following day they gave rides. The cost was \$545 for the cheapest seat. I passed on this but did see it in the air on Saturday while playing tennis—a beautiful airplane.





**Karl Klingelhofer with B-29.**



**Cockpit of restored B-29.**

**Galen Bridge, Tucson**—Not much new happening in the Bridge camp. As usual, I spend the bulk of my time traveling or making things out of wood. Somebody is going to inherit a pretty nice shop full of tools. My most recent challenge is building a mission rocking chair. I think an ultra-light plane might be easier.

I did stop in Phoenix recently and spent a brief visit with **Warren and Barbara Lee, Larry and Karen Lenz, and Gordy and Betsy Klostad**. Larry and Karen along with my friend **Erwina** spent two weeks hanging out on the beaches of Maui. Travel by US air carriers has become anything but fun. It will really test your patience. My advice is do not try to leave Phoenix on the day of the Super Bowl, a PGA tournament and major snow problems in the East. It just won't happen.

I did have a better experience getting to the Virgin Islands over Christmas. Saint John and St. Thomas are great destinations.

## CALIFORNIA

**Bill Ward, ARCSE Representative**

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

Hello to all our fellow SCS and NRCS retirees across the nation. We continue to enjoy our Monthly gatherings, one for lunch and one for breakfast. Those who made the February 4<sup>th</sup> lunch are shown in the photo.

With the exception of California Folks I have seen recently, the rest of you have never seen me like this without facial hair of some kind, either a full beard, goatee or mustache. It has been 40 years or so since I was last clean-shaven. Even my wife **Dana** of 37 years had never seen me this way, as I had my mustache when we first met!

Hello to all our fellow SCS and NRCS retirees across the nation. We continue to enjoy our Monthly gatherings, one for lunch and one for breakfast. Those who made the February 4<sup>th</sup> lunch are shown in the photo.

We learned at the luncheon that **Ted Gerbazz** had a scheduled surgery on February 13<sup>th</sup>, described by his wife Ila as "going in and freezing a cancer concern on Ted's Kidney." She asked us to keep Ted in our prayers which of course we were all very happy to do. I talked to Ted on the phone the following morning after his surgery and I was very happy and relieved to

hear that he was already home and recovering nicely. He told me they took him in bright and early and everything went according to plan. They froze the "cancer concern" on his kidney, and he was home about 3:00pm. He told me he was sitting comfortably in his chair with a blanket and reading the paper. The main issue for him right now is he feels very tired. It was great to hear his cheerful voice, and he thanked everybody for their prayers! I also know that Ted celebrated his 89<sup>th</sup> birthday right about the same time as his operation. Happy Birthday indeed Ted!



*Bill Ward  
Clean shaven after 40 Yrs!*

I had fun putting this little video story together of how this change came to be now and a look back through the years of all phases of my facial hair. Hope you enjoy! [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zUQ9\\_RBhK3I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zUQ9_RBhK3I). That's all for this update, wishing you all the best from all the California retirees!



*CA retirees' luncheon, from lower left and around the table: Ted Gerbaz, Shirley Leeper, Pat Grover, Walt Sykes, Ed Schmidt, Harold Honeyfield, Gin Milani and Ila Gerbaz. Helen Flach also attended but left before Bill Ward took the picture*



# CA Engineers Workshop 1978



1978 CALIF. ENGINEERING WORKSHOP

Back Row (left to right)

Tim Deming	Larry Smith
George Kalkanis	Jack Cassel
Warren Hink	Ed Schmit
Loren Schilder	Guy Dickey
Stan Moorhead	Lee Herndon
Ted Gerbaz	Jim Chandler
Bill Morgan	Art Dunkel
Hervie Middleton	

Front Row (left to right)

Tom Smith	Mario Milani
Dave Clay	Charles Velasquez
Mike Simmons	Rixon Rafter
Ed Stearns	Les Hansen

## GEORGIA

**Edward Ealy, ARCSE Representative**

**Email: [epdro22@gmail.com](mailto:epdro22@gmail.com)**

**From George Norris:**

The following people enjoyed the SCS/NRCS luncheon at Ryans in Athens on Thursday, January 22, 2015: **June Andrews, Fred Dilbeck, Linda Dipietro, Edna Firor, Talbert Gerald, Loraine and Jack Hahn, Jim Helm, Marge Lucas, Rick Main, Cecil and Jean Martin, George and Ellen Norris, Vivian Patten, Don and Evelyn Stewart, Bob Stovall, Beverly Walker, Bill White, Bob and Frances Wilkes, and Steve Lawrence.**

Following the meal, several members shared historical events that they had experienced during their careers. The discussion was triggered by **Doug Helm's** historic retiree.

**Steve Lawrence** was welcomed to the group as the most recent retiree. Steve retired this month as State Soil Scientist in Georgia.



## IDAHO

**Sharon Norris, ARCSE Representative**

**Email: [SNorris0889@gmail.com](mailto:SNorris0889@gmail.com)**

Our Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> luncheon was a fun event, attended by a brand new retiree and a new 90-year old! Attendees included **Dennis and Mary Froeming, Hal Swenson** (newly retired state soil scientist), **Jim Cornwell, Ralph Swift, Ruth and Amos** (who had recently celebrated his birthday) **Garrison, Stan Hobson, Darrell Gallup and his two sons, Paul and Harriet Calverley, Frank Fink, John Kendrick, Dan Ogle, and Sharon Norris.**

We are saddened to report the passing of our good friend and coworker **George James**, who died Nov. 18, 2014, in his home near Boise. George was born in Greeley, CO on July 29, 1928. He graduated from Colorado State Univ. with a Bachelor of Science in Agronomy. He worked for SCS 30 years, spent two years with the State Dept. in Tunisia and two years in Botswana. He retired in Boise and enjoyed playing golf and traveling the world with his wife **Alyce**, who preceded him in death. George donated blood for over 50 years and was recognized by the State of Idaho with "George James Day" on Nov. 18, 2010, with over 56 gallons donated. He is survived by sons **Tom and Donald**, his sister, four grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

## ILLINOIS

**Dale Benz, ARCSE Representative**

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

We are saddened by the passing of two retired SCS employees in Illinois. Howard Bush passed away September 15, 2014 and then his wife, Sara, in October. Howard retired as State Conservationist in Illinois in 1975. We extend our sympathy to their family.

Larry Esworthy, retired District Conservationist in Olney, passed away on February 1, 2015. We extend our sympathy to Sandy and their family.

The obituaries of both can be seen in the memorium section of this newsletter. Thank you Ron Marlow, our ARCSE Secretary, for doing a super job getting and posting the passing of former SCS/NRCS employees.

Hope you can join us for our spring gathering of Illinois retirees on April 2, 2015 at Ryans Family Steakhouse in Champaign.

## IOWA

**Mark Jensen, ARCSE Representative [NEW]**

**Email: [amjens1@gmail.com](mailto:amjens1@gmail.com)**

For the 30<sup>th</sup> time in as many years, the "Black Hole Ramblers" have made their annual trip to Summit County in central Colorado. For the benefit of those who are not familiar with the Ramblers, they are now mostly retired NRCS employees who actually like the altitude and snow. The Group this year consisted of **Bob Dayton, Duane Miller, Rick Knutson** all retired NRCS/SCS; **Dale and Joanne Bruce**, current NRCS/Tech support; **Craig Muhlberg** (Former NRCS) and his wife **Kim**; **Jody Christiansen**, current NRCS; and **Rick**, a friend of Rick Knutson. They ski a bit less than they did thirty years ago, but many of the group have taken up snowshoeing which is almost as much fun! Everyone had a great time and they are looking forward to next year.

Every Wednesday morning, a group of retirees in the Des Moines area meet at IHOP for breakfast. Breakfast on February 11<sup>th</sup> was served to **Rod Martin, Mark Jensen, Deane Glen, Duane Miller, Volney Smith, Dale Faulkner, and Don Peterson**. This isn't a closed group. All retirees are welcome. If you are anywhere near the IHOP by Merle Hay Mall on Wednesday mornings a little after 8:00am, please join us. There's always a lot of good discussion. In fact, many of the world's problems would be solved if anyone outside of IHOP would listen!

**Denny Peterson**, one of the regulars from the breakfast group, is recovering from eye surgery. On January 29<sup>th</sup>, he had a cornea transplant in one eye. His recovery is coming along the way it is supposed to, and he told me that he can see colors that he hasn't seen in years. If everything keeps going well, he will have another cornea transplant for the other eye later this year. I was particularly struck by a comment Denny made shortly after his surgery. He was writing a thank you letter to the family of the donor. His comment was "How do you thank a family for something that you know they have lost a loved one to provide it?" Denny is thankful for the family and the organ donor program. I'd encourage all of us to check the box on our driver's license to become an organ donor.



*The IHOP breakfast group on February 11, 2015. Starting on the left side and going around the table: Rod Martin, Mark Jensen, Deane Glen, Duane Miller, Volney Smith, Dale Faulkner, and Don Peterson.*

**Lee and Alice White** just returned from a western trip where they met and traveled with their son **Andrew**. As an employee of the National Park Service, Andrew enjoys seeing new and unfamiliar parks. They spent several days in Death Valley National Park in California. With its somewhat foreboding name, Death Valley NP is, nonetheless, a beautiful place to visit. The 85 degree temperatures were inviting and a welcome change from Iowa's winter, but probably not a good place to visit in summer. The valley itself is the lowest point in the US at 282 feet below sea level, while the surrounding mountains are colorful and majestic. They enjoyed numerous hikes into canyons, volcanic craters, ghost towns and toured "Scotty's Castle," a vacation home constructed in the 1920's. The trip also included stops at Grand Canyon National Park and visits to Sedona, Phoenix and Tucson, AZ. While in Tucson they visited the Saguaro National Park known for its giant cactus.

Here's a little news that is somewhat belated, but still needs to be told. **Bob and Nancy Mettetal** celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary last August. Their girls, **Susan, Jody, and Bobby** hosted a celebration for them in their current home town of Leeds, Alabama. Congratulations Nancy and Bob!



*Bob and Nancy Mettetal in their earlier years.*



*Bob and Nancy Mettetal with their girls, Susan, Jody, and Bobby at their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary celebration.*

Recently we have been saddened by the loss of several of our retiree family. **Donna Redman**, wife of **Don Redman** who was a technician in southern Iowa, passed away on December 24, 2014. **Darlene Koster**, wife of **Roger Koster** who was a District Conservationist in northern Iowa, passed away on November 27, 2014. **Beverly Braymen**, wife of **Tom Braymen** who was a technician in the Creston engineering and field offices, passed away on December 16, 2014. **Wayne Ducommun**, an engineer in the Sioux City area office, passed away on January 22, 2015. **Robert (Bob) Loudon**, a district conservationist, RC&D coordinator, and grassland specialist in southern Iowa, passed away on February 1, 2015.



## KANSAS

**Deanne Lull, ARCSE Representative**

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

My goodness, central Kansas has had a most unusual winter. Several wraps hung by the door, as one day was shirt-sleeve weather or called for a light jacket and the next day one grabbed the parka, as temperatures were in the teens with a north wind. There have been several light snows that contained minimal moisture, so now all eyes are on the wheat fields.

As usual, the end of the year brought about a number of retirements. On December 13, 2014, **Gene C. Detrixhe** retired as a Soil Conservation Technician in the Russell Field Office. **Gary C. Bruner** retired on January 2, 2015, as the District Conservationist in the Ottawa Field Office. Three located in the Kansas State Office in Salina, Kansas, retired on January 3, 2015. **Harold R. Blume** retired as an Environmental Engineer on the Engineering Staff. The other two were assigned to the Northern Great Plains Soil Survey Regional Office, Denver, Colorado. **Cleveland E. Watts** retired as the Soil Survey Regional Director and **William A. Wehmuehler** retired as a Senior Regional Soil Scientist.

**Harland Dietz**, a Kansas retiree residing in Texas, sent us word concerning **Daniel and Betty Holmes**, former Kansas SCS'ers. **Betty** passed away December 3, 2014, after residing several years in a care center in Fort Worth, Texas. **Dan's** sons have since moved him to be nearer to them in South Carolina. Some of the Kansas SCS alumni might remember **Daniel** when he served as the work unit conservationist in the Abilene and Anthony Field Offices. From old personnel directories it appears that **Daniel** left Kansas in the mid-1960's.

We were saddened to learn that three retirees passed away during the holiday season. **Cecil J. Herron** passed away on December 16, 2014. **Cecil** retired as a Soil Conservation Technician with 22 years of service from the Dodge City Field Office. His wife, **Hazel**, survives. **Lloyd G. Wilson** passed away on December 25, 2014. He served as the District Conservationist in the Jetmore Field Office. His wife, **Julene**, survives. **Rick Porter** passed away on January 2, 2015. He had retired in July of 2011. **Rick's** last position was as the Lake Region Resource Conservation Development Coordinator in the Ottawa RC&D Office.

The new year started off with the loss of a spouse and two more retirees. **Aline Flo Beichley** passed away January 29, 2015. She was the spouse of **Koath Evan Beichley** who retired as a Contract Specialist in the Kansas State Office in 1974. **Koath** passed away in 1985. **William T. Foerschler** passed away on February 3, 2015. In 1948 **Bill** started his career in Abilene, Kansas, and retired there in 1980 as the District Conservationist. His wife preceded him in death. **James W. Oler** passed away February 13, 2015. Jim retired with 30 years of service working in the Abilene and Yates Center Field Offices. His wife, **Betty**, survives.

We are looking forward to spring and will be holding our 2015 annual meeting on June 26, 2015, at the Quality Inn in Salina, Kansas.

## KENTUCKY

**Billye M. Haslett, ARCSE Representative**

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

**Margaret Albritton's** husband died. She is a retired Area Clerk and has moved from Mayfield, KY to be with her daughter in/near Indianapolis, IN. Thanks to **Dwain Abell** for updating us. If anyone knows her exact address, please let us know.

