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NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter for Retired SCS and NRCS Employees

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NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

John Stierna

Farm Bill Status—In a signing ceremony at Michigan State University on February 7th, the Agricultural Act of 2014 was signed into law by the President after it passed both chambers of Congress with bipartisan votes. As indicated in earlier columns, the conservation title consolidates 23 conservation programs into 13, creates a Regional Conservation Partnership Program, shrinks the Conservation Reserve over time to 24 million acres, slows the mandated enrollment in the Conservation Stewardship Program to 10 million acres per year, and reduces conservation funding by \$4 billion from the ten-year CBO baseline. For the first time, direct spending for programs in the conservation title will exceed that of the commodity title, according to the Congressional Budget Office. However, nutrition and crop insurance have much larger outlays.

The new law includes linking conservation compliance to crop insurance premium assistance. The Adjusted Gross Income limit was set at \$900,000 for eligibility for all commodity and conservation programs.

The conservation loan program in the credit title was revised to provide a guarantee of 80 percent of the loan principal, with a boost to 90 percent for a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher.

The 2014 Farm Bill did not address the user fee for conservation planning technical assistance that was enacted as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act late in 2013. It is unclear if USDA will or will not use this authority.

With the 2014 Farm Bill now the law of the land, the focus shifts to the rulemaking process as USDA agencies spell out the details of how the various programs will be implemented. Deputy Secretary **Krysta Harden** will lead USDA's implementation of the Farm Bill, and she will be assisted by her new Chief of Staff, **Tina May**. Tina moved to USDA from her role as the lead conservation staffer for the Senate Agriculture Committee. **Kevin Norton**, the State Conservationist for Louisiana, helped develop the conservation title when he was detailed to the Senate Agriculture Committee to work with Tina.

Debt Ceiling—The Congress has passed a temporary debt limit extension that will allow the Federal government to borrow to pay its obligations until March 15, 2015. The President signed the bill into law on February 15th.

COLA fix for military—Congress also passed a bill to extend sequestration to 2024 in order to cover the cost of repealing a reduction to the annual cost of living adjustment for military members and retirees. It also includes supplemental funding for physicians' services under Medicare. The reduction in direct spending (i.e., sequester) was extended another year, to FY 2024, as a means to offset the costs.

Conservation Innovation Grants—On February 6th, NRCS published a notice of program funding and invited pre-proposals for projects to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies. Up to \$15 million will be available to support those projects that are selected through this two-step process. Pre-proposals are due on March 7, 2014 and if selected, final proposals will be due on May 5, 2014. Information is available on the NRCS website: www.nrcs.usda.gov.

Drought assistance—The Administration announced over \$100 million in financial assistance to help California and other states experiencing severe drought.

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES

Applications for livestock disaster assistance will be accepted beginning on April 15th. Special targeted funding from EQIP is also available for water conservation assistance in California, Texas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Colorado, and New Mexico.

Prairie Pothole Assistance—NRCS is investing up to \$35 million in the Prairie Pothole Region to help farmers and ranchers implement conservation practices that restore grasslands and wetlands and help mitigate a recent regional trend of conversion to croplands.

NRCS use of YOUTUBE—NRCS has been releasing videos on youtube.com to provide public information on a wide variety of conservation issues. A recent release provides the February water supply forecast for the western states. It can be found at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17yQhLVYE6s&feature=c4-overview&list=UUDZND69Db-WE0d1ITEiuSjQ>

The sidebar provides a number of other videos that cover topics ranging from soil health to Strike Force actions in several states. The series labeled “The American Land” is particularly interesting. Take a look.

This week, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) released preliminary information from the [2012 Census of Agriculture](#) in conjunction with USDA’s Ag Outlook Forum. Preliminary data from the 2012 Census of Agriculture highlight several important trends regarding national and state farm numbers, land in farms, and farmer demographics:

- The 2012 Census showed that between 2007 and 2012, the amount of land in farms in the United States continued a slow downward trend, declining from 922 million acres to 915 million. This is only a decline of less than one percent and is the third smallest decline between censuses since 1950.
- In 2012, the United States had 2.1 million farms, down 4.3 percent from the previous Census in 2007. In terms of farm size by acres, this continues an overall downward trend in mid-sized farms, while the smallest and largest-size farms held steady.
- Principal farm operators are becoming older and more diverse, following the trend of previous censuses. In 2012, the average age of a principal farm operator was 58.3 years, up 1.2 years since 2007, and continuing a 30-year trend of steady increases. The Census also accounted for more minority-operated farms in 2012 than in 2007.

Since the first Census of Agriculture in 1840, the census has been the leading source of facts and figures about American agriculture. Conducted every five years, the census provides a detailed picture of United States farms and ranches and the people who operate them. It is the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every state and county in the United States.

🔔 FY 2015 Budget – The President’s FY 2015 budget will be released on March 4th, with the more detailed budget appendix a week later.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Warren M. Lee, wandblee@comcast.net

The winter of 2014 has been colder and snowier for most of the country, but not for us in Arizona. We’ve gone over 60 days with no precipitation and above-average temperatures. It has been great for us enjoying the weather as snowbirds, but not for the water supply and potential fire dangers. We hope our membership have weathered the many storms and are safe.

ARCSE President’s Award for Outstanding Community Service

Nominations and appropriate documentation (no more than two pages) of the qualifications for the nominee for this award are to be made by the ARCSE state representative and sent to their Regional Vice President by **May 15th**.

Purpose: To publicly recognize ARCSE Members who have distinguished themselves in sustained and outstanding contributions in local, state, or 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 the SCS/NRCS.

Criteria for Nomination: Nominee 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, schools, youth organizations, SWCDs, NRCS Earth Teams, environmental groups, service organizations, or other units of government.

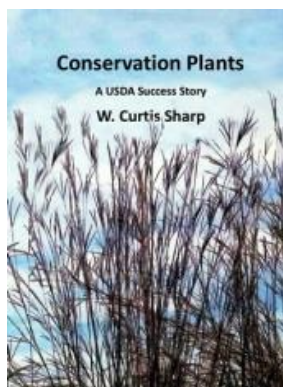
Annual Luncheon: Please mark your calendar for the ARCSE Annual Luncheon to be held on Monday July 28, 2014 in Chicago, Illinois. More details will be provided in the May newsletter.

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

"Do you know how to spell HTML?"