**John R. Brown**, retired DC reports that he was sorry to hear of his good friend **Archie Gragg** had passed away. **Frank Cox**, retired soil scientist, is still doing well. John spoke with him recently and meets him for coffee. John has a home in Florida and spends time there from October 1<sup>st</sup> to May each year. You can reach him at 360 Dreama Drive, Davenport FL 33897 this time of year. Phone 863-420-7802.

**Fred Alcott**, retired DC and Vice President of the KY SCS/NRCS Retiree Association, reported: **June** and I had good trip to Europe skiing in the Alps. We stayed on a bible school campus in Austria.

**James Burkeen**, DC retired January 1, 1988 after 26 years, and is now 90 years young. I wish I could attend the annual meeting but due to knees and other problems can't travel. I wish the best for all retirees.

**Cluster Belcher** is doing well. Cluster worked in KY and then in 1973 went to the PMC in New Jersey for 25 years before he retired. He has been retired 22 years.

**Joseph (Joe) R. Davis**, retired State Engineer reports that he spends November through March each year fishing at Lake Okeechobee, FL. Only caught 2,000 Crappie last year.

**Lawrence I. Eastham**, retired SCT reports: I'm still on the Nelson County Conservation District Board. My wife **Pat** and I winter in Florida and will be staying six months this year. God has blessed me, just turned 3/4 century old.



**Rudy Forsythe**, retired soil scientist reports that he was sorry to have to miss the annual retiree meeting. Rudy is involved with the Murray State University soil judging team and was accompanying them to the southeast regional soil judging contest at Clemson University. He hopes to attend in 2015.

**Billye Haslett**, retired State Administrative Officer: After a reasonably mild start to our winter, we've had a February to remember in Kentucky. Heavy snow and bitter cold, breaking all records.

My birthday was February 17<sup>th</sup>. I can remember growing up in Kentucky that I rarely got to go to school on my birthday due to snowfall. This past February 17<sup>th</sup> reminded me of that. However, I'm not complaining. We don't have it nearly as bad as our SCS/NRCS retiree friends in Boston. I've stayed home and fed the birds, read and painted. I'm treating this like a snowcation!

**Rodney Heilman**, retired RC reports: I think often of my time in Todd County. I have fond memories of **Fred Alcott's** father and sons (**Fred and Steve**), **Mr. Willie and Simon**. I lost my wife **Lola** in March 2014. I'm trying to learn. I had a good career and enjoyed it all. Good times!

**Rodney Hendrickson**, retired RC&D Coordinator: Since retiring from NRCS after 32-and-a-half years, I have been the Executive Director of the London-Laurel County Tourist Commission. I continue to be an avid runner and cyclist. I run about 1,000 miles per year and bicycle about 3,000 miles per year. I am also the director of the Redbud Ride, a bicycle tour that attracts about 1,500 cyclists from every corner of the United States.

**J. Allen Parker**, retired DC reports that he was sorry to miss the annual meeting. He enjoys the newsletter and hopes everyone is doing well.

**Frank Scudder**, retired ASTC reports: We had another good year. Spent Labor Day weekend at Lake Lanier in Georgia with several of our family. I worked on two Baptist Builder and one Habitat for Humanity projects in 2014. We worked with the **Millikens** to host the Retired South State Conservationist group at Boone Tavern in April. They really liked Berea. While there we got to visit with **Archie Weeks and Paul Howell**. They were around there for **Taylor Morgan's** wife's funeral. **Billy Milliken** had a knee replacement this fall, got along fine. I got a hole-in-one playing at Oaks C. C. in June; proves nothing about my golf game except that if you live a long time and keep trying it might happen. We enjoy reading the retiree news. Thanks to all of you who work on it.

**Harold Woodlee**, retired ASTC reports: My wife **Amy** had shoulder replacement surgery, which slowed us down for a while. After gardening season ended, a lot of my "spare" time was spent making miniature birdhouses and other paintable craft items for the Vanderbilt children's hospital. They have over 100 kids per day; a lot of them sitting around waiting for various procedures to end, test results, etc. Craft painting helps them wait it out.

**Ralph W. "Billy" Forquer**, retired CET, age 89 passed away on January 21, 2015. **Doris Forquer**, Billy's wife survives. Billy was a minister and father of three daughters.

**DEADLINE FOR MAY/JUNE 2015 NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS IS APRIL 25, 2015**

## MAINE

**John Simon, ARCSE Representative**

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Noreen and John Simon celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on October 24<sup>th</sup>, Ellie and Joe Bertolaccini celebrated their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on November 14<sup>th</sup>, and Judy and Charlie Boothby celebrated their 57<sup>th</sup> anniversary on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to you all.

On November 24<sup>th</sup> **Sid Emery** celebrated his 101<sup>st</sup> birthday. On December 4<sup>th</sup> **Dan McAllister** (FMHA) turns 75, **Art Taylor** turns 72 on December 10<sup>th</sup>, **Ed Snow** turns 79 on December 13<sup>th</sup>, and **Bill Moulton** turns 72 on December 25<sup>th</sup>. As you can see, all of us are getting older up here.

Those attending the Tuesday breakfast on 11/11/2014 were: **Judy and Charlie Boothby, Mary and Ray Voyer, and John Simon**. The day was in the low 50s. This day was in contrast to the Blizzard of Sunday Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>. We had 12 inches of heavy wet snow, which flattened many trees and shrubs, and caused yours truly to be without power for two days. Some folks in Maine were without power for six days. Luckily my stand-alone propane stove kept the house warm, but using flashlights for two days was a bummer.

Those attending the Tuesday breakfast on 12/9/2014 were: **Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon, Charlie Boothby, Joe Bertolaccini, and John Simon**. Art Taylor showed us some photos of the new house he is constructing. The outside siding is all done, and his work is now all inside. Judy and Charlie had recently returned from visiting their son in Virginia. They flew down this year rather than doing the Amtrak thing. **Joe Bertolaccini** and other flie-tying friends conducted classes for Brewer HS students. Many students attended and thoroughly enjoyed learning how to tie flies for fishing.

Talked to **Richard (Dick) Ferland**, and he indicated that his father **Lionel Ferland** was doing well in an Auburn Nursing facility as of December 2014. Leo is 96.

Those attending the Tuesday breakfast on 1/13/2015 were: **Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon, Charlie Boothby, and John Simon**. It was a cold and raw day but we enjoyed our breakfast outing.

On Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup> it was minus 15 degrees at my house, but my Mini-split worked right through the evening, no problem. My supplemental oil heat did have to kick on to help it out, however. Just added this note for use by anyone contemplating installing one for heating/air conditioning. The manufacturers rate the unit to minus 5°, but they work way below that based on my experience.

A bunch of us SCS/NRCSers attended a retirement party for **Paul Hersey**, who retired from his DC job in Farmington, Maine on January 1<sup>st</sup>. The party was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January, and over 100 attended. We had a great time, and many of us met X-SCSers who we have not seen in decades. For that reason alone, these retirement parties are a great event. We all met Joe Bailey (88) who looks great! He has just lost his wife of many years in December.

We lost several SCS/NRCS folks this month. **Brian Woodbury** was killed in a forest harvesting accident. No details about Brian other than he died instantly. About 200 folks attended the funeral. About eight of us from USDA attended his funeral at a small rural church. No obituary was in the paper or accident report in the papers, so I have no information to pass along.

We also lost **Wilfred Dymond** on January 10<sup>th</sup>. No obituary was in the paper. A service will be held later this year. Wilfred was in his late 80s. Wilfred worked many years in the State Office in Orono.

**Lionel Ferland** (father of **Richard Ferland**) passed away at age 96 on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Leo was a life-long dairy farmer and served 50+ years as a district supervisor for the Androscoggin County SWCD. He lived a full and long life for sure.

Those attending the regular 9am second Tuesday breakfast at Dysarts on 2/10/2015 were: **Art Taylor, Charlie Boothby, Ray Voyer, and John Simon**.

**Art Taylor** indicated that he has completed the wiring and plumbing on his new home. He needs to sheet-rock the walls and ceilings, install permanent heating, etc. and hopes to be in by this fall. **Charlie Boothby** is preparing to start this year's classes on gardening. He has been teaching the course for several years now. This is a labor of love for Charlie.

**Ray Voyer** indicated that he has a son in the Air Force stationed in Turkey, and **Ray** and his wife plan a summer trip to visit him, and maybe stop in Italy on the way back.

In the last three weeks we in the Bangor area have had 49 inches of snow, not including the blizzard of November which wrecked a lot of my shrubbery. The rest of the northern half of the USA is also getting blasted this winter!

On February 14<sup>th</sup> the morning temperature was minus 18.9 degrees at the house, and the Mini-split worked right through the evening. I keep my own Heating Degree Days for the house and I have a separate electric meter on the M\_S, and a computer on the furnace, so I have accurate daily records right through the winter for both oil use and electric use. Plots of energy use per HDD for both the Mini-split and oil furnace plot as fairly straight lines for those technically interested.

We lost another SCSer on February 11<sup>th</sup>. **Ray Stormann**. He was 78. He was not on my email list of retirees and was not an ARCSE member. I knew of Ray who worked in the SO in Orono but did not know he had retired and lived in the area.

Ray never attended any of the Tuesday breakfasts, even though he was close by in Old Town. One of the hard jobs of a rep. for ARCSE is keeping track of retirees who slip off the radar screen. It is important for members to help us by notifying their representative of any known retirees and hopefully provide their phone # and email.

A related death in February is that of **Mary V. McEwen**, 88, of Lisbon Falls. She was the wife of **Bryce McEwen** who was the DC for SCS in Androscoggin County for many years. He switched over to DC after mapping the county and shepherding the soils report.

Another retiree has come down with the shingles. If you have not had the shingles yet, consider getting the shot. It is not 100% effective, but it increases your odds of not getting it. I had a bad case of it, and it is brutal.

Recent additions to the breakfast email list include: **Susan Watson, Mary Thompson, Sally Butler, Paul Hersey, and Elaine Tremble**. For most retirees coming to Bangor, it is a long drive but some of them schedule a trip around the second Tuesday of the month, so the trip is not an extra.

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

## MASSACHUSETTS

**Jim Wesoloski, ARCSE Representative**

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Well, it's been another quiet two months here on the edge of the frozen tundra. We're not sure if Spring is on the way, but we do know that the winter has been cold and snowy. Boston just topped 100 inches of snow for the winter; more than we got in the valley but we still got more than our share. We have between two and three feet of snow on the ground, depending on where the drifts went. And it's been bitter cold. Yesterday morning was -18, and the wind was adding to the misery. Us old timers think it's just like the winters of old, when the snow was up to the eaves and it never went above zero; but maybe that's just our memory failing.

When it is so cold, I really feel bad about seeing **Betty** go out to get the snow off the steps; but the work has got to be done. I usually make sure she sets the stove timer for about 15 minutes so she won't get frost bite. That seems to work ok, except for when the wind is blowing so hard that she can't hear the timer outside. I make sure she knows where the tea bags are, so that she can make a nice cup of tea when she comes in from the cold.

I learned this month that **Jack Lace**, retired Construction Inspector, passed away in September 2014. **Jack** retired in 1990 and spent his retirement years on the golf course whenever possible. **Jack** lived in Rhode Island but was sometimes spotted at Amherst College hockey games, since his grandson played for Bowdoin College.

This past January saw the retirement of **Barbara Miller**, State Resource Conservationist. **Barb** started her career with NRCS after escaping from a dairy farm in New York state. She was the first geographic information specialist in Mass. and then moved up to SRC after **Rick DeVergilio** retired.

I haven't been over to check out the installation yet, but I hear that **Cecil and Lou Currin** have started helping Massachusetts meet our energy needs through a new rooftop solar farm. Sounds like a smart move, since our electric rates just went up 40 percent.

## MINNESOTA

**Marlene Mechelke, ARCSE Representative**

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

Marlene sent John Handler's report:

Building things seemed to be an overall theme in 2014, my fifth year of retirement, consuming a bunch of time both at home and at a Habitat for Humanity house.

We started the Habitat house in May and finished it in November. The first day in May was cold and muddy down in that basement excavation, but on that final day in November, it was a pleasure to finish up in the kitchen.

Meanwhile at home, there was a large deck to be built to replace three smaller ones. The new deck wraps around the northeast corner of the house, so there is always a place to sit out of (or in) the prairie wind or sun. Western red cedar, while expensive, is a beautiful wood with which to work.

Have you ever had a tweet from the 1800s? Newspaper headlines served that purpose back in the day, and as I enter those headlines into the newspaper index data base I am building at the Goodhue County History Center, I envision those words as being the tweets of their time.

Who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks? Forty years ago was the first time I climbed into a kayak, paddled about 10 feet, rolled it over, and had much difficulty righting it and getting out of it. That experience scared me so much that I never got into another kayak—until last May. After getting comfortable, I actually tried to roll it over, but was unsuccessful. The design of kayaks has come a long way in forty years. I'm now ready to purchase one to replace the larger canoes we have owned for four decades. The canoes are getting more difficult to launch by myself, now that the children are out of the house and my bones are getting weary.

The Midwest Friends of the Pleistocene had its field trip in southwest Indiana last spring. "Friends of the Pleistocene?" you may be wondering, is a group of geologists and soil scientists who get together once in a while to examine the latest research on landforms and geologic processes 11,000 to 1.8 million years ago (give or take a year or two). Field trips located further north generally focus on glacial processes, but the focus of this one was on the earthquakes that have plagued the middle of the North American continent (and continue to do so). Very interesting several days, which included striking evidence of numerous earthquakes in river bottom sediments, Indian mounds, and on pyramids. The next quake could come at any time.

After the conference, I drove west to the Ozarks, having to cross the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers on tall narrow highway bridges, hoping and praying that the "next one" would not occur during the crossing!



Old habits die hard, but that can be a good thing when it comes to Sheepshead (the German word is Schafkopf; and, no, it's not food, or some animal ritual, it's a card game). A group of us used to play this card game during lunch break while still working, and we can't seem to get it out of our retired blood—we still gathered about six times last year for games (at a local watering hole, not the office). Wonderful opportunity to catch up with fellow retirees, amongst the games of Sheepshead.

Catching up with fellow college buddies from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point was also a highlight of 2014. All of us had also worked for the Department of Natural Resources in central Wisconsin during those college years, so we spent many days viewing the results of our labors. Glad to see the actual results of our forest and fishery and wildlife management efforts. What we did to those trees and streams and fields 40 years ago really worked as advertised and is still in place today.

## MISSOURI

**Dave Rastorfer, ARCSE Representative**

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

The Columbia area retirees had their quarterly breakfast at the Country Kitchen in Columbia on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Those in attendance were: **John Turner, Bob and Rosemary Herschbach, Neil and Louise Randall, Frank and Kay Miller, Darlene Edwards, Richard and Marjorie Koenig, John and Carol McCarthy, Jerry Edwards, Jean Herman, Mike Wells, Roger Hansen, Bill Pauls, Maurice and Gloria Davis, Robert Hummel and Dave Rastorfer.** The next quarterly breakfast will be on May 13<sup>th</sup> at the Country Kitchen. All retirees are welcome.

**Gary Fak:** we have been enjoying reading the news from other retirees. We have been wintering in Florida for the past three years and thinking about buying a condo. Currently we own half a house with our youngest daughter and son-in-law on Redington Beach on the Gulf side (West Coast), but it's time to relocate to Treasure Island Beach, one of our favorite spots. We enjoy our time here but will be heading back to Chillicothe in April to visit our oldest daughter and grandkids. Wishing everyone a happy winter.

**Doug Wallace** reports that he's still breathing!

**Jim Rickman** (Missouri native transplanted to Texas): We are still traveling a lot. We leave Sunday for Jordan and Israel. In June we are going to Costa Rica with the entire family. In May we're going to Florida tarpon fishing. Next year we are going to Argentina and Chile in April and to Laos, Viet Nam, Cambodia and Thailand in August. We have some room for both trips in 2016 if anyone would be interested in traveling then. Costs are affordable if you reduce your children's inheritance. Texas has been experiencing diminished quail populations for the past five or six years, but this year we are seeing a rebound. Kicked up nine coveys first hunt and 10 coveys second hunt. Hope everyone is in good health.

**Bill Pauls:** Marathon #85 overall (35<sup>th</sup> state on the 2<sup>nd</sup> time around the 50 states) was "celebrated" by me and my lovely young bride (no, no, no, not someone new; just trying to win points with my wife of 44 years this June 5<sup>th</sup>) at Celebration, FL. We were celebrating doing this crazy running thing for the past 20 years; thus far uninjured and physically blessed with health, although I admit, possibly a bit mentally deficient. **Kris** is still running the 5Ks, and we are still running for our Christian Pro-Life group. Next up Cumberland, MD in March; training (i.e. running/jogging/walking), whatever I feel like doing (or not) ongoing on a sporadic daily basis.

Went ice skating in ST. Louis with both our kids, spouses and four great G'kids for birthdays of two of them and Kris, what a hoot! It was warm, so that was nice, but there were nice puddles of liquid ice over about half the Steinburg Rink (Forest Park, St. Louie). Neat place! Kids had a blast "falling" and sliding in the watery mix of water and slush. We adults tried to stay dry, but alas we are not exactly Peggy Flemings anymore (or ever were), and gravity does happen, eventually. Otherwise life is good, it goes on, and we are all healthy and happy, and very Blessed. Wishing everyone a great spring, soon we hope. Be nice to one another and God Bless you all, "U Ol Gobermint Workers." PS: four months into Medicare and so far so good.

**Jay Lingwall: Leigh** and I are doing fine in Southwest Florida, continuing to be involved heavily in the community church. Leigh is leading the praise band and now has a few professional musicians on board, and the music is bringing more people in. We also continue our running with 10K road races and a few half marathons. Leigh won her age group for the Florida state senior games and finally agreed to go to Minnesota to compete in the national senior games 10K race this July. She has started her training for that July race, and it is really wearing me out. I found a group of 50 and 60 yr-old guys who play volleyball on Mondays and Wednesdays. These guys are athletes and I have to bring my "A" game, when I can find it; but I really do enjoy the competition. I was able to travel north to Missouri and Nebraska in January to visit family and friends. It was a great trip, and I got to experience eight inches of snow in Nebraska. The sunshine in Florida on return was awesome.

**Jim Sturm:** The Jimbo has been hibernating inside the house like an old grizzly bear since the winter temperatures arrived. A few medical problems have come and gone, and one in particular has been a pain in the urinary plumbing department since the 1<sup>st</sup> of December. I'm in the process of changing urologists this month, since the old one just wants to prescribe pills that harm my well-being. The last eight inches of snow damaged about 30 feet of rain gutter whenever the 6" chunks of

ice began falling off the deck roof some six days ago. The west deck of the house might get finished this coming summer. Most days, one will catch Jimbo yakking on the phone or messing around on the computer. Looking forward to spring.

**Dennis Shirk:** Good Morning folks. It's cold this morning, but I guess it's still winter. I have no complaints of winter in my neck of the woods. Both **Lois** and I have been fighting the cold and sinus and coughing bug for quite a bit of time. We get better, and then it returns again. I've got my dormant seedling of legumes spread on my paddocks. Yes, I still practice (MIG) on my hobby farm. I have done some short rides on these warm days. Have a ride schedule in April and one in May. Nothing else exciting brewing at this time. See y'all down the trail.

**Fred Young:** soil scientist, retired but still on the job as an ACES contractor. Rhetorical question for my fellow retirees: do you need a new bicycle? Of course you do! And I know just where you can get one: Mountain View Cycles in Hood River, Oregon. Not coincidentally, the shop is owned and operated by my son-in-law and his wife (my daughter). It is a beautiful area to visit, right in the Columbia River gorge, about an hour from Portland; and **Rafe** will fix you right up with bicycles for the whole family. While you're out there, consider getting off the beaten track and head east. That's what **Julie** and I did on a recent trip. The John Day River flows undammed for 252 miles from the headwaters in the Blue Mountains and Strawberry Range to its confluence with the Columbia. It's beautiful country, many interesting natural features, great Steelhead fishing (or so they tell me), and a startling lack of humans. Miles of open empty roads—perfect for riding your new bikes!

**Jess Eppe** (near Muskogee, Oklahoma) Phyllis and I left K.C., MO just before the Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> winter storm hit, and upon arrival home were greeted by two new calves. The plan was all fall calves were to be born before Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>—so much for planning! This A.M. we received freezing rain and about 1" snow with a cool, windy 20 degrees. We had an enjoyable time visiting with great-grand kids/parents/grand-parents. Also helped "pa-pa" **Boyd Hughes** (son-in-law) celebrate his 58<sup>th</sup> birthday. With four grand-kids to hold all at once, he is very challenged! **James Hughes**, at Columbia, has been promoted, and continues employment with U.S. Geological Survey and also referees ball games in surrounding areas. Our two granddaughters continue to teach in the K.C. area, and one grandson-in-law completed police academy training and is now patrolling. I watch my speed more closely now when driving in his jurisdiction! He also continues his part time job of 3-D filming for a company. Life is good for our Missouri family. Our Tennessee family is doing well also. We expect to be great-grand parents from one of the twins in March. That would be a total of five for **Phyllis and Jess**.

We continue volunteering at "the C.W. Battle of Honey Springs Park," located near our ranch and continue to hope for National Park Status in 2015. We also are involved with the Alumni at Connors State College. It continues to expand and grow under young new administration. From Indian country, the land of "Contrasts and Contradictions," we wish all of you retirees happiness, good health, and a more ambitious COLA!

**Ted Utz** just returned from Vail/Beaver Creek Colorado after volunteering for the World Cup Alpine Ski Championship. Ted was one of 2,200 volunteers for the world event that had 250,000 visitors from all over the world. Athletes from 70 countries participated. Ted worked on the race crew, which prepared the rather steep course, with portions of it with slopes up to 65% (a little steeper than the Missouri river bluffs in Andrew County, MO). To make the course even more challenging than just pure steepness, Ted helped put water (3 million gallons) on the snow to make it even slicker. The weather was great, actually warmer than at his home in Savannah, MO. For volunteering he received free lodging, two meals per day, and very nice ski pants and jacket(s), goggles, gloves, caps and lots of great memories.

**Terry Barney** retired at the end of 2014. Terry didn't stay gone long. He came back last week as an ACES contractor. Now **Terry, Fred Young, Doug Wallace, Ron Miller** are back to work in the state office at their retirement jobs on the ACES program. (It must be nice to have a specialty that requires you to come back to work— or not).

We were saddened recently of the passing of **Lance Appleton**, husband of **Merna Appleton**, computer specialist in IT (OCIO) in State Office.

## MONTANA

**Dick Gooby, ARCSE Representative**

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

### Montana Big Sky Report

**Scott Hoag Jr. Report:** **Scott and Nancy** are enjoying their time in Yuma—mostly doing nothing and relaxing. Scott went on a farm tour a while back—amazing. The Yuma valley produces 90% of the leafy vegetables consumed in the US between Nov. and March and is known as the "lettuce capital the world." A thousand trucks a day leave Yuma carrying produce far and wide. The land is continuously cropped—vegetables in the winter, wheat next, harvested in May; then cotton or alfalfa and citrus on the higher ground, and dates here and there. They say agriculture is worth \$3.2 billion/yr to Yuma County. A long-time farmer with us on the tour bought his first acres about 50 yrs ago for \$9,000/ac; it's now worth \$32,000/ac. A week or so ago Scott and Nancy met **Luther and Dorothy McDougal** for breakfast. They were on their way from a reunion in CA to their home in NM.

**Gooby Ranch Report:** The three cats **Mary Ann** got don't eat mice. Every day they check out the buildings and fields, bring the mice to the porch, but they don't hurt them. One day Mary Ann counted 38 mice on the porch, and the cats were just lying there playing with the mice. It seems the cats don't know what their job is. How do you teach a cat to eat a mouse? It was a lot easier when I worked for NRCS. We all had job descriptions that laid out our job. We attended the various management training sessions to learn to do our job even better. Management Level One went into a lot of detail about what our job was and how best to do our job, and they even gave us hands-on training. But not once did any of the Management trainings say anything about teaching cats to eat mice. Although one did say something about the best-laid plans for mice and men. (*Editor's note: "groan."*)

I got out Management Level One through Six books and went over them in detail while Mary Ann was planting fence posts. After studying all of the management level course material, it was obvious that the best way to teach someone is to show them how to do the task. That means we need to show the cats how to eat mice. Mary Ann and I are sticking with eating Gooby Beef. We held a meeting to discuss what to do. That's when we decided to invite a couple of old ranch hands over to watch the Super Bowl. Mary Ann trapped four mice and had them on a hors d'oeuvres paper plate. As soon as the neighbors showed up, I gave them each a can of beer and kept replenishing their cans as soon as they were empty. They both acted like they were dying of thirst. Towards the end of the game they had already devoured two plates of hors d'oeuvres. When we thought they were drunk enough Mary Ann let the cats in and got the mice hors d'oeuvres plate ready. They were both so excited about the game, they weren't watching what they were chucking in their mouths. There was 22 seconds to go. Just as she set the plate down, Wilson threw the interception and the game was over. The guys were so mad they slammed their beer cans down, grabbed their coats and staggered out the door. I even had to drive them home. Now I know what the saying, "The best laid plans of mice and men," means. The cats still aren't eating mice. Mary Ann and I are "Deflated."

## NEBRASKA

**Norman Kempf, ARCSE Representative**

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

SCS/NRCS breakfast meetings were held on Jan 21<sup>st</sup>, and Feb 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015. President **Steve Scheinost** opened the January meeting. **Norman Kempf** opened the February meeting. Only eight people attended in January, and 16 were present for the February breakfast.

**Roger Hammer** and **Steve Scheinost** celebrated January birthdays. **Pete Jensen** celebrated his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday in February. **Mike and Maxine Stout** celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup>. **Pete and Doris Jensen** celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup>. Roger celebrated three Christmas get-togethers in Valentine with different members of his family. **Mike and Maxine Stout** celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

**Steve Scheinost** and **Steve Stover** will both be in Arizona in February so **Norman Kempf** volunteered to open meeting.

**Paul Dee Smith** died on February 8, 2015. **Harold (Joe) Kuenning** died on February 16, 23015. Both were active in our retirees' association and will be missed. He and Doris celebrated their 68<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

**Joe Calder** said he had heard from **Jim Carr**, who winters in Arizona, saying he had sent in his dues for summer golf league and was doing fine.

## NEW YORK

**Nancy Lee, ARCSE Representative**

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

**Allan Connell** writes: **Terry** and I traveled to Norway to visit my son and his family over the Christmas Holidays. We had a wonderful time spending it with our two grandchildren—**Emily** 18 months and **Sophie** age 5. Those are special times and we celebrated a traditional Norwegian Christmas. We even got a chance to eat some reindeer, which is really tasty!

We were there for New Years, and the Norwegians take the New Year celebration very seriously. The sky lights up with fireworks everywhere. It is like our Independence Day on steroids. It sounded like we were being bombed, there were so many fireworks going off. It was quite an experience.

**Fred Gilbert** writes: **Mary and I** returned to the big freeze (that's CNY) February 14<sup>th</sup>, just in time to experience some bodacious driving conditions beginning in Cleveland and never ending. We were house guests of our daughter and husband in Anthem, Arizona from mid- November until we made the illogical decision to come home.