If you have web editing and publishing skills and would like to help support a very worthwhile organization, please contact any of the following people who can provide more information. If you think that you, or another member, or a soon-to-be-retiree might be interested, please take a look at the web site, www.arcse.org, to get a feel for its content and depth of the site. If you have questions or recommendations, please contact either: **Warren Lee**, wandblee@comcast.net; **Ron Marlow**, arcse@cox.net; or **Jerry Bernard**, jbernard.nrcsret@gmail.com.



A BIT OF HISTORY

Douglas Helms, Historian

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Conservation Plants: A USDA Success Story

Curtis Sharp, retired National Leader of the Plant Materials Program, has published his 494-page history of the plant materials program. When the Soil Erosion Service began its work in 1933, there were few plants available in the needed quantities for conservation work on farmlands. Furthermore, the potentials of both native and exotic plants for rehabilitation of farmlands were largely unknown. Sharp tells the story of the testing, selection, and production of foundation materials that made Hugh Hammond Bennett so proud.

Sharp drew on his personal experiences gained over a career in the plant materials program. He researched thoroughly the documents and publications written by the plant materials specialists. And I can attest that he researched the materials in the National Archives.

Sharp wrote the first 155 pages chronologically; and followed that with 229 pages that are arranged by Plant Material Center and cover their histories, the people, and contributions. The remaining 200 pages, organized in chapters and appendices, are devoted to various subjects and topics. A few of the subjects are observational nurseries, leaders, top-performing cultivars, discontinued conservation plants, and the case for introduced plants.

The volume is available at amazon.com. For information on price and Sharp's description of the volume, follow this link:

http://www.amazon.com/Conservation-Plants-USDA-Success-Story/dp/0615870058/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1392573219&sr=8-1&keywords=sharp%2C+curtis

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Ron Marlow, Secretary Treasurer

Please welcome the following new members to the ARCSE:

Watson, Dee	SD
Johnson, James	IL
Harbinson, Gerald	NC
Bingham, Dean	NC
Fillmore, Matthew	OR
Kuenstler, William	SNTSC/TX
Schmelzer, George	OH

ARCSE REPRESENTATIVES

Ron Marlow

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.

Many of you are planning your annual state retiree social function. 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.

Wondering If Your Dues Have Been Paid For 2014?

If your dues are not current, you should receive an ivory-colored postcard by early March. Please watch for it. Postcards are being mailed to the 148 members who have not paid their 2014 dues.

If you receive a printed newsletter, you may also check the mailing label. If the number above and to the right of your name is "13", "C13", or "13S" your dues are due! Numbers like "C14", "14", or higher indicate that you do not owe dues. Numbers "999" indicate life members and you do not owe dues. Numbers "995-998" indicate those who are not members but are receiving a complimentary newsletter.

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

Newsletter Photo Guidance

Jerry Bernard, Editor

If you are sending pictures with your emailed news items, please see the suggested standards shown below to assure that we continue to have good quality images in the newsletter. Hard copy pictures may also be submitted, which I will scan and include in the newsletter. If you have any questions or need help, please contact me. Thanks!

- Please send pictures as JPG files as attachments to your news text. Pictures embedded in email text message or in pdf or MS-Word file may not be clear or useable.
- Minimum resolution of 150 dpi.
- Minimum picture size of 4 inches W or L (No thumbnail pictures, in other words).
- Picture should not be out of focus and should be of good quality.
- Pictures of people should have caption names. All pictures need a brief caption (location, etc.).
- Editor will crop, resize, and include or discard pictures as needed for the newsletter.

ARIZONA

Karl Klingelhofer, ARCSE Representative

Email: krklingel@aol.com

Marion Strong, Tempe—I am going to the Seattle area on Feb. 21st to attend the Honor Court for my grandson, **Nathan**, who completed the work for Eagle Scout rank earlier this winter. He is a senior in Rainier Christian School. I will spend about a week with my son and his family in Kent, WA.

I am on the list for Honor Flight to go to DC to visit the World War II Memorial. It is a three-day trip, flying from Sky Harbor to Baltimore and busing to Washington. I leave here on March 18th and return on the 20th. I am looking forward to the trip as I've never seen the monument.

Galen Bridge, Tucson—Reporting from Waikiki Beach with much sympathy and concern for my good friends in the snowy north and sometimes the south. Spring will eventually arrive. The weather in southern Arizona has been as unusually warm as the East has been cold.

I am joined here in Hawaii with **Tom and Jeanne George**, **Karen's daughter Tracie** and my new friend **Erwina Peterson**. Erwina lives in Yakima Washington. Her Dad retired from SCS after a 30-plus-year career in Nebraska. It truly is a small world.

A few weeks ago we took a trip to the Copper Canyon region of Mexico. After all the adverse news and political posturing we hear about the border crossing issues with Mexico, it was refreshing to get away from the border towns and enjoy the real Mexico and its fun-loving people. It was a fun, exciting, safe and scenic trip.

Glen Johnson, Glendale AZ—I'm still enjoying warm, summer-like weather in Glendale, AZ but am starting to think about returning to the farm in North Dakota, but not until the temperature there rises and snow melts.

Karl Klingelhofer, Tucson—I made it to Maine and back for Christmas with family there. Had a very white Christmas, and one leg of flying got canceled and had to take a 3-hour bus trip. But it was a good trip.

Ken and Connie Cookson of Tucson were in Palm Springs, CA over the New Year's holiday. Highlights of their time there included a visit to the Joshua Tree National Park. They did wine-tasting at some wineries in the Temecula Valley. The highlight here was a champagne brunch at the Wilson Creek Winery. They did some hiking in the Coachella Valley Preserve, an area where the San Andreas fault occurs. They could see water bubbling up from the fault area. Another highlight of the visit was to go to the Follies Last Hurrah. This is the last year for the Follies as it will be closing for good in April, after 40 years. The weather was great during the time in Palm Springs, and they had a very good time.



Ken and Connie Cookson, Tucson, AZ

CALIFORNIA

Bill Ward, ARCSE Representative

Email: bluegrassbillward@gmail.com

Hello from California to all our fellow SCS and NRCS retirees across the nation. We have news of 2 retirees who have recently passed on. **Joyce Echaide**, former Administrative Assistant/Secretary with our SCS Soils Staff in Davis CA passed away February 11. Joyce was 63 and was **Danny Maxim's** domestic partner (retired CET, CA) for 35 years. As was her wish, an informal gathering to celebrate her life will be held at a later date.