**Tyrone Goddard** reports that **he and Shirley** are well. Both are still working at H.O.M.E., Inc. Retirement plans are incomplete. Both enjoy the work and will probably continue as long as they are able. Daughter **Janie**, her husband **Ozell** and children moved back to the area from Boston last summer, which makes Tyrone and Shirley very happy. Both enjoy spending as much time as possible with the grandchildren. Shirley has become the hairdresser to the two girls, and Tyrone has become the playmate for the two girls and their brother. He also takes them fishing and to sporting and entertainment



events. The children think he is a great fisherman, even though he still has never caught a walleye. **Tyrone and Shirley** travelled to Washington, NC for a family reunion of Tyrone's family and to Baltimore, MD for a wedding last year. They also travelled to Elizabeth City, NC for Shirley's 50<sup>th</sup> high school reunion. Of course they travelled to Boston frequently, prior to their daughter's move back to Syracuse. This year, they will travel to Pantego, NC for Tyrone's 50<sup>th</sup> high school reunion, class of '65 with 22 members. Tyrone is excited at the prospect of seeing his classmates again.

**Walt Grajko** writes: We welcomed a new granddaughter into the clan on November 18<sup>th</sup>, **Mila Josephine Grajko**. We now have three. **Kathy and I** are babysitting two days a week for **Henry** (three yrs) and Mila. Our other granddaughter is in Stamford, CT. She, Tim and Tim's wife spent 10 days with us at Christmas. Pretty challenging keeping everyone happy, especially with a dog and cat that don't get along with each other. Kids all doing well with **Liz** at the Zoo as an education coordinator, **Michael** a Correction Officer in Jamesville, and **Tim** with JP Morgan on Wall Street.

I'm looking forward to traveling to Myrtle Beach in March to play golf and then back to start the process of opening the cottage up in the Islands. Winter has been a downer (as you well know), and we're looking forward to spring, although no basketball tournaments for Syracuse University is a bummer. Let's hope the NCAA doesn't come down too hard on them.

I twisted my knee in December, and since the weather was crappy didn't want to risk damage by coming to town for the State Office "Cookie Day." I'll try to make the retiree picnic this summer.

**Bob Hartrick** writes: We are doing our best in Dale but am about to cry Uncle! Seems like all we do is shovel and plow, and running out of room to put the "white" stuff.

I had an MRI on my back, since I've been having severe pain shooting down my back and legs for over 10 months. So told my doctor it's time to see what's up. The test showed I have three discs bulging out in lower spine and pinching the sciatic nerve. Hopefully after seeing a pain management specialist, he may inject cortisone shots to relieve it. The other alternative is back surgery, so am hoping this does the trick. As they say "it's hell to get old."

The Snowy Owls are back in the area again this year. I saw seven last year, one close to home, but have not seen any yet this year. They say the young get kicked out of the breeding and food supply areas near the Arctic, and head south looking for a new food source. They see most of them on fences and power poles surrounding the Batavia Airport.

We had our annual Area One retirees' luncheon at Hawley's in Perry, NY. **Al McGuffie** organized the lunch and, weather permitting, he had about 14 confirmed attendees. The weather was kind of bad with cold and blowing snow. There were supposed to be at least five more but cancelled at the last moment. It's been a good time reminiscing the old days, and sharing what everybody's been up to. See the group picture.

**Dominic's son Jim** is now the DC in Warsaw, Wyoming County where ironically Dom and I both served together back in the 80s. Everyone has the similar aches and pains, etc., but all are doing well. **Al McGuffie** said he bought a new fishing boat, so hoping this summer we again can get together for some Lake Trout fishing. **Booth** is still working at WNY Crop Management. **Don** is still involved with grassland pasture management and working at a ski resort. Everyone else seems to be enjoying full retirement, including myself.



NY Area One retirees. From Left to Right: Frank Pasquale, Dave Pinkney, Jim Booth, Al McGuffie, Dominic LaGioia, Paul Mitchell, Dave DuPont, Hartrick and Don Wild.

**Harry and Sharon Potter** wrote: We have survived all of the snow and cold so far. In January we became first-time great grandparents to **Levi Thomas Layman**. Looking forward to a train trip to Nebraska this spring to meet him and visit other family.

**Erwin and Gwenn Rice** write: On March 20<sup>th</sup> Gwenn and I will have been married 60 years. We have no grandkids graduating this spring, but **Jackie Rice** in her first semester of college at Florida State Atlantic University in Boca Raton, FL is being moved to a junior next fall, skipping her sophomore year of pre-med.

**Keith Wheeler** shares excerpts from a letter to **Dr. Porter** on behalf of the Directors of the Paul F. Brandwein Institute, "to inform you that you have been selected to be awarded the **Brandwein Medal** for 2015. We want to recognize your lifetime work for something in addition to being a world leader in pedology, that is inspiring new generations regardless of age, to experience, embrace and love nature first hand." This award will be given at the National Science Teachers Annual Convention in Chicago in the spring.

**Dick Winnett** provided picture of **Phil Metzger, Mark Usher and Mark Grennan** snowshoeing and cross-country skiing at Wilbur and Betty Davis State Park near Cooperstown, NY.



*Phil Metzger, Mark Usher and Mark Grennan snowshoeing and cross-country skiing at Wilbur and Betty Davis State Park near Cooperstown, NY.*

## NORTH CAROLINA

**Jim Canterberry, ARCSE Representative**

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

*From George and Ellen Norris:*

I just talked to my good friend, **Craig Right**, in NC. Craig's wife, **Jo**, fell before Christmas and broke a hip. She was hospitalized following surgery for that and is now in rehab. Today she was diagnosed with flu and is not doing well at all. Craig had planned to move her on Monday to a full nursing care center but doesn't know whether she will be strong enough to move. Also Craig has been on medication all week for flu and is better now but still not strong. Craig's mailing address: 5700 N. Spring Flowers Drive, Graham, NC 27253-9818

## NORTH DAKOTA

**Robert "Bob" Bird, ARCSE Representative**

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We escaped the cold and snow of North Dakota to go to Texas again this year. So far we've stayed west of Austin at Shores of Lake Travis at Lago Vista, Hill Country Resort at Canyon Lake north of San Antonio, and Fisherman's Cove on Lake Conroe at Willis. Next week we go to Rayburn Country Club Resort at Sam Rayburn Reservoir in East Texas. While we were in the area of New Braunfels, we had supper with **Bill and Kelli Stokes** at the Gruene River Diner. Bill and I worked together in the Minnesota State office in the 1990s. Bill and Kelli are building a new house in Killeen, TX near Ft. Hood, but it is running way behind schedule, so they are renting in New Braunfels. Their former house sold the day after they put it on the market. We had a great visit and tried to catch up on former colleagues.

We lost three retirees: **Bill Gibson** (some of us knew him as Hoot Gibson). When I was working Project work in ND, every year there would be a Project Engineers and Construction Inspector Workshop in the winter to provide training on new procedures in construction techniques, testing and contract administration. During this meeting there was a trophy for the biggest BS'er called "What we say here makes the grass grow greener." Hoot Gibson's mouth was nonstop from the time he got there until he left and usually was the hands-down winner, unless they sometimes gave it to someone who didn't even open his mouth. Even though Hoot retired in 1987, he worked as a crop adjuster for many years and also was a driver delivering vehicles for Theel Motors. He volunteered in his church, Knights of Columbus, Eagles, American Legion, VFW, Bottineau Country Club, Charter member of the QB Club, was on the chain crew for over 40 years for Bottineau High School football games, coached Little League Baseball and was a Boy Scout Leader.

The second was **Gene Fitterer** who also served in the U.S. Army in Korea and received a Civil Engineer Technician Certificate from the ND State School of Science in Wahpeton, ND. After Gene retired from SCS, he spent 15 years working for Kadmas, Lee and Jackson as an inspector for road projects and later for Dunn County. He was also involved with his church, the Knights of Columbus and spending time with his family.

The third was **Linda McArthur** who retired a little over a year ago, and I am told she was a very hard worker and always put her kids' needs before her own. She had several hobbies, but her service program says her fleischkuekle (meat-filled pastry) was the best.

Seems like my news lately has been remembering items about those who have passed on, and we hope that their families are able to remember all the great things that their loved ones did for the SCS, their community and their family. Hopefully in the next issue the Snowbirds including us will be back in North Dakota, and we can catch up with their winter activities.

**Jeanette "Jan" Mumma**, 75, died Thursday Jan. 1, 2015 at Kearney, NE Regional Medical Center. She is the wife of the late **Charles "Chuck" Mumma**, who was Assistant State Conservationist in North Dakota for many years. She is survived by her daughter, **Nita (Kim) Deyo** of Kearney, NE; four grandchildren; two brothers and their wives, and a sister and her husband. She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, and a brother-in-law. Memorials suggested to Lutheran Campus Ministries.

## OREGON

**Don Stettler, ARCSE Representative**

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

The Oregon retiree lunch was held on January 28<sup>th</sup> at The Old Spaghetti Factory west side location in Tanasbourne. A record number, including several for the first time, attended the lunch. Present were **Stefanie Aschmann, Sue Brandt, Anna Cerotsky, Clifton and Marva Deal, Kay Denfeld, Matthew Fillmore, Gary Formanek, Bobbie Hart, Russ Hatz, Don Huffman, Dave and Joan Johnson, Jack Kanalz, Lowell and Marian Kenedy, Russ Langeridge, Rose Loehr, Jim Marron, Chad McGrath, Terry Mitchell, Jeff Repp, Marcine Richmond, Lamont Robbins, Leland Saele, Joe Sahlfeld, Pat Smith, Pat Straka, Dick and Kathy Sylvester, Eldena VanderZanden, Dick Verboort, Gail Voge, Ralph Wadleigh, Don and Diana Wallin, Rene' Walls, Beth Zetter**, and yours truly, **Don Stettler**.

Several wrote to tell me their regrets. **Marsel Tingey** said he "would love to see old faces and share old times" but health issues were keeping him and his wife close to home. **Jon and Jolene Lea** were planning to attend the lunch, but something came up at the last minute requiring their attention. It would have been Jolene's first time as a retiree. Jon told me that he and Jolene spent the week between Christmas and just after the New Year on the Kona Coast of Hawaii with Jon's mom, his brother and family. Jon and Jolene having been involved in water supply forecasting, couldn't resist checking out the snow line on Mauna Kea. They thought it strange to be wearing heavy coats in near freezing temperatures on the tropical island.

The lunch presented a challenge or two. One was being surprised by a single check for the lunch. Showing the high character of SCS/NRCS retirees, attendees made sure I had enough funds to pay the bill. The restaurant's general manager has assured me that there will be separate checks when we meet at this location for the summer quarter lunch in July.

The spring quarter lunch will be held on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at The Old Spaghetti Factory at Clackamas. An email with the details will be sent out in early April.





**Bobbie Hart, Gail Voge, and Stefanie Aschmann**



**Chad McGrath and Jeff Repp**



**Russ Hatz and Matthew Fillmore**



**Marian and Lowell Kenedy, and Lamont Robbins**



**Pat Smith and Kay Denfeld**



**Clifton and Marva Deal**



**Diana and Don Wallin**



**Dave and Joan Johnson, and Bobbie Hart**





*Terry Mitchell, Pat Smith, and Rose Loehr*



*Kay Denfeld, Anna Cerotsky, and Marcine Richmond*



*Marcine Richmond and Beth Zetter*



*Lamont Robbins, Leland Saele, and Ralph Wadleigh*

## PENNSYLVANIA

**Bill Bowers, ARCSE Representative**

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

What a cold winter we are experiencing in Pennsylvania. Lots of single digit degrees and even some negative overnight temperatures. Spring will come!

The PA Retirees will meet **September 20 -21, 2015** at the Grey Towers National Historic Site in Milford, PA. Grey Towers is the ancestral home of **Gifford Pinchot**, first chief of the US Forest Service and twice governor of Pennsylvania. Pinchot helped shape conservation in America. Here are two web sites which give details of Grey Towers, including a virtual tour!

<http://www.fs.fed.us/wo/gt/>

<http://www.greytowers.org/>

Check your schedules and plan on a trip to Pike County in northeastern Pennsylvania in September to renew SCS/NRCS friendships and visit a beautiful house and gardens and learn about Gifford Pinchot. Watch for details in the spring **PA BUGLE**! Speaking of the PA BUGLE, our editor, Tim Murphy is looking for news from any retirees in PA, so let's send Tim ([vindemurph@verizon.net](mailto:vindemurph@verizon.net)) some old stories and share some news about what is happening in your life!

## SOUTH CAROLINA

**Byron Thompson, ARCSE Representative**

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

NRCS retirees continue to serve their community. Pickens County Council recently recognized **Dennis Bauknight** for 20 year of service to their community related to fire protection. Dennis has served over 20 years on the Dacusville Fire Board, bringing the fire district from meager beginning to one of the best. As we (NRCS Family) know, Dennis and **Amanda** have served South Carolina in many roles; and as this shows, they continue to serve in their retirement years. Congratulations to both and we know that you will continue to serve our state.



*Pickens County councilman Tom Ponder, who represents the Dacusville Fire District, recently presented awards to Dennis Bauknight and Sid Miller and for their leadership on the Dacusville Fire Department Board of Directors.*

Two of our best NRCS employees have decided to join the group of retirees in South Carolina. **Wayne Henderson** and **Tommy Mock**, both Conservation Technicians for SCS/NRCS serving in different sections of the state, recently retired. Both served their total careers in South Carolina and are looking forward toward retirement, and we wish them well.

**Curt Hobbs** and family plan on moving to Fayetteville, GA in March 2015 to be closer to their grandchildren. We hate to see them go, but do understand the motivation to be closer to their family: GA gain and South Carolina loss.