Gene Renken, former SCS/NRCS Information Technology specialist recently passed away January 27 at the age of 69. Gene worked in Iowa, California and Washington, DC where he retired in 2007. More information is available in the Davis Enterprise obituary link included here: <http://www.davisenterprise.com/obits/gene-allen-renken/>.

Our California retirees continue to enjoy a first Wednesday of the month lunch and a third Wednesday of the month breakfast for folks to get together and catch up with the latest on what is going on in our group. Here is a shot of our January lunch group.

Most of you know that California has been in a drought with no rain for more than a month and essentially no snow up in the mountains for skiers and other winter sports fans. We finally got our first good storm in over a month near the end of January. **Helen Flach** took quick advantage of the new supply of snow, making a trip to the mountains to do some snowshoeing with friends.



California Retirees at January luncheon



Helen Flach enjoying snow-shoeing

Darwyn Briggs and I are not the only California retirees who love to fish. **Gary Bullard** is another and he recently had some good luck landing this really nice King salmon on the Sacramento River. Gary said that even with the drought we had a good run of Salmon this last fall.

On January 28th my wife **Dana and I** celebrated our 36th wedding anniversary. We celebrated with a trip to the North Coast of California, staying several days in a small cottage in Trinidad, CA located between Eureka and Crescent City. We really enjoyed taking our time to explore the many beautiful sites along the coastline and inland redwood forests. Of course, we took lots of pictures and I even got a little fishing in.

Best Wishes from the California SCS/NRCS Retirees!



Gary Bullard with a nice 23+ pound King Salmon



Trinidad Harbor within walking distance of the cottage where Bill and Dana Ward stayed.



Bill and Dana Ward on the beach at Trinidad CA

IDAHO

Sharon Norris, ARCSE Representative

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Idaho retirees gathered Nov. 21, 2013, at the Golden Corral in Boise for lunch. Attendees included **John Kendrick, Paul Malone, Frank Fink, Jerry and Wayne Faude, Jim Cornwell, Gene and Bev Crisman, Stan Hobson, Jerry and Carol Larson, Paul Calverley, Lee Holstine, and Sharon Norris**. Paul gave a brief report on the Idaho Assn. of Soil Conservation Districts' annual meeting that he had recently attended as a supervisor on the Ada SCD Board. He said that **Mike Somerville** (retired STC, Arizona) is vice chair of the Canyon SCD Board.

Our luncheon on Dec. 19 was attended by **Jim Cornwell, Paul Malone, Paul and Harriet Calverley, Jerry and Carol Larson, Evan and June Merrill, Amos Garrison, Stan and Kathy Hobson, Joe Icenhower and Sharon Norris**.

Attending the Jan. 23 luncheon were **Art Shoemaker, Stan Hobson, Jim Cornwell, Amos and Ruth Garrison, Darrell Gallup, Dennis Froeming, Frank Fink, Paul Malone, Wayne Faude, and Sharon Norris**. We were saddened to learn of the death of **LeRoy Zollinger's wife Sharon** on Jan. 11, 2014. LeRoy is our retired state conservation engineer.

On a happier note, we had fun talking about **Paul Calverley's** appearance on the Jan. 13 episode of PBS' Antiques Roadshow which had been filmed in Boise a few months earlier. Paul brought a table in for appraisal that had been passed down through his family for over 200 years. It originated with Paul's great, great, great grandfather who had been in the New York Continental Army and was later named the first judge in the Northwest Territory. The card table was appraised by **Leslie Keno**, who said it was one of nicest things he had seen on the show and described it as "amazing." The 1790 Federal Inlaid Card Table, made of striped tiger cherry wood in the Philadelphia area, was estimated to be worth \$10,000-\$20,000 at auction.

GEORGIA

Edward Nealy, ARCSE Representative

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Although the day started out as a record low of 18° F for this date, January 23, 2014, twenty-two former SCS/NRCS employees and spouses met at Ryan's Steakhouse in Athens, GA, for the group's quarterly luncheon. Attending were **Jean Anderson, Betty and Samuel Bell, Ann Graham, Edna Firor, Edward Ealy, Ellen and George Norris, Gene and Cecil Martin, Judy and Jim Helm, Kitty Stevens, Marge Lucas, Bill White, Vivian Patten, Don and Evelyn Stewart, Bob and Frances, Jimmy Dean, and Earl Brantley**.

Inspired by an article in a previously ARCSE newsletter, **Edna Firor**, mentioned to **George Norris** that a member of an Athens, GA, aviation family (**Pat Epps**) was the co-leader in search of the P-38 fighters that were forced to crash-land on Greenland's ice cap on July 15, 1942. George led a very interesting discussion of the mission to recover one of the crashed P-38 fighter planes, and Pat Epps' ties to Athens, GA. It was also reported that another Athens local, **Marion Strong**, helped with restoration of the recovered P-38 fighter, renamed "*Glacier Girl*." The Epps family continues to be active in Athens and Atlanta aviation. The airport (Epps Field) in Athens, GA, is named for this family of aviators.

For those interested in learning more about the Lost Squadron, you can read the book, **The Lost Squadron: A True Story** by David Hayes or view the documentary, **Time Machine: The Hunt for the Lost Squadron**. Below are links to this documentary. For those who do not care to watch the four-part documentary on You Tube, you may be able to check out the DVD at your local library or purchase it from Amazon for around \$20. I saw the documentary on PBS a few years ago and thought it was very interesting.

Time Machine: The Hunt for the Lost Squadron

Part 1: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uYI4rHloOPU>

Part 2: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ssixlY06H14>

Part 3: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3IQBPash8SU>

Part 4: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pLU967lyQI>

Bill White reported that **Bill Player**, retired conservationist, suffered a stroke and is recuperating at home. Also, **Will Thorpe**, SCS retiree, was spotted working at the Clarke County Courthouse. Will said he would be able to fit the quarterly luncheons into his schedule, but he would need to be reminded two weeks in advance.

It was good to see **Jimmy Dean**, retired Georgia State Agronomist, at this meeting. I hope Jimmy can join us for future luncheons.

The next meeting is schedule for 12 o'clock noon, April 21, 2014, at Ryan's Steakhouse and Grill in Athens, GA. Bob Wilkes has agreed to make contacts prior to the meeting.

ILLINOIS

Dale Benz, ARCSE Representative

Email: daleab@sbcglobal.net

A reminder to SCS/NRCS retirees of our gathering for lunch and visiting at Ryan's Family Steakhouse in Champaign on April 3rd. We hope many of you can be there.