**Bill Melvin and Shirley** remain active but requiring some more effort. Shirley continues to recover from having the knee replacement last fall and more recent fall at home. Bill is back at work (surprise). After several retirements, he is working doing pond consulting. We hope you can continue serving our state.

**Doug Deaderick and Dianna** report that they are involved in renovating a 1945 bungalow in Columbia, SC. They have completely redone the inside, replacing floors, ceilings, heating, and adding additional space. They say they are not looking for any new similar projects and will return to part-time demolition and asbestos abatement.



*Before renovation*



*After renovation*

**Niles Glasgow and I (Byron Thompson)** had planned a golf outing in January. Being wise adults and the cold weather, we canceled plans and took our two wonderful wives to lunch. A great decision! I have been working with our County Council on several legislative bills in Columbia, SC.

We are starting our plans for the spring meeting which will be held on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015.

## TEXAS

**Arnold King, ARCSE Representative**

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

Twenty-five people attended the December 19<sup>th</sup> meeting: **Earl Blakley, Dennis and Kathy Gaster, Joyce Petty, Mary Mattinson, Dave Drennan, Bernie and Maxine Owen, Dennis Erinakes, Elaine and Billy Don Davis, Dave**



**Stockbridge, Bernelle Baxley, Anita Plummer, Bill and Rita Kuenstler, Arnold and Willeene King, Betty Sisson, Tom Hodges, Doug Seibel, Jim and Carol Robinson, and Marie Garsjo.**

**Maxine Owen** reported that she had talked to **Clyde Goodman** concerning his wife **Marla**. **Clyde** reported that **Marla** is in physical therapy. She is doing well since her extensive back surgery on November 19<sup>th</sup> but her doctor said her recovery will be a long drawn out procedure of at least a year.

**Marcia Delucchi** asked that her e-mail address be changed to [marciadelucchi@outlook.com](mailto:marciadelucchi@outlook.com).

**Bob Fronk** had a great Christmas. All five of his kids, including the oldest from Idaho, were here for Christmas, as well as 12 of his 14 grandchildren.

The new officers elected at the November meeting were recognized as their terms began. They are: President: **Marie Garsjo**; First Vice President **Dave Drennan**; Second Vice President **Don Kapalka**; Secretary-Treasurer **Dennis Gaster**; Assistant Secretary-Treasurer **Barbara Gillum**; Member Relations Leader (Caller Groups): **Clyde Goodman**; Member Relations Leader (Cards and Memorials): **Anita Plummer**; Newsletter Editor: **Bill Kuenstler**.

The members discussed their plans for the holidays. Everyone will be busy, either hosting relatives at their home, or traveling to visit relatives in various parts of the country.

**Estella Williams** wrote: It is always such a delight to keep up with fellow alumni members. As for me, I am doing well (Thank God!). The joy of my day is spent caring for my "Grand Gift" (grandbaby) Morgan Elise. And yet the day doesn't end without me going to see my Mother who has been diagnosed with dementia. She is in a care facility and has been since November. I also work at a food pantry two evenings a month and perform dispute arbitration every now and then. Overall, I am grateful for every blessing that is granted! Here's hoping that 2015 will provide each of you optimal health of body, mind, and spirit!

**Bernie Owen** would like to remind everyone that he will be giving a tax update at the February meeting, which will be Feb. 20.

**Faye Herriman Alexander**, beloved wife, mother, sister and friend, passed away Thursday, December 18, 2014, in her 87<sup>th</sup> year. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the American Heart Association or a charity of choice. Faye devoted her life to God and to her family, striving only to make others happy. She was the ultimate wife, mother and homemaker, delighting in her husband, children and grandchildren's accomplishments, supporting all their efforts while humbly downplaying her own.

Twenty people attended the January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting: **Earl Blakley, Dennis Gaster, Joyce Petty, Elaine and Billy Don Davis, Barb and Dave Stockbridge, Bill and Rita Kuenstler, Don Newman, Bernie and Maxine Owen, Tom Hodges, Anita Plummer, Jim and Jere Rickman, Mary Garsjo, Bonnie McKee, Dennis Erinakes, and Clyde Goodman.**

**Marie Garsjo** presided over the January business meeting.

We miss seeing our members. If you need a ride to the meetings, please let someone know. The Alumni Club directory for 2014 was included with your May newsletter if you need someone's contact information.

**Jim and Jere Rickman** presented the program for the meeting. They told about their trip, in October and November 2014, to Tanzania and Kenya, then ending in Zanzibar. In Kenya and Tanzania, they were part of a small tour group that traveled around the country, staying in tents at night. They saw numerous wild animals—lion, cheetah, wildebeest, Cape buffalo, hippopotamus to name a few—and learned about Maasai tribal customs. They also visited the Oldupai (Olduvai) Gorge, where remains of the earliest human ancestors were discovered by **Louis Leakey**.

There are two items to report about **Barbara Gillum**. Barbara had a heart attack over the Jan. 10-11 weekend. She underwent a six-hour surgery Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. She did fine, the surgeon reported. She was in Huguley Hospital in ICU about three days and in the hospital about seven days, then spent several days in rehab. Please pray she heals quickly and completely.

**Clyde Goodman** reports that he had a message from **Deborah Alexander Nash, Edward Alexander's** daughter: I thought I would let you know that my Dad has a new address. We moved him to a wonderful retirement community yesterday. Not sure if you are the correct person to tell but since you handled the notification of my mother's death, I hope you will pass this information along as well. I am sure Dad would love to get mail! Thanks in advance! Edward L. Alexander, BrookDale Westover Hills, 6201 Plaza Parkway #1007, Ft. Worth, TX 76116

**Dan Holmes'** wife, **Betty**, passed away on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014. Dan has moved to Columbia, SC, to be closer to his sons. His new address is: 1101 Delta Drive, Columbia, SC 29209. I'm sure he would appreciate hearing from his friends.

The annual Texas SCS/NRCS Reunion will be held April 21-22, 2015, at the Schlitterbahn Resort in New Braunfels, TX. If you are not on their email list, you may get a registration form by contacting **Arnold King** at [arnoldking@hotmail.com](mailto:arnoldking@hotmail.com).

## VIRGINIA

**Kenneth Carter, ARCSE Representative**

**Email: [kenneth.carter26@verizon.net](mailto:kenneth.carter26@verizon.net)**

The retirees have been partying! All of the State Office retirees had been invited to the annual holiday luncheon held by the state office staff on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Those attending included: **Vickie Botkin, Rita Edwards, Ken Carter and Cephas Hobbs**.

On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 a special retirement luncheon was held at Deep Run Park in Richmond to honor the careers of **Wade Biddix**, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs (35 years of service); and **Pat Paul** Public Affairs Specialist (44 years of service). Both had retired on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Retired Virginia staff attendees included **June Hogg-Brewster, Bobby Whitescarver, Cephas Hobbs, Rachel Hollins, Eugene Morris, Bruce Stoneman, Ken Carter, Vicki Botkin, Pat Bragg, Ray Dorsett and Sharon Batzli**. In addition, National Office retirees **Willie Pittman, Dwight Homan, Barry Kintzer, Ron Page, and Bruce Julian** were also present to wish Wade and Pat well in their retirement. Written comments were also offered by former State Conservationist **George Norris**, who was not able to attend. Current Acting Regional Team Leader, Regional PAS Team, **Sylvia Rainford** also attend

Conservation Technician **John Jeffries**, Culpeper VA and **Delbert Southall**, Area Resource Conservationist, Farmville VA also joined our retiree ranks on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.



*Family and friends of Pat Paul and Wade Biddix gather to honor their careers*



*State Conservationist Jack Bricker (center) thanking Pat Paul (left) and Wade Biddix (right) for their years of dedicated service.*



## WASHINGTON, DC, NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

**John Peterson, ARCSE Representative**  
 Email: [jwpeterson@cox.net](mailto:jwpeterson@cox.net)

*John Peterson, our man in Washington, DC.*

**Warren and Barb Lee** returned to cold Virginia in early February (for 2 weeks) to meet their new grandson **Carter James Bray**, a healthy 8#-14oz boy. Congratulations **Lees**!

The **John Petersons** continue their conservation activities. **John and Blanche** recently attended the NACD 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in New Orleans, where **John** is on the NACD Board of Directors representing the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD). Then the next week they were in Tampa, FL for the Land Improvement Contractors of America (LICA) Winter Meeting. **John** assists LICA with their Government Relations work. Then it was on to Portland, OR for the International Erosion Control Association (IECA) meeting. **John** is a past IECA President. While in Portland he met with EnviroCert International, Inc. (ECI). ECI manages four environmental certification programs including the Certified Professionals in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) program which **John** helped start in 1981. And finally he helped the National Grazing Lands Coalition (NatGLC) with their annual spring meeting to DC when they visit their Congressional Representatives. **John** has been a volunteer with NatGLC since 1998 and manages their National Grazing Conferences. Their February was mostly travel.

**Bob Kohnke** sends, "In September, I embarked on a river cruise on the Rhine and Mosel Rivers through six countries in Europe, accompanied by friends and family. We strolled through Antwerp, sampling chocolate and admiring the 16<sup>th</sup> century guildhouses. Our next stop was the Delta Works Flood Control Project and Kinderdijk Windmills of the Netherlands. At the Liberation Museum we encountered U.S. paratroopers reenacting the liberation of Holland seventy years ago. We began our cruise on the Mosel River with a stop at Cochem, Germany, and a visit to Reichsburg Castle constructed in the eleventh century. One of the prettier towns we visited was Bernkastel, also famous for wineries. In Trier, we visited the towering Roman gateway built around AD 200. Our next stop was Luxembourg and the American Cemetery, the resting place for soldiers killed in the Battle of the Bulge. Back on the Rhine, we explored Marksburg Castle, for a glimpse of medieval life near Boppard, and on to Speyer for a Home-Hosted Kaffeeklatsch with a local family. The next stop was Strasbourg, France and an Alsatian Highlights tour before Basel, Switzerland, and farewell to the river cruise. This was a leisurely way to travel, unpacking once, enjoying wonderful meals, and taking in the beautiful sites and castles along the rivers."

## WASHINGTON

**Gerald Richard, ARCSE Representative**  
 Email: [glr52pdr@aol.com](mailto:glr52pdr@aol.com)

Present at our February luncheon at the Timber Creek Grill and Buffet were: **Jud Melton, Harry Riehle, Ralph Schmidt, Larry and Jean Edmonds, Gary and Elinor Johnson, Hans and Kathryn Krauss, Jerry Richard, Carl and Paula Vennes, Chet Jahn, Phil Schauble, and Tim King.** **Phil Schauble** is now sporting a pace maker, and it's doing a great job. **Gary and Elinor Johnson** will be heading to Mesa, AZ to soak up some sun and enjoy the warmer weather. **Ralph Schmidt** will again be volunteering to assist seniors in preparing their income tax forms. **Ralph and Lynn** are also planning a trip to Portland, OR to spend some time with their son. **Ken and Tina Kaul** have made a trip to Israel, and we should get a report and some pictures at our next luncheon. **Jean Edmonds** has been using her skills as a jeweler by making necklaces and giving the gals at our luncheon a necklace. A neighbor of Larry and Jean's had been in Japan and liked to beach hunt and found polished pieces of blue glass which they gave to Jean. Thank you Jean, they are not only beautiful, but have a story to tell as well.

## WEST VIRGINIA

**Peg Reese, ARCSE Representative**  
 Email: [pegreesevw@gmail.com](mailto:pegreesevw@gmail.com)

**John Weller**, Resource Conservation Engineer, retired on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015.

**Judy Fairbanks** is "still getting use to my elected position as a Tucker County Board of Education member, and I'll be attending a State meeting in Charleston during Feb.19-21. My **son Dan and grandson, Benjamin** are spending their Georgia school Spring-break with me at my Parsons home and will take me to the State BOE meeting on their trip back to



GA. Dan and I are looking forward to a visit with friend, **Judge Allen Loughry** (Danny was Allen teacher/coach at Tucker County High). We should also be watching the WV Senate in action before my BOE meetings. I send my love and prayers to all of you, especially Terry's old SCS friends."

**David C. Bayles**, the son of the late **Gordon Blaine** (Geologist) and **Glenna Byrle Everly Bayles** died January 30, 2015 at Ruby Memorial Hospital, Morgantown. The son of the late Gordon Blaine and Glenna Byrle Everly Bayles, he was born May 10, 1963, in Morgantown. David was a member of the Chestnut Ridge Church, enjoyed doing mission work in Honduras, and was a coal mine engineer. He is survived by his wife, Kristen M. Pavelko Bayles; a daughter, Corrie Bayles, of Morgantown; two step-children, Christie Bishop and Ross Sims; three brothers: Steven Lee of Orlando, FL, Daniel Bayles of Morgantown, and William Bayles of Longview, TX; three sisters: Sheirl Fletcher, Sharon Offutt, and Donna Messori of Morgantown; and several nieces and nephews. Burial was at the Fairview Cemetery (Pisgah), Bruceton Mills, WV. Family requests memorial contributions be made to: Chestnut Ridge Church, Honduras Mission Fund, 2223 Cheat Road, Morgantown, WV 26508.