We are saddened by the death of **Dwight Esarey** on January 15th. Dwight retired as the District Conservationist at Fairfield. He was involved in many activities both before and after his retirement. Dwight was the organizer of the quarterly retiree gatherings at Mt. Vernon for many years. We offer our sympathy to Dwight's family. His death notice is in the memorial section of this newsletter.

KANSAS

Deanne Lull, ARCSE Representative

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Be careful what you wish for as you may receive it. As I prepared the Kansas news articles for the last newsletter, I was dreaming of a white Christmas. Not only did we have a white Christmas, we had a white New Year's and a white Valentine's. Our area has received several pretty snows over the last couple of months and has been spared the ice and blizzards that much of the country has received.

Two retirees living in Salina, **Gerald Karnes** and **Lawrence Wetter**, celebrated their 80th birthdays shortly after the first of the year. Both worked on the Water Resources Planning Staff in the Kansas State Office with **Gerald** retiring in 1990 and **Lawrence** in 1993. They continue to be very active in the community by doing a lot of volunteer work.

We have had six join the retiree ranks. **Loren H. Frees**, Resource Conservationist at the Hutchinson Area Office, retired December 31, 2013. During his career he worked in Great Bend, Clay Center, Osborne, Gove, Dodge City, and Hutchinson. Also retiring on December 31, 2013, was **Ronald L. Rader**, District Conservationist at the Howard Field Office. Retiring on January 3, 2014, was **Robert S. Heller**, Soil Conservation Technician in the Beloit Field Office. He started with our agency in 1974, and acres and acres of waterways and miles and miles of terraces in Mitchell County are a result of his dedication to conservation. **Mark S. Schmidt**, Supervisory District Conservationist in the Abilene Field Office, retired on January 10, 2014. **Susie M. Furgason** retired on January 24, 2014. After serving as a RC&D Coordinator in Lakin, KS, and a Soil Conservationist at the Kansas State Office in Salina, she said it's time to return to Louisiana. Closing out our retirements is **Andy L. Phelps**, District Conservationist in the Russell Field Office, who retired on January 31, 2014. **Andy** started his career in 1983 moving to the Russell Field Office in 1988.

My husband and I had a special Valentine's Day sharing a leisurely lunch, reminiscing, and catching up on family news with several past members of the Water Resources Planning Staff. Attending were staff leaders, **Larry Miles** now living in Round Rock, Texas, and his wife, **Helen**, and **John Reh** of Salina; civil engineering technician, **Gerald Karnes**, and his wife, **Charlene**; and me, the office assistant, also of Salina.

I have learned of only one retiree death from Kansas to report. **Frederick Lagergren** passed away at his home on February 15, 2014. **Fred** worked for the SCS for 35 years, completing his career as District Conservationist at the Lincoln Field Office. His wife **Josephine** preceded him in death.

Although not a retiree but a long-time NRCS employee, **Polly Ann Stallings** passed away on January 16, 2014. **Polly** was a Soil Conservation Technician at the Hoxie Field Office. She had been with NRCS for more than twenty years.

The Kansas SCS/NRCS Retirees Association's annual meeting is coming up on June 27, 2014, at the Quality Inn in Salina, Kansas.

KENTUCKY

Billye M. Haslett, ARCSE Representative

Email: bchaslett@aol.com

Kentucky has six new retirees. All have been invited to join ARSCE and the KY Association of retired SCS/NRCS Employees. Congratulations to the retirees:

- **Phillip Gregory**, Soil Scientist, 1732 Springs Creek RD, Lafayette, TN 37083
- **Kenny Hammond**, Soil Cons. Tech., 25 Hammonds Rd., Jamestown, KY 42629, Hammond.Kenny@gmail.com, 270-866-1034

- **Marcia Kelly**, State Office, Resource Conservationist, 1760 Woodlake Road, Stamping Ground, KY 40379
marciainky@gmail.com, 215-589-3655
- **Gaylon King**, Soil Conservation Technician, 457 Jack Mize RD, Cerulean, KY 42215-7601, No Email, 270-625-0661
- **Sue Stone**, Area Resource Conservationist, 2064 Goodsprings Rd., Fredonia, KY 42411, ststone8@gmail.com, 270-625-0666
- **Barry Rankin**, State Office Engineer, bdrankin@aol.com

Fred Alcott, retired DC and Secretary/Treasurer of the KY SCS/NRCS Retiree Association wrote: In Nov. 2013, **June** and I made a mission trip to Jamaica with 7 others from our church. On Feb. 20th, June and I plan to go to Munich, Germany, eventually to the Austrian Alps, in Schlaming for a week of skiing and bible study. Plan to be home early March.

Glenn Kelley, retired State Soil Scientist wrote: **Rosalee** and I just returned from a very interesting 10-day trip to Peru, South America. The Inca culture and the mountain settlement of Machu Picchu were fascinating. We also visited the floating islands made of reeds on Lake Titicaca at about 12,500-ft elevation.

Connie McKinney, retired Contracting Officer, wrote: I got immunizations today for my trip to China with **Kerry**, my oldest daughter, to bring her son to the US. She and her husband, **Tim**, are adopting a 20-month old boy, **Gabe**, who was abandoned as an infant and is now living with a foster family there. Tim is unable to fly because of problems with his ears, so Kerry and I will travel together to the province of Henan in the central part of China. We are awaiting the travel approval, but expect to be leaving around the end of April. I've learned two Chinese words; Grandmother and hello. Should do the job!

J. Allen Parker has joined the SCS/NRCS Retiree Association. He indicated that he was sorry that he was not able to make the 2013 retirees' meeting. He enjoys the newsletter. His address is 909 Autumn Ave., Bardstown, KY 40004-1700.

Dick Quiggins, retired Area Engineer, wrote: 2013 was a good year for **Dick and Joyce Quiggins**. In February we flew to Jamaica for a two-week all-inclusive resort trip. In June we took a tour bus trip to Cape Cod, MA for eight days. In July, we went to a Woodmen of the World (WOW) convention at Jenny Wiley State Park for two days. In October, we spent two days at Carter Caves State Park Resort for Joyce's class reunion. Also in October we attended the SCS retiree meeting at Barren River State Park. In January 2014 we spent two weeks at Siesta Key, FL.

Curtis Rosser, retired DC is doing a lot of volunteer work, and was blessed to have been elected to the local school board, working on my third year and up for reelection.

David Stipes, retired Area Conservationist wrote: I am now a Supervisor on the Madison County Conservation District Board. Also I am working full time for Kentucky River Foothills in Richmond, KY as the Lead Case Manager with a Veterans Assistance program.

Helen Walker, retired Area Clerk has relocated to a group home, after leaving "The Highlands," an assisted living facility, Somerset KY. Helen's new address is 900 North Main Street, Somerset, KY 42503. Please take time to send Helen a card.

Harold Woodlee, retired Area Conservationist wrote: Our son is working in New Mexico and Arizona and seems like we are scheduled to go see him every time we have our retirees meeting, so have got to do a better job of scheduling.

I have had bypass surgery. We picked up on the problem at my annual physical, so got it fixed before heart attack time, and they tell me that my heart is in perfect shape. Of course I have all the other ailments that go with overweight and old age, even though I am several pounds lighter than when I retired. Seems there's nothing golden about the golden age.

We're staying busy—can't figure out how I found time for a real job. My mother is 87 now and in fair health. Still have to keep a check on her and keep her well stocked with fudge pop sickles. I also have two cousins who I try to look after. One is in the process of closing down her country store that she opened sometime in the 50's. She will be 97 in July. Her baby sister runs the farm (from her electric wheel chair) and keeps the hired hand on the move. She is 95. It's interesting to say the least.

We're also very active in our church. I'm chairman of the trustees, and that's almost a full time job if you do it right. I think about all my KY co-workers often. Hope I can manage to make the meeting this year.

In Memory: **L. J. Northern**, retired Area Conservationist, age 89, passed away February 17, 2014. Cards may be sent to L. J.'s wife, **Roberta Northern** at 200 East 10th Street, Russellville, KY 42276. Keep the Northern Family in your thoughts and prayers.

http://www.youngfuneralhomes.net/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o_id=2421855&fh_id=12983

MAINE

John J. Simon, ARCSE Representative

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The retirees of ARCSE in Maine have a 9am breakfast on the second Tuesday of every month at Dysarts in Hermon. Occasionally noon luncheons are held in the summer as interest demands.

The January 14th breakfast was attended by **Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon, Bob Lagassey**, and **John Simon**. For Maine it was a nice cool day at 39.9° F. The period from January 11th through the 17th has been warm with the days in the mid 40° F and evenings in the 20s and 30s. Quite a change from December and February.

On January 13th it reached 45.3° F, with sun and very little breeze. Luckily this was the day I had scheduled to have a new Fujitsu mini-split heater and AC device installed on my house. It began working at 1 pm. Since that time it has worked through 7 days below zero. Today (the 18th of February) it was -9.2° F. Three other days it was slightly below -5° F. Seemed to work fine through them all. I put in a separate electric meter on the Fujitsu unit so I could tell exactly how much KWH's it uses. I would recommend them to anyone south of Bangor, Maine. A mini-split is not a backup system as it requires electricity. I have a propane backup heater that requires no power—thank you very much. I also have a computer control on the oil furnace which tells me how much time it runs each day and oil usage. Kinda handy for measuring oil saved. Finished reading the book "*The Worst Hard Time*" by Timothy Egan which is about the era of the Dust Bowl. Wow! What a book! All SCSers should read it to appreciate how SCS got its start. It is unbelievable how much the folks in that area suffered.

Talked to **Dennis Erinakes** in the Fort Worth area and apparently we are doing the same type of thing to the high aquifer that under lies six states (I believe parts of Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Kansas, Colorado, and Nebraska are involved). Dennis is on a ground water district board of directors and deals with this water shortage problem directly.

Maine lost one of its senior conservationists on January 7th, **Sterling Dymond** who had turned 93 in November 2013. He died of complications from Parkinson's disease. I was Sterling's first supervisor with SCS in the mid-1960s when he came over from the closing of the SAC base at the Bangor airport.

Art Taylor finally got his new super insulated home closed in from the elements for the winter, but the roofers were unable to finish his metal roof installation. Too **** cold. He is keeping the inside of the house in the 40s with a kerosene heater going for now. He will finish the home in the spring/summer and be in by the fall (he hopes). **Bill Moulton** informed me that he fell down on the ice during that brutal ice storm we had in December around Christmas time and broke his left leg and damaged his left wrist. He will have the winter to heal, but it makes running a wood stove not much fun at all. He has a son, **Peter**, who lives nearby who can hopefully keep the inside wood bin full.

The February 11th breakfast was attended by **Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon, Ray Voyer**, and **John Simon**. Ray informed the group that he has had a whole-house heat pump in his house for several years. He went through some growing pains with the industry but it works like a charm now. It has an electric element that kicks in at very low temperatures. Still very, very economical even way up here in Maine.

I explained to the group my first 3 weeks of experience with my mini-split. It looks like the pay-back will be more like 6 to 7 years rather than the 3 to 4 years everyone is talking about. We will see better after the winter is over.

Ray informed us that his kidney transplant of a year or so ago is doing fine and he feels great. His brother who donated the kidney is also doing well. Surely an example a great act of love that is becoming more and more common. Ray is in a follow-up monitoring research program for improving the knowledge base on transplants.

Elaine Tremble of the state office lost her Dad on February 7th. He was 95 and had lived a very full rewarding life with a lovely family and grandkids. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. For those interested, her father's name is **George F. Parent**. He was born and raised in Brewer, ME. His obituary was in the Bangor Daily News but is probably archived by now. You can still get it, I am sure. That's all for now. 'Till next time keep warm and God bless you all

MASSACHUSETTS

Jim Wesolowski, ARCSE Representative

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Well, it's been another quiet two months here on the fringe of the frozen tundra. The snow on the ground is just over 18 inches deep, and it's melting a bit every day. The sap buckets are on the maple trees, and a lot of the sugar shacks are boiling sap. **Betty** saw a robin the other day, and I'm thinking maybe it made a poor travel decision but, who knows.

On January 31, 2014 **Kathy Price**, Cartographic Technician in the Holden office, joined the ranks of happy retirees after 28 years of federal service. **Kathy** earned her master's degree in geography and served for two years in the Peace Corp in

West Africa before joining SCS/NRCS. Her professional career covered the time of ink lines on paper aerials up through the current electronic soil surveys. Diligence, attention to detail, and concern for quality were hallmarks of **Kathy's** work.

Kathy has begun a stained-glass project and some quilting but will soon be getting started with the joy of building a house in Wiscasset, ME. Best wishes to **Kathy**.