## WISCONSIN

**James Enlow, ARCSE Representative**

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

The Wisconsin retirees met for lunch and fellowship on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at Grandma Mary's Cafe in Arena, WI. **Gene Hausner** was the host. Those in attendance included **Renae Anderson**, Madison, WI; **Gary Bald**, Darlington, WI; **Keith Behling**, Richland Center, WI; **Jimmy Bramblett**, Madison, WI; **Paul Chafer**, Lone Rock, WI; **Bill and Virginia Conner**, Fitchburg, WI; **Dan Cotter**, Platteville, WI; **Stan and Marlene Dingle**, Verona, WI; **Howard Gundlach**, Madison, WI; **Gene and Georgene Hausner**, Spring Green, WI; **Betty and Ted Holden**, Monona, WI; **Mike Lieurance**, Lancaster, WI; **Ken and Joanne Lubich**, Verona, WI; **Dan and Monica Lynch**, Eagle River, WI; **Gene and Ann Nimmer**, Beaver Dam, WI; **Sheryl Paczwa**, Verona, WI; **Greg Rebman**, Oconto, WI; **Bill Schaller**, Richland Center, WI; **Betty Stibbe**, Richland Center, WI; **Robert and Jeannine Uhrig**, Black River Falls, WI; **Robert Weichrouch**, Oregon, WI and **Norb Wozniak**, Stevens Point, WI. **Renae and Sheryl** are recent retirees attending their first luncheon as retirees.

After lunch, the group enjoyed a tour of a local cheese factory in Arena. The next luncheon is scheduled for April 9<sup>th</sup> at The Northwoods Brew Pub in Eau Claire, WI

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

<b>Erling E. Gamble</b>	<b>Raleigh, NC</b>
<b>Jerome C ("Jerry") Hytry</b>	<b>Orlando, FL</b>
<b>Billy Hobbs Jones</b>	<b>Hertford, NC</b>
<b>Harry E. Potter</b>	<b>Watertown, NY</b>

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.

### Senior Conservationist Jerome C. ("Jerry") Hytry

Senior Conservationist Jerry Hytry was born January 10, 1932, in Mosinee, Wisconsin.

Mosinee is in the central part of Wisconsin about 100 miles north of Madison and 75 miles west of Green Bay. Jerry grew up on his family's dairy farm; he attended a one-room elementary school and graduated from high school in Mosinee in 1949. He then enrolled at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. During his university years he held various jobs including part-time employment at a restaurant and a summer job with the Oconomowoc Canning Company. Jerry graduated in 1953 with a Bachelor of Science degree with a double major in Agriculture and Science.

Jerry had a student deferment from military service during college. In the summer between his junior and senior years he worked for SCS as a Student Trainee in Neillsville, WI. Upon graduation he was employed as a Soil Conservationist in Shawano, WI, until he was drafted into the U.S. Army in December 1953. After basic training, Jerry served his military duty at Fort Bliss, Texas. After his honorable discharge from the Army in 1955 Jerry was assigned to the field office in Black River Falls, WI; he arrived there in December 1955 and was sent to Manitowoc in January 1956. In October 1957 he was transferred to Siren, WI, as District Conservationist; he remained there until November 1958 when he accepted to job as District Conservationist at Darlington, WI. It was during his tenure at Darlington that he met and married his wife Mary Jo June 11, 1960. In February 1964 Jerry was promoted to District Conservationist at Waukesha, WI, where he served until he accepted the job of RC&D Coordinator at Towando, PA, in November 1967. In February 1971 he was named Area Conservationist located at Bloomsburg, PA; he worked in that job until August 1972 when he accepted the job of Assistant State Conservationist for New Jersey at Somerset. Two years later (August 1974) he moved to SCS National Headquarters as a Management Analyst. In December 1975 he was selected State Conservationist for Wisconsin located at Madison. In October 1980 Jerry was named Director of the Conservation Planning Division at SCS Headquarters. In July 1982 he was selected as

Associate Deputy Chief for Programs and in January 1986 he moved to the job of Associate Deputy Chief for Administration. Jerry retired from Federal service in January 1988.

In retirement he has remained very active both professionally and in volunteer activities. Jerry was named a Fellow by SWCS in 1990. From 1989 through 1991 he led the field team for SWCS that evaluated work performed by SCS in implementation of 1985 Farm Bill conservation provisions. During this period, his team visited and evaluated works in 37 counties across the country. In 1991 Jerry and Mary Jo moved from Northern Virginia to West Lafayette, Indiana, when he became Director of the Conservation Technology Information Center. He left that position in 1995 and relocated to Winchester, VA. From 1995 to 2004 he volunteered his time with Blue Ridge Hospice. In 2005 he was named "Volunteer of the Year" by Blue Ridge Hospice. He and Mary Jo moved to Orlando, Florida, in 2005. Since moving to Orlando, Jerry has remained active as a volunteer at East Orlando Hospital and as visitor to residents of two senior citizen centers. He has also been a volunteer at his church for over eight years.

He and his wife Mary Jo were married 46 years before her passing in 2006. Their family consists of two daughters, two sons, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Jerry enjoys reading; he reads about two books a week ("mostly U.S. history" he writes). And, he walks three miles a day.

Jerry says that he cannot be but thankful for his career and all the opportunities and experiences he has had. To paraphrase him, he said that he is amazed that a farm boy from a farm in Central Wisconsin could have had the experiences that he has had. He also encourages everyone to volunteer to help people; it is extremely rewarding for the recipient and for the volunteer as well.



***Reflection Pond, Denali National Park, Alaska.***



## OBITUARY INFORMATION

### Ron Marlow, Secretary–Treasurer

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

Surname	<i>In Memoriam</i> (Note: These are recent notices. For a complete list, please see <a href="http://www.arcse.org">www.arcse.org</a> )
<b>Appleton</b>	<b>Lance C. Appleton</b> (62) of Columbia passed away February 18, 2015, at home with family by his side. He is survived by his wife of 42 years Merna Appleton (computer specialist in IT (OCIO) in the NRCS State Office, Columbia, Missouri). Also surviving are two children and six grandchildren. <b>Lance</b> had a 30-year, full-time international evangelistic ministry. He was a prolific songwriter and accomplished musician on the piano, flute, guitar and harmonica. <b>Lance</b> recorded eight albums. Online condolences and tributes can be shared with the family at <a href="http://www.bachyager.com">www.bachyager.com</a> .
<b>Beichley</b>	<b>Aline Flo Beichley</b> (95) of Salina, Kansas passed away on January 29, 2015. She was the spouse of <b>Koath Evan Beichley</b> who retired as a Contract Specialist with the Soil Conservation Service in the Kansas State Office in 1974. <b>Koath</b> passed away in 1985. <b>Aline</b> is survived by a son and two grandsons. Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society.
<b>Braymen</b>	<b>Beverly Ann Braymen</b> (74) of Creston, Iowa entered eternal rest on December 16, 2014 at Mercy Medical Center, Des Moines, Iowa. <b>Beverly</b> was the wife of <b>Tom Braymen</b> , a long time technician in the Creston Engineering and Field Offices. <b>Bev</b> graduated from Clarinda High School and worked more than twenty years for Farm Credit Service of America. She was a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church. Left to cherish Bev's memory are her husband of 52 years, <b>Tom Braymen</b> , Creston; a daughter: <b>Lisa (Dave) Carter</b> , West Des Moines; and two grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her daughter: <b>Julie Braymen</b> .
<b>Brewer</b>	Senior Conservationist <b>Edward O. Brewer</b> (91) Wilkesboro, North Carolina passed away on January 1, 2015. <b>Ed</b> retired July 1, 1982 as Area Soil Scientist, Wilkesboro Area Office. He was born in Henderson County, Tennessee, and graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1951. He began his career with SCS in Wadesboro, NC in July 1953. He also worked in Salisbury before transferring to Wilkesboro. <b>Ed</b> was a WW II veteran having served in England and France. After the war ended, he served in Germany with the Civilian Police force. He was an active member of the Wilkesboro Baptist Church where he served as Deacon, RA leader and Sunday school teacher. <b>Ed</b> is survived by his wife of 62 years, <b>Betty Brewer</b> ; three sons, <b>Michael Edwin Brewer</b> and wife <b>Debby Hallyburton</b> of Winston Salem, <b>Kenneth Wayne Brewer</b> of Raleigh and <b>David Lee Brewer</b> of Marietta, GA; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.
<b>Busch</b>	Honorary Member and Senior Conservationist <b>Howard Busch</b> (98) of West Chester, Pennsylvania passed away on September 15, 2014. <b>Sara</b> (94), his wife of 70 years passed away twenty days later on October 5th. He attended Pennsylvania State University and graduated with a degree in Forestry and a minor in Civil Engineering. <b>Howard</b> saw four and one half years in the service during World War II part of which was as an Infantry Company Commander with the 76 infantry Division of the Third U.S. Army in Europe. After the war he remained in the Reserves and retired with the rank of Colonel. His civilian career was with the Soil Conservation Service. Assignments included Lancaster, Glen Rock, Lock Haven, and West Chester in Pennsylvania; Indianapolis, Indiana; and Champaign, Illinois. <b>Howard</b> retired as Illinois State Conservationist in 1975 and moved back to West Chester, PA in 1978. He was a member of The Soil Conservation Society of America (in which he was elected a Fellow) and the American Forestry Association and was a Thirty Second Degree Mason. He was also a past Commander of the Philadelphia Chapter, Military Order of the World Wars as well as a trustee of the MOWW Memorial Fund. In addition to his wife he is survived by a son, <b>H. William Jr.</b> of Wilmington, DE, a daughter, <b>Barbara A.</b> of Albuquerque, NM, and two grandchildren and one great grandchild. Memorial contributions may be made to the Military Order of World Wars, for the "Memorial Fund for Patriotic Education," c/o Major William Magill, 312 Box Elder Drive, West Chester PA 19380.
<b>Calhoun</b>	<b>Herman H. Calhoun</b> (80) of Lynchburg, Virginia passed away at his home on January 24, 2015, surrounded by family after a short illness. He graduated from Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, Louisiana, in 1958 and was a civil engineer with the USDA Soil Conservation Service for over 35 years. <b>Herman</b> worked in four states and completed his career in that agency's national office in Washington, D. C. Prior to his retirement in 1990, he received the Secretary of Agriculture's Superior Service Award. After retirement, <b>Herman</b> and his wife moved to Lynchburg where they restored an historic home in the Garland Hill neighborhood and he served as a volunteer with the Lynchburg Museum System for 14 years. His main hobby in retirement was restoring vintage light fixtures, lamps and clocks. <b>Herman</b> is survived his wife of 60 years, <b>Frances</b> , by one daughter, <b>Gayle Calhoun</b> and her husband <b>Aubrey O. Friedhoff III</b> ; a granddaughter, two step granddaughters, and five step great-granddaughters. Those wishing to make a memorial contribution are asked to consider the Lynchburg Humane Society. Online condolences may be submitted to <a href="http://www.whittenparkavenue.com">www.whittenparkavenue.com</a>
<b>Chessmore</b>	<b>Lucille Rucker Chessmore</b> (94) of Fort Worth, Texas passed away on January 8, 2015. She was born in Abilene in 1942 and graduated from McMurry College (now University) with a double major in math and English. Her high school math teaching included Coleman and Crowley. She also taught math at Tarleton State University



in Stephenville. A faithful and active member of Edge Park United Methodist Church since moving to Fort Worth in 1965, she served the church in numerous capacities, including volunteering in the office. **Lucille** was preceded in death by former member **Walter Chessmore**, her husband of 50 years, who retired in 1978 as Head of the SCS Employee Development Unit in Fort Worth. Survivors: Daughters, **Nita Sue (Jerry) Bertsche** of Marietta, Ga., **Karen (Bruce) Freeman** of Arlington; three grandsons; and ten great-grandchildren.

## Crews

Honorary Member and Senior Conservationist **Logan W. Crews** (96) of Temple, Texas passed away on February 20, 2015, at his home surrounded by his loving family. He graduated from Texas A&M College where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy in 1939. **Logan** began his work for the Soil Conservation Service in Athens followed by assignments in Mt. Pleasant, Wortham, Hubbard, Corsicana, and finally in the state office in Temple. After 37 years of service, he retired from the SCS as an assistant state conservationist. During his SCS career, he was honored with various awards, including the USDA Superior Service Award from the Secretary of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. After retiring from SCS, he also worked in real estate as an independent appraiser. He worked as the Elm Creek Watershed Authority consultant for more than 20 years. During World War II, **Logan** was drafted in the U.S. Army in February 1943. As a T4 Sergeant he deployed to England as part of the 5th Engineer Brigade to train for the Invasion of Europe. He participated in the D-Day Invasion, the liberation of France, the Battle of the Bulge, and Rhineland Campaign. He was honorably discharged on November 28, 1945. He was awarded medals including an EAME Campaign Medal with three Bronze stars and one Bronze Arrowhead, Good Conduct Medal, Meritorious Unit Award, Croix de Guerre, and the World War II Victory Medal. **Logan** was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Temple for over 50 years where he served as an elder, a trustee, a youth group leader, and an adult Sunday School teacher. He is survived by his wife of nearly 73 years, **Carrie Frances Crews**, daughter and son-in-law **Laura Nell** and **Phil Higgins** of Huntsville, daughter and son-in-law **Kathy Frances** and **Mark Erskine** of Temple, and son and daughter-in-law **Steven Logan** and **Renee Crews** of Magnolia. He is survived by seven grandchildren by 17 great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Handbell Choir Fund, First Presbyterian Church, 12 West French, Temple, Texas 76501; Bethesda Cemetery Association, PO Box 1991, Lindale, Texas 75771; or to a charity of your choice.