MINNESOTA

Marlene Mechelke, ARCSE Representative

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A small group of retirees met for lunch on Wednesday, January 8th, at Pippins in Roseville: **Dave and Kay Breitbach, John Handler, Vic Ruhland, Robin Martinek, Susan Ploetz, and Marlene Mechelke.**

Pete Cooper, Hydraulic Engineer, retired on December 3, 2013. During the holidays, **Pete and Rina** spent a couple weeks in Michigan visiting parents, siblings and old high school friends. They're planning on moving out to SW Utah (Kanab) and rent a condo for six months. Much of their time now is being spent getting stuff into a storage unit and deciding what to take out there (besides the two cats). This part of Utah is their favorite part of the country with the Grand Canyon, Zion and Bryce National Parks and Grand Staircase National Monument all within a stone's throw. Rina, who still works, will be teleworking. Pete plans to explore (hike and mountain bike) and volunteer for the BLM. After the six-month stint, they will either return to Minnesota or Michigan—not quite sure yet. Sounds like a great start to your retirement!

George Zimmerman, Bemidji, MN, has an interesting website all of you should check out: northwoodsfishcarver.weebly.com. George has been busy fishing around Bemidji, shot competitive archery, and followed his hobby, carving fish. Check out his website and see what his hobby has produced. If you're interested in his work you can contact him at gmzimme@gmail.com.

Vic Ruhland reports: "What to do during this extreme cold spell here in Minnesota as a retiree? Well, how about staying indoors and reminisce about the past. That's exactly what I did. I dug out the video of my retirement party and relived the toasts, both the nice ones and those not so nice from my co-workers, supervisor, family and personal friends. It was great seeing/hearing all those people again—some of whom are no longer with us. I saw where my comments should have been more polished. At any rate I was living in the past. It brought tears to my eyes.

"And when the party was over, retiree **Ron Vorwert** started playing "**So Ein Tag**" (Such a Day), a favorite German tune, on his button box accordion. The tears really started to flow then! But I had to get over it in a hurry. For you see I had to leave my warm home and head out to pick up my spouse at work. She had convinced me to take her to work and drop her off right outside the door of her work place, rather than having her drive, park, and walk some distance in the cold to the door."

Dave and Kay Breitbach report they have put their house up for sale and are planning to move south. Well, not that far south, just back to where they met 53+ years ago at Ames, IA, (Iowa State University). The real reason they chose Ames is they have two granddaughters plus the girls' mom and dad in Urbandale, IA. In addition, a first great grandchild will arrive to parents in Ames in mid-April. They have a house under construction that should be finished in late February, 2014. Will miss the MN retirees group but feel it is time to move closer to family.

Cathy McCormack and husband, Don, are downsizing and rightsizing in 2014. Cathy says her life has changed 100%. With Don's health deteriorating a bit, they are moving to a tiny house in White Bear Lake, leaving their home at Marine on St. Croix. They're down to one car, no boats, no motor home and took care of the trust. Cathy says she is grateful for the blessings she has had, "my job with USDA being one of those."

Some newly retired folks from Minnesota, all from the State Office: **Laurie Otte**, Management Services Specialist; **Pete Cooper**, Hydraulic Engineer; and **Mike Pageler**, Soil Conservationist.

On January 6th we lost a good friend and fellow retiree, **Justin Jeffery**, or "Just Jeff" as he was known. **Howard Midje and John Peterson** were kind enough to share some information about Jeff. Born and raised in Benson, MN, Jeff was a classmate and friend of **John Peterson** in high school and college (South Dakota State U.). Both started with the Pilot Watershed project in 1953, between their junior and senior year in high school.

Jeff first worked on the Chippewa/Shakopee and tributaries pilot watershed which was one of the first watersheds in Minnesota. This watershed included the Hawk Creek and the Chetomba cutoff. When the first Rural Conservation and Development project was started, Jeff was assigned to the WES MN RC&D project office in Alexandria, MN. Construction projects included the Swift Falls, Dry Wood Creek, and Mario Mill Pond dams. Many other projects were developed including fish barriers along the Crow Wing River to trap carp/rough fish. A private firm collected the carp and started making carp bologna called "carp-ole" as part of the RC&D project.

Jeff was moved to Brooklyn Center to become the area engineer for Area 4 at that time. Jeff was excellent at providing training to the whole area in the principles of engineering. He also provided training to the SWCD employees. When Jeff

retired he went to work for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. He continued his training of the SWCD employees throughout all of Minnesota. Jeff was a strong advocate of providing training to his subordinates so they could reach their potential and become as productive as possible to the organization.

After his retirement Jeff provided rides to his friends in Benson to their doctor appointments in Willmar and the Twin Cities. He was a kind, considerate gentleman. In the good weather he drove down to Roseville to have lunch with his "old buddies." We will miss him!

MISSOURI

Dave Rastorfer, ARCSE Representative

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Mike Blaine: It's been a long cold winter in NEMO. I am anxious to get the snow off and be able to work on the farm. I have spent some time this winter studying aerial photos and deciding where to concentrate my efforts this spring. I am looking forward to some outdoor work! I hit a huge buck deer last November on the third day of deer season. We were on the way home after hunting that day. It did almost \$8,000 damage to my truck. We had a terrible time getting a fender from Dodge. It finally arrived in mid-February. I am really looking forward to getting my truck back! I picked up the deer after hitting it, notified the local Conservation Officer, and butchered it! That is really expensive deer meat! I noted each package that went to the freezer as "Road Kill." LOL, Have a great spring, everyone!

Jess Epple: Indian Country weather (Oklahoma) has been awful cold, and now it's awful nice. At the beginning of hay feeding season we were able to utilize 150 acres of standing hay (that we had not cut for hay or grazed) and this has helped with saving both hay and the labor of feeding it. That worked well until ice/snow/below freezing temps arrived! Now we are feeding a lot of large round hay bales and hoping for an early, good grass-growing Spring! Earth quakes in Oklahoma are becoming more frequent, but most are under 4 on the "R" scale, and we are thankful for that. Adding to the potential disasters are wildfires. Low humidity, strong winds, dry conditions and lots of tall dry grass have recently caused very destructive fires in our region. We have been fortunate. The nearest large grass fire has been 20 miles from our ranch. We are moving forward with the Honey Springs Civil War Battlefield project, located west of our ranch. The funds for building a new visitors center should be available soon. USDA-Rural Development will be loaning the majority needed. We believe the National Park Service will eventually be interested in assuming this Historic Civil War Battlefield site. Be well everyone. May the wind always be at your back, keep smiling and eating Angus beef (in a responsible manner).

Keith Davis: I have stayed busy working on my shop, with a day of rest here and there to cut firewood. I'm pretty well finished with the inside, and it will be functional when I run an underground electrical line down to it. My wife's mother is staying with us for the rest of the winter, and my mother in Higginsville has health issues, so I've spent considerable time helping **Eunice** take care of them. I'm anxious to wet a line when the ice leaves.

Bill and Ruby Riggs had an eventful December. The first week of December we took a bus trip to San Antonio, TX. We visited the Alamo, the River walk, a mission, and the SAS shoe factory. We enjoyed a meal at the top of the Dome of The Americas and temperatures in the 80s. Bill had medical training at the Ft. San Houston Army Base in 1959 and had not been back since then. We encountered an ice storm in Dallas and were delayed in getting back home. **Ryan** graduated from Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville on December 13th with **Russ** and **Rachelle** home to help him celebrate. We rejoiced to have all three grown children home at the same time. In fact, Rachelle and our younger granddaughter **Raena** spent 10 days with us. **Jon, Rachelle, and Raena** traveled with us to Caruthersville to celebrate New Year's with **Russ, Melinda, and Katie** for another family reunion, while Ryan traveled to Denver for a Crusade for Christ Christmas convention. In early January we moved Ryan to Lawrence, KS, where he has a job and is taking post baccalaureate classes at the University of Kansas. Since then, we have stayed home and watched the snow fall.

Fred Gilbert: We took a break from this bitter winter in New York by visiting our daughter and son-in-law's home in Arizona. Our son just finished an MPA at MIZZOU, and he joined us for our stay. Our arrival back at the Syracuse airport reminded me of the walk-in freezers we used to rent in Clinton.

Alton Taylor: We are trying to stay warm down here in Texas, but at least we missed it the previous 28 years since I retired. That's a Texas Tale! The winter is not near the concern as rain that seems to avoid much of Texas. Our irrigation well is dropping 7 to 8 feet each of the last few years, and there is only 40 feet of water-filled sand left. Maybe by spring break it will warm up and Grand kids will be down. It has been 8 years since we had a new Grand kid. Is that another sign of old age?

Jim Rickman: Another banner year with no accomplishments, but a good time. **Jere** and I went to Burma and returned with no exotic diseases. We went to Panama in January, and it was a lot warmer there. We're still planning on going to Tanzania and Zanzibar in October and November. We have a granddaughter going to U of Texas, and a grandson has been

accepted to Texas Tech for next year. Time sure flies. Hope all is well with you and the rest of the Missouri crew. You all were sure a fine group for me to have had the pleasure to work with.

Jack Schneider: As with everyone in Missouri, the weather has kept us inside most of the time, although there is a lot of outside work I would like to do on the farm. We are keeping in shape with our usual workouts at the Y, though. We have an upcoming trip in March to stay with our grandson **Felix** while his mother is at a conference, then the wedding of our son **Keith** in Toronto in April. Keith's fiancé is a dedicated runner. She was the first female over the finish line in a 100-mile run in Arizona in January. She has even a longer one coming up in Vancouver. Winter be gone!

John McCarthy: I've been up to my knees with snow, half frozen toes and nose and am really getting tired of the whole thing.

Dennis Shirk: Hi all. Yes we've had a bit of winter. We've been staying pretty close to home. **Lois** fell on Jan. 24 and broke her left arm. She is coping with a large clunky cast. I have become chief cook and bottle washer. We have plenty of wood close to the house, which I am thankful for. We have a camping and trail ride planned for the first week in May. See ya down the trail.

Hugh Curry and wife Sharon (Wintering in Arizona), **Ken McManus**, and **Steve Black** had lunch in Scottsdale. The outdoor temperature was about 80° F. They enjoyed lunch and bored **Sharon** with a lot of SCS tales. **Don Paulus** was invited, but he had a pre-paid golf game and had to bow out. Weather continues to be fantastic, but **Hugh and Sharon** have to leave for Columbia in a week.



In Scottsdale, AZ: Steve Black, Missouri Area Conservationist; Hugh Curry, Missouri State Conservation Engineer; and Ken McManus, State Conservationist in Arizona-- a few years into retirement.

Lane Thurman: The Springfield area retirees had a really good meeting this afternoon at the Golden Corral. Eleven retirees joined in really good conversation around the tables today. **Forest Tindall** was there with his right arm in a sling and had to eat left-handed. Not an easy thing to do when you are right-handed, but he got it all down and he had a friend with him, **Marilyn. Claris Wildermuth** was there with her usual good humor, as was **Mary Louis Igert**, our "Informer." She sends all the notices of meeting out to our retirees each quarter. Also **Tom DeWitt, Jim Andrews, Ken Benham, Laura Cowart and Lane and Nancy Thurman** were present. **Robert Paul**, a recent retiree from Carthage joined us and will be attending all our future meetings. He was recently the DC in Carthage, MO. He and I had some good reminiscing as we are both from the Central Louisiana area. He grew up in Pineville, LA, and I grew up in Alexandria, LA, just across the Red River from each other. But a lot of time elapsed between our times there. It was an enjoyable meeting for all.

The Columbia area retirees had their quarterly breakfast on February 12 at the Country Kitchen in Columbia. Those in attendance were **Richard and Marjorie Koenig, Odie Swanegan, Bob Herschbach, John and Carol McCarthy, Frank Miller, Robert Hummel, Cordes Potter, Don and Barb Williams, Mike Wells, John Turner, Alan Wolfe, Neil and Louise Randall, Bill Pauls and Dave Rastorfer.**

MONTANA

Dick Gooby, ARCSE Representative

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Montana Big Sky Report

Scott Hoag Report: Scott and Nancy spent the winter in Bozeman with snow and cold that we haven't seen in a while. Nancy continues to write while Scott skis and prepares taxes for seniors through AARP. Family, son, daughter and granddaughter, spent four days skiing with Papa and wore him out—skiing all day is not the same routine as ski a couple of hours with the old guys, coffee, ski a couple more hours and go home. They've made a couple of short trips—one to see family at Christmas and one to Yellowstone for a weekend at Mammoth.