## Day

**Edward L. "Eddie" Day** (85) of Clinton, Oklahoma passed away on January 12, 2015 at his home after a battle with cancer. **Eddie** began his SCS career in 1957 as a Watershed Vegetation Specialist in Clinton where he assisted in the vegetation of newly constructed watershed structures on the Washita River in western Oklahoma. He retired in 1987 after serving 15 years as a Soil Conservation Technician in the Weatherford Field Office. He was preceded in death by his parents and his son, Charles "Chuck" Edward Day. Condolences can be sent to his wife, **Lola**, and grandson, **Dirk**, both of the home. Memorial contributions may be made to the Arapaho First Baptist Church. Obituary link: [www.lee-funeralhomes.com/obituaries/Edward-Day/#/obituary](http://www.lee-funeralhomes.com/obituaries/Edward-Day/#/obituary)

## Ducommun

**Wayne W. Ducommun** (87) of Sioux City, Iowa passed away on Thursday, January 22, 2015 at his residence comforted by family. Online condolences may be offered to the family at [www.meyerbroscapels.com](http://www.meyerbroscapels.com). In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the family. **Wayne** received his Bachelor of Science Degree from Iowa State University in Agricultural Engineering in 1949. He served his country in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict and was an instructor in Etta Jima, Japan for construction of roads and bridges. In 1952, **Wayne** started working for Duke's Radio in Sioux City and remained there until starting his career as a project engineer with the Soil Conservation Service in 1957. His final project, after 30 years of service, was the Bacon Creek Project. **Wayne** retired as an area engineer for N.W. Iowa designing dams and water sheds. Following his retirement, Wayne worked at the Siouxland Center For Active Generations as a counselor until 2013, assisting others with tax preparation, and offering financial advice for 29 years. He was a member of Sioux City Engineer's Club, and was a trustee for the Westminster Presbyterian Church. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, **Jeri** of Sioux City, three children, and three granddaughters.

## Dugan

Honorary Member and Senior Conservationist **William Dugan** (92) of Forest Grove, Oregon passed away Jan. 17, 2015. He was born in Lander, Wyoming, graduated from Lander High school and earned a bachelor's degree in forestry from the University of Montana in Missoula. He retired in 1981 as assistant state conservationist for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service in Portland after a 36 year career. **Len** met the love of his life of 43 years, **LaVonne**, in Portland. He is survived by his sons, **William "Len" Jr. (Tiffany)** and **Daniel (Kim)**; stepchildren, **Julia** and **Paul**; and five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and their families. **Len** will be remembered for his sense of humor and kind heart. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to Crohn's & Colitis Foundation, 9 Lake Bellevue Drive, #203, Bellevue, WA 98005.

## Edwards

**Kay L. Edwards** (76) of Columbia, Missouri passed away on January 28, 2015. **Kay** is survived by her husband **Jerry Edwards** and they just celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary on January 23, 2015. **Jerry** was the hydraulic engineer on the watershed planning staff in Missouri, retiring in 1996. **Kay** is also survived by a daughter, **Pam (Dan) Budd** and a son, **Paul Edwards**. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

## Esworthy

**Larry David Esworthy** (77) of Olney, Illinois passed away on February 1, 2015 at his home. Larry was an Elder of First Presbyterian Church in Olney and a board member of Fox River Apartments. For 30 years, he was District Conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service at Pekin, Shelbyville, Toledo and Olney field offices. Larry was a graduate of the University of Illinois. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, **Sandra** of Olney, a daughter **Lori (Peter) Chien** of Rome, NY; a son, **David (Kristi) Esworthy** of Sanford, FL, and five

grandchildren, three stepchildren, seven step-grandchildren.

- Evans** **Steven T. Evans** (60) of Albemarle, North Carolina passed away on February 8, 2015. **Steve** retired in December 2012 as Soil Survey Project Leader, Greensboro MLRA Soil Survey Office with 33 years of service. He passed away at Duke University Medical Center after two months of progressive illness. **Steve** was a native of Alamance County and graduated from North Carolina State University with a degree in soil science. He spent his career mapping soils in North Carolina. He worked on the soil surveys for Brunswick, Gaston, Haywood, Jackson, Montgomery, Polk, Richmond Counties and the update of Scotland County. In his last assignment before retiring he was assisting with the update of Alamance County and the initial soil survey of Caswell County. Steve is survived by his wife **Linda Phillips Evans** of 35 years; a stepson, **Tom Fetzer** and wife, **Donna**; and two grandchildren, his mother **Clara Kivett Evans**, and brother, **Tony Evans**.
- Fitterer** **Eugene "Gene" Fitterer** (77) of New England, ND, passed away on January 4, 2015 at St. Joseph's Hospital, Dickinson, ND. He worked for SCS for 34 years in Mott, New England, and Dickinson, ND locations. **Gene** is survived by his wife of 51 years, **Rose**; their three children, **Kim (Dennis) Candrian**, Beulah, ND; **Shawn (Cami Jo) Fitterer**, Dickinson, ND; and **Tammy (James) Kramer**, Dickinson, ND; six grandchildren; four sisters; and four sisters-in-law. He was preceded in death by his parents and four brothers.
- Foerschler** Honorary Member and Senior Conservationist **William (Bill) T. Foerschler** (91) of Chapman, Kansas passed away on February 3, 2015. In 1948 **Bill** started his career with the Soil Conservation Service in Abilene, Kansas, and retired there in 1980 as the District Conservationist. He attended a vo-tech school and later worked at Ft. Riley as a carpenter's apprentice. He entered the U. S. Army in the fall of 1942, and was discharged in October of 1945. He was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church, and was active in St. Michael's Ecumenical Ministry since 1975, and was a member of the Knights of Columbus. He was a member of the Chapman American Legion Post #240 since 1945, a Legion Advisor to Kansas Boys State for 26 years, 4-H community leader, and the maintenance man for the Lyons Creek Watershed. **Bill** and **Helen** hosted several 4-H exchange students, and one AFS student, Mike Reux from France, and hosted many children from Cross Lines in Kansas City. His wife of 68 years, **Helen**, preceded him in death on Oct 21, 2011. He is survived by four sons: **Bill** and wife **Maggie** of Lakeside, CA, **Robert** and wife **Paula** of Livermore, CA, **Dennis** and **Suzie Foerschler** of Minneapolis and **Kevin** and **Maria Foerschler** of rural Junction City; three daughters—**Denise (Henry) Letourneau** of Concordia, **Kathy (Ray) Hoffman** of rural Abilene, **Marilyn (Walter) Revell** of Topeka; 56 grand and great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. Memorials may be sent in care of the Londeen Funeral Chapel, P.O. Box 429, Chapman, KS 67431.
- Forquer** **Ralph W. "Billy" Forquer** (89) of Lexington, Kentucky passed away January 21, 2015, at Baptist Health Lexington. **Billy** retired as a civil engineering technician with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. He served his country in WWII with the U.S. Army. He ministered to many while a member and retired minister of Corinth Christian Church in Richmond. **Billy** is survived by: his wife, **Doris (Pyles) Forquer** of Lexington; daughters **Kathy Armstrong (Raymond)** of Midway, **Debbie Busson (Terry)** of Richmond and **Jennie Willson (Bill)** of Versailles; nine grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and a great-great-grandson. Memorial contributions may be given to the Salvation Army.
- Gibson** **Thomas "Bill" Gibson** (83) of Bottineau, North Dakota passed away on November 14, 2014, at a Rugby nursing home. He began work at Cavalier, ND in 1956; then Hillsboro, ND from 1956-'61; Minot from 1961-'71 and then to Bottineau, ND in 1971 as project inspector for the Boundary Creek Watershed Project and the Carbury Dam. He took early retirement in 1987 with 34 years of service. He is survived by his wife **Mickey** of 61 years; son **Thomas W. Gibson Jr. (Lory)** of Bottineau; daughter, **Jayne "Janie" Ramsey (David)** of Park River, ND; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; two sisters and a brother.
- Harjo** **Marcus Lee Harjo** (30) of Holdenville, Oklahoma. passed away on January 2, 2015 in a car accident. **Marcus** was born on February 5, 1984 to **Carol Harjo** in Ada, Oklahoma. Marcus looked up to his grandfather, **Newman Harjo Jr.**, and treasured their time spent together. He attended Holdenville Public Schools and graduated in 2003 and later attended Seminole State College. He worked for the Hughes County Conservation District as an Engineering Aide. He was active in the Muscogee Creek Nation where he loved to mentor young people. Survivors include his wife **Staci** of the home and their four children. Online condolences to the family can be made at [www.phillipsfuneralservice.com](http://www.phillipsfuneralservice.com).
- Herron** **Cecil Joseph Herron** (89) passed away on December 16, 2014 at Manor of the Plains in Dodge City, Kansas. He graduated from Spearville High School in 1943. **Cecil** was a farmer and retired 1988 from the Soil Conservation Service as a Soil Conservation Technician with 22 years of service at the Dodge City Field Office. He was also a referee for Kansas schools for 25 years, officiating over 1500 football and basketball games. He was a lifetime member of the Spearville Federated Church and also served on the board through the years. **Cecil** served on the Spearville USD 381 Board of Education for 18 years. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, **Hazel** of Spearville, six children, 16 grandchildren, and 12 great grandchildren. Memorials are suggested to the Federated Church, Spearville or Manor of the Plains in care of Swaim Funeral Home. Thoughts and memories may be shared in the online guest book at [www.swaimfuneralhome.com](http://www.swaimfuneralhome.com).
- Holmes** **Betty A. Holmes** (89), former resident of St. Francis Village, Crowley, Texas, passed away on December 3, 2014. Her husband **Daniel** served as the work unit conservationist in the Abilene and Anthony Field Offices in Kansas and retired as an Assistant Chief of the Soil Conservation Service in 1980. In addition to her husband of

68 years, **Dan**, she is survived by three sons: **Richard (Bronia) Holmes** of Columbia, SC, **Steven (Fabienne) Holmes** of Berkeley CA, **Joseph (Deborah) Holmes** of Columbia, SC; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

- Hunt** Life Member **William Paul (Bill) Hunt** (71) of Woodbury, Minnesota passed away on February 22, 2015 after a year-fs-long battle with cancer. He was from Boley, Oklahoma and a graduate of Langston University. **Bill** is preceded in death by mother **Illinois Hunt** and survived by father **Allen Hunt**, wife **Alvenia**, son **Anthony (Angela)**, daughter **Darla** and 3 grandchildren **Marcus**, **Aaron**, and **Valerie**. During his career with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, **Bill** served several years as the Deputy State Conservationist in Pennsylvania and retired as the State Conservationist in Minnesota. He is one of the employees featured on the USDA/NRCS 2015 Black History Month poster. Here is the poster link:  
[http://www.nv.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/PA\\_NRCSConsumption/download?cid=stelprdb1269505&ext=pdf](http://www.nv.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/PA_NRCSConsumption/download?cid=stelprdb1269505&ext=pdf). In lieu of flowers, donations, in memory of William Hunt, may be made to the National Brain Tumor Society at [www.braintumor.org](http://www.braintumor.org), or mail to National Brain Tumor Society, 55 Chapel Street, Suite 200, Newton, MA 02458 (617) 924-9997. You may send online condolences to the family at <http://www.biglowfunerals.com>.
- James** Member and Senior Conservationist **George James** (86) passed away on November 18, 2014, in his home near Boise. **George** was born in Greeley, CO. He graduated from Colorado State University with a Bachelor of Science in Agronomy. He worked for SCS 30 years, retiring in 1984 as a Plant Materials Specialist, and spent two years with the State Dept. in Tunisia and two years in Botswana. He retired in Boise and enjoyed playing golf and traveling the world with his wife **Alyce** who preceded him in death. **George** donated blood for over 50 years and was recognized by the State of Idaho with "George James Day" on November 18, 2010, with over 56 gallons donated. He is survived by sons **Tom** and **Donald**, his sister, four grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.
- Koster** **Darlene Sue Koster** (82) of Elkader, Iowa passed away peacefully on Nov. 27, 2014, with her family by her side. **Darlene** was the wife of **Roger Koster** who was a District Conservationist in northern Iowa. She is survived by her husband of 59 years, **Roger** of Elkader, her five children, nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren
- Kuenning** **Harold "Joe" Kuenning** (85) of Lincoln, Nebraska passed away on February 16, 2015. He served in the Navy from 1951 to 1955. **Joe** built and inspected dams for Soil Conservation Service which led the family to live in several towns including Plattsmouth, Syracuse, Wahoo, Broken Bow and they have lived in Lincoln since 1984. **Joe** is survived by four children, seven grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. He is preceded in death by wife of 58 years, **Delores**. Memorials are suggested to American Cancer Society or Tabitha Health Care. Condolences may be left at [www.bmlfh.com](http://www.bmlfh.com)
- Lace** **John J. "Jack" Lace IV** (79) of Chepachet, Rhode Island passed away on September 5, 2014. Besides his wife of 52 years **Terry F. (Jarvis) Lace**, he is survived by three sons, twelve grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. **"Jack"** graduated from Burrillville High School in 1953 and attended URI. He served in the US Army from 1957 to 1959 at Fort Bliss, TX as a Guided Missile Propellant Specialist. He worked for the Soil Conservation Service from 1960 to 1990 as a Construction Inspector on many dams in the state of Massachusetts. Upon retirement, **Jack** was recognized by then **Governor Michael Dukakis** for his work. He enjoyed coaching and coached in the Burrillville Little and Senior Leagues and also coached in the Burrillville Junior Hockey League.
- Latarre** **Mary Latarre** (in her mid-80s) of Broomall, Pennsylvania passed away on February 12<sup>th</sup> 2015. **Mary** worked as a secretary on the SCS Engineering staff at the Northeast NTC. Beloved wife of **Joseph Latarre** and loving mother of **Joseph Sr.** and **Robert Latarre**.
- Loudon** **Robert "Bob" Loudon** (85) of Creston, Iowa passed away on February 1, 2015, at Crest Haven Care Centre, in Creston. Memorials are suggested to Friends of 4-H. Online condolences may be left under the obituary category of [www.powersfh.com](http://www.powersfh.com). **Bob** obtained his Bachelor Degree from Iowa State University. He served his country as a part of the United States Air Force. He was a long time District Conservationist, RC&D Coordinator, and Grassland Specialist in southern Iowa, retiring in January of 1986. **Bob** was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Creston, and also worked RAMP ( Rural Abandon Mine Program). Survivors include his son **Tim (wife Karen) Loudon** and grandson **Tyler** of Creston. He was preceded in death by his wife of 50 years **Jo** in 2014.
- McArthur** **Linda McArthur** (61) passed away February 17, 2015 peacefully at home in Bismarck, ND. She began work in the Bismarck, ND State Office in 1978 as a part-time clerk and later that year to Administrative Secretary. She later became Purchasing Agent and was Supervisory Contracting Agent when she retired in Nov. 2013 with over 25 years of service. She is survived by her husband of almost 41 years, **Gary**; her children, **Joni** and **Travis**; four grandchildren; two sisters, and one brother. She was preceded in death by her parents and her mother-in-law.
- McRobert** **Elden R. McRobert** (94) of Hillsboro, Oregon passed away on December 29, 2014. He met his wife to be, **Theresa Vandehey** while working in a daffodil field in the Gales Creek area. A few months after their first child, (**Myrna**), died in childbirth, **Elden** joined the Army and was sent overseas to fight in WWII. Four years later on his return to his loving wife they started their family on a 30 acre farm south of Hillsboro. They grew strawberries, filberts and walnuts. While working on the farm with **Theresa** at his side, **Elden** also worked for the USDA Soil Conservation Service for 25 yrs. He always showed compassion and concern for others. His contributions to his church and community and his decades of volunteer work at St. Vincent de Paul in Hillsboro are just a few examples. **Elden** was preceded in death by **Theresa**, his wife of 74 yrs. He is survived by his daughters: **Aletha**



**Harlow, Dorene Simpson, Linda Fairham** and son **Ray**; nine grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren and one sister. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hillsboro St. Vincent de Paul.

**Mitchell** Life Member and Senior Conservationist **Ronald "Gene" Mitchell** (89) of Bourbonnais, Illinois passed away from natural causes on January 9, 2015 at his home. Basketball, track, band, plus Future Farmers of America and farm work were among his many activities in his earlier years. **Gene** served in the U.S. Navy from 1943 to 1946, part of which was on a destroyer in the Atlantic, the USS Meredith DD-890. He graduated from the University of Illinois with a bachelor's degree in agriculture. His life work included nearly 37 years with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service in the Columbus, Ohio area, then as an Illinois District Conservationist in the counties of DeKalb and Kankakee. While in DeKalb, **Gene** obtained a master's degree in business administration at Northern Illinois University. On Oct. 14, 1951, he married **Ruby M. Johnson**, in Hillsboro. They had three children. **Ruby** preceded him in death on Oct. 1, 1991. Gene served in many church and community activities including serving as president of Kiwanis Club of Kankakee. Surviving are his wife of 15 years, **June**; sons, **Stephen (Betty) Mitchell**, of Normal, and **Dr. Thomas (Lisa) Mitchell**, of Raleigh, N.C.; daughter, **Marilyn (Horacio) Acevedo**, of St. Anne; seven grandchildren, two great-grandsons and a great-granddaughter, two step sons and several step grandchildren. A memorial service will be held at an undetermined later date at Asbury United Methodist Church in Kankakee. Please sign his online guestbook at [schrefflerfuneralhomes.com](http://schrefflerfuneralhomes.com).

**Nelson** **John S. Nelson** (94) of Greenville, Texas passed away on December 25, 2014. He graduated from Hubbard High School and completed one year at Texas A&I College before being called into service in 1942 with the U.S. Air Force. He served for almost four years in the China, Burma and India theater during World War II. Upon returning to the states he re-enrolled in college and graduated with a degree in agriculture in 1949. **John** was a member of Calgary Baptist Church in Kingsville where he became a deacon at the age of 25. It was at this church where he met and married his life's love, **Helen Joyce Minter**. **John** was recalled to active military duty for the Korean conflict where he served for a year. His strong desire to serve his country led him to remain in the Air Force Reserve until 1980 at which time he retired with the rank of major. In 1958 **John** and **Joyce** and their two young children moved to Greenville where John worked as a soil conservationist for U.S. Soil Conservation Service, retiring in 1982. Shortly thereafter, he became the Hunt County Veteran's Service Officer where he served for eight and one-half years. John's dedication to serving others was reflected in his involvement with church and community organizations where he served in many capacities. **John** is survived by his wife of 67 years, **Joyce**; his son **Randy**; his daughter **Marsha** and her partner **Gigi**; two grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

**Oler** **James W. "Jim" Oler** (75) of rural Yates Center, Kansas, passed away February 13, 2015, at his home. He grew up on the farm and graduated from Parsons High School in 1957. **Jim** was employed as a soil conservation technician for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. His first job was in Abilene, Kansas, and then in 1967 he and **Betty** moved their family to Yates Center and Jim continued his work there. He retired from the Department of Agriculture after 30 years of service. When **Jim** and **Betty** moved to Yates Center they started a successful cattle operation which they continue to operate. He also served as a 4-H leader when his daughters were growing up and served in the Army National Guard for 14 years. He was a member of the Yates Center United Methodist Church. He leaves **Betty**, his wife of more than 51 years, of the home; his two daughters and five grandchildren.

**Perryman** **Thomas Earl Perryman** (94) of Altus, Oklahoma passed away February 6, 2015. He attended school in Duke. Tom joined the U.S. Air Force and served his country during World War II. After his service, he completed his education at Oklahoma A&M (OSU). He was a Vocational Agriculture Instructor for a few years and then began working with the US Department of Agriculture in Soil Conservation. He retired from the USDA as an Area Conservationist in Duncan. He and **Gerry** made their homes in Duke, Stillwater, Eakly, Altus, Clinton, Hammon, Cheyenne, Woodward, Duncan, Enid, and Norman. He was a faithful Christian and was always active in the Baptist Church where they lived. **Tom** leaves behind his wife of nearly 70 years, **Gerry Perryman**; daughter, **Doris Perryman** of Norman; three grandsons, and two great-grandchildren. Online tributes may be made to the family at [www.Lowell-Tims.com](http://www.Lowell-Tims.com)

**Porter** **Rick Porter** (60) of Olathe, KS, suddenly passed away on January 2, 2015. He graduated with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Agronomy in 1975 from the University of Arkansas. **Rick** worked a variety of job prior to beginning his career with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) or Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), from 1980 until his retirement in July, 2011. He served as Soil Conservationist, District Conservationist, and Lake Region Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Coordinator, 1992 until retiring. **Rick** earned numerous national, state and local awards for his volunteerism and dedication to conservation efforts including: National Organization of Professional Black NRCS Employees, National Pearlle Reed Award (for his Commitment to Excellence) and a National RC&D Award **Rick** is survived by three daughters, one stepson, and five grandchildren. The Family is requesting that in lieu of flowers, donations may be made in honor of **Rick Porter** to the: UAPB/ AM&N Alumni Association, 1200 North University Drive, Mail Slot 4813, Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71601.

**Redman** **Donna Jean Redman** (82) of Van Wert, Iowa passed away on December 24, 2014. She was the wife of ARCSE Member **Don Redman**, a long time Technician with SCS in southern Iowa. Her childhood was spent on the farm north of Leon with her four siblings. Donna was a member of the Leon Bible Church and active in its activities.

She leaves behind, her loving husband of 63 years, **Donald**, three children, **David and Linda Redman** of Leon, **Deanne and Dan Bowers** of Fairfield, Iowa, and **Darrell and Teresa Redman** of Leon, eight grandchildren and their spouses, and eighteen great-grandchildren. A memorial fund has been established by the Family.

- Scott** **Michael L. Scott** (50) of Hobart, Oklahoma passed away on Tuesday, January 13, 2015, in Hobart, OK. He grew up in Hobart, OK. **Michael** went to Cameron for two years, moving to Arkansas to get a Master Degree. After receiving his Master's he went to Mississippi State for a Ph.D. **Michael** moved to Washington DC to work as a Research Animal Scientist. He moved back to Hobart ten years ago to care of his parents. **Michael** worked for NRCS in Taloga for three years and in Anadarko for the last five years as a Soil Conservationist. Michael was a wonderful photographer. He is survived by his father **Leo Scott**, of the home, an uncle and several cousins.
- Simonson** **Dennie L. Simonson** (86) of Sturgis, South Dakota passed away on January 26, 2015, peacefully at home. **Dennie** was born in Timberlake, SD. He spent his childhood in South Dakota, North Dakota and Montana; graduating from Corvallis, MT, in 1947. He worked as a carpenter, and then joined the United States Navy, in 1951, serving for four years. After the Navy he went to college and graduated from Utah State University. During his college years, **Dennie** began his career with the Soil Conservation Service that spanned thirty years. He also helped begin the Range program that was integrated into 4-H at Broadus, MT. He helped organize Range and Wildlife camps in South Dakota. **Dennie** is survived by his wife, **Leith**; four children, 13 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. A memorial has been established to South Dakota 4-H.
- Smith** Member **Paul Dee Smith** (77) of Lincoln, Nebraska passed away on Feb. 8, 2015. He was raised on a farm five miles northeast of Lyons. He graduated from high school in 1955 and was honored as co-captain of the football and basketball teams, setting scoring records and being chosen the 1955 Sports King. He spent several summers at horse racing tracks helping race family owned thoroughbreds and maintained a life-long interest in horse racing. He graduated from UNL in 1959 with a BS in Agriculture with a major in Soil Conservation. He spent 35 years with USDA, Soil Conservation Service and lived in eight towns in Nebraska, serving in 11 positions. **Paul** retired in 1994 as a Resource Conservationist. He received two National Commendations from Soil and Water Conservation Society and five Certificate of Merit Awards from SCS. One of his greatest joys was coaching his kids in various sports and also attending games and matches of all the grandchildren. In retirement, he enjoyed genealogy, photography, and computers. Member: St. Teresa Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus for 50 years, Soil and Water Conservation Society, and past SCS Retirees Club president. Survived by wife of 56 years, **Sharon**; children, **Jody Cotton (Dwayne)** of Omaha, **Cheryl Bell (Mark)**, **Kevin Smith**, **Lisa Andersen (Steve)**, all of Lincoln; 13 grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Memorials: Soil and Water Conservation Foundation, St. Teresa Catholic Church, or Pius X High School.
- Stormann** **Merton Ray "Pudgy" Stormann** (78) of Bangor, Maine passed away peacefully at home, February 11, 2015, after a courageous battle with cancer. **Ray** served three years in the Marine Corps, then went to work at the USDA Soil Conservation Service in the accounting department. He was in the Navy and air guards for a short time. Ray enjoyed line dancing, square dancing, roller skating and ice skating, and hunting and fishing with his brothers. He met **Nina** roller skating at the age of 15 and they were married in 1955, enjoying almost 60 years together. Surviving are his loving wife, **Nina (Smart) Stormann** of Bangor; two daughters, one granddaughter, one great-granddaughter. Gifts in his memory may be sent to CancerCare, C/O EMHS Foundation, P.O. Box 931, Bangor, ME 04402-0931.
- Thornburg** **Gene Thornburg** (72) of Helena, Montana passed away on January 10, 2015 after a courageous battle with ALS. **Gene** was Watershed Staff Leader in Bozeman, MT when he retired after 30 years with the Soil Conservation Service, having worked in Indiana, Washington, Michigan, Montana and Wyoming. He graduated from Purdue University in 1965 with a bachelor's degree in agricultural engineering. After Gene's retirement he and **Donna** traveled the United States in an RV and spent several winters in Florida. **Gene** leaves behind his wife of 52 years, **Donna**, three children, and six grandchildren. See more at: <http://retzmemorials.com/obituaries/gene-r-thornburg-age-72-of-helena/#sthash.QRmRSy35.dpuf>
- Ward** Senior Conservationist **Anne O'Brien Ward** (84) of Raleigh, North Carolina passed away on January 21, 2015. She was a long time secretary in the "front office" of the Raleigh Soil Conservation Service State Office. She retired October 17, 1992. **Anne** battled cancer for the last few years. She was born in Henderson, NC. Her parents were living in Washington, DC at the time but her mother came back to Henderson to give birth so that her daughter would be a "true Southern Belle." When she was fourteen, Anne's family moved to Raleigh where she spent the remainder of her life. **Anne** graduated from Sacred Heart Cathedral Latin School and a business program at Peace College. She was an active member of Trinity Baptist Church and was a regular volunteer at the North Raleigh Ministries and Meals on Wheels for many years. **Anne** is survived by her husband **Don** of 60 years, son **Neil**, daughter **Donna**, and three grandchildren.
- Wilson** **Lloyd Glen Wilson** (82) passed away December 25, 2014 at his home in Jetmore, Kansas. He served as the District Conservationist in the Jetmore Field Office, retiring in 1990. After retirement, he managed the Recycling Center in Jetmore. He was a member of the United Methodist Church, Hodgeman County Economic Development and the Jetmore Public Library Board, all of Jetmore. He served in the United States Army. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, **Julene Fern Powers**. Other survivors include: four sons, a daughter, twenty-three grandchildren, and twenty-six great grandchildren. Memorials may be given to the Jetmore Public Library or the Jetmore Recreation Commission in care of Beckwith Funeral Home, Box 663 Jetmore, KS 67854.



**Woodbury**

**Blaine Brian Woodbury** (60) of Morrill, Maine passed away unexpectedly December 26th, 2014. **Brian** graduated from the University of Maine in 1974 from the Forestry Department. After working for the Maine Forest Service, he was able to combine his love of the outdoors and his love of agriculture in a 23 year career with the USDA as a conservationist, retiring in 2011. While building his career he continued to be a devoted farmer and alongside his father and his wife on the family dairy farm in Morrill. **Brian** was a member of the Morrill Baptist Church and had a strong, personal faith in God. He is survived by his loving wife of 38 years, **Cheryl Woodbury**; his son; his four brothers, his three cherished grandchildren; and his mother. He was predeceased by a beloved daughter, his father and one brother.



*Beaufort, South Carolina*



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