Gordon Decker Report: Kathy and I are both in Physical Therapy, me for back and knee problems and Kathy for knee problems. We're coming along but still hobbling, going to Stevensville High Basketball games and First Grader Games (they are the most fun—no pressure) with High School Divisionals coming up this weekend.

Otherwise, just keeping the home fires burning, plowing snow, and slipping around on lots of ice, everywhere. That's what happens when we have below-zero one week and well-above-zero the next.

Jim Johnson Report: I did not make breakfast, since weather changed the day, and it conflicted with the regular monthly board meeting with NARFE. We're enjoying winter, but have nothing special to report.

Jim's wife Joan told me the reason Jim didn't make the breakfast was that he was cross-country skiing from his home to the restaurant and somehow he put the wrong wax on his skis and they stuck to the snow so bad that he could hardly move. Consequently, when he got to the restaurant everyone had left.

Gooby Ranch Report: You can't believe the change in weather here in the Big Sky Country. Two weeks ago we got up to 54° F, and I was able to sit on the deck with a cup of tea while Mary Ann was feeding the cows and horses. The deck is a good place where I can set up the spotting scope and do time in motion studies on Mary Ann's feeding steps. It works better than going out with her when she feeds, since she is not as self-conscious.

That all changed this week. The temperature dropped to -32° F below and the wind blowing at 36 miles an hour. The wind chill factor would freeze a polar bear. Mary Ann has to wear everything she owns when she goes out to feed. I would help her, but every day I have something that I have to be doing when it's time to feed. Mary Ann always heads out to feed right after she gets my breakfast ready.

Also I think it is important that I stay in the house and keep an eye on Mary Ann in case something happens and she gets caught in a snow drift or gets frozen to a waterer while she is making sure it's working. Twice last year while Mary Ann was lifting a bale to put on the wheel barrow, she tripped and the hay bale fell on her and she couldn't get out from under the bales. Those 1,450 pound bales are hard to push away from you when you are flat on the ground. If both of us were under the bale, no one would know about it and we would freeze to death in this cold weather. This way if Mary Ann doesn't make it back to the house in a reasonable length of time, I can call 911.

NEBRASKA

Norman Kempf, ARCSE Representative

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Breakfast meetings were held on January 15th and February 19th. The meetings were called to order by President, **Gus Dornbusch**. **Joe Chiaretti** and **Cam Loerch** both retired from the National Soil Survey Center recently.

Dave and Sandy Langemeier recently traveled to Colorado to attend their grandson's ceremony as he became an Eagle Scout.

Dave Camper went to Steamboat in Colorado to ski with friends. Dave said that although there was good snowpack on the slopes, snow between here and there was sparse.

Steve and Jan Stover spent time in Rochester with Justin and Jan Murray. Justin was a former economist in the MNTC and asked to be remembered to his Lincoln friends.

Joe Kuenning has been notified that he was selected to join veterans on a trip to WDC. **Steve Stover** reported reaching ¾ of a century in February. **Dana Snyder's wife, Cindy**, will be having both knees replaced next week. **Gary Muckel** had surgery on his hand and is doing well.

Norm Kempf reported that he finally bagged his deer on the final day of the season.

Russ Schultz reported on his efforts to influence state senators to support tax breaks for retirees. He distributed lists of members of the revenue committee and urged everyone to contact them regarding such legislation. He pointed out that Nebraska was one of the few states that did not exclude Social Security from income taxes.

Bob Engel, a former Soil Scientist in the MNTC, attended the breakfast. Bob said he retired in 2007 and had come to breakfast once at that time.

President Gus announced that spring breakfast was being planned for April. Details on arrangements will be announced later.

NEW YORK

Nancy Lee, ARCSE Representative

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Fred Gilbert writes: **Mary and I** took a break from the bitter winter in New York by visiting our daughter and son-in-law's home in Arizona. Our son just finished a MPA at MIZZOU and he joined us for our stay. Our arrival back at the Syracuse Airport reminded me of the walk-in freezer we used to rent in our hometown.

Erwin Rice: We are still tooling around, at least locally. We do have three grandchildren in college and one going To Florida U. next fall. The last one will be ready by 2018, only starts HS next fall. The first 3 are paying their own way. The one that appeared in the TV show, Silhouettes, a couple years ago earned a scholarship to Chambers Univ. in Los Angeles. He is still teaching and dancing while in his sophomore year of college. His older sister is more like me. She is taking environmental science courses but works at Starbucks as a shift manager.

I plan to sign up once again in the New York State Senior Games this June. Once you arrive into your nineties competition drops off and so winning is much easier. It will be the same events, discus and shotput, that I started at 65 years old. You can see that having mapped a million acres helps keep a person in shape. One more thing, our garden is a big activity for me, no maple tree tapping this year.

Nancy Lee writes: Everyone must be frozen or hibernating because of the bitter cold and snow that most of New York has been receiving since I did not receive very many news articles for the newsletter. **Nancy and Mel** have been busy babysitting new grandson since December through the end of February. Great job but a lot of work! Now I know why it is best for babies to be born to younger parents. We have also been attending the Syracuse Orange basketball games and enjoying the longest win streak to start the since for the Orange but the near heart attacks they put the fans through!

Sorry to report that **Robert L. Donahue**, 97, of **Solvay** passed away Wed. January 1st at his home with his two daughters, **Barbara** and **Didi** at his side. He retired from the U.S. Soil Conservation Service in Syracuse in 1976 where he was State Administrative Officer.

NORTH CAROLINA

Jim Canterbury, ARCSE Representative

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North Carolina retirees' breakfast in Raleigh.

Seventeen retirees and guests from the Raleigh area met at Bob Evans Restaurant for breakfast on January 9. This event takes place a couple times each year. Attending the breakfast were **Mark and Brenda Berkland, Bobby Brock, Jim Canterbury, Dr. Maurice Cook, Tommy Cutts, Coy Garrett, John Garrett, Harry and Elaine Gibson, Hubert Hawkins, Mike Hinton, Harold Lile, Cecil Settle, Horace Smith, Larry Stephenson and Rex Tracy. John Garrett** made the arrangements for breakfast.

NORTH DAKOTA

Bob Bird, ARCSE Representative

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Hope your new year is going well, so far. We decided to escape North Dakota's cold for a while, so we headed for Texas. The arctic cold and the jet stream have been pushing south all the way into Texas. So we've had unusually cold weather for Texas including freezing rain and snow around Houston. At least here, there is a chance to get some warmer weather.

We've lost some of our North Dakota SCS family recently. **Sterling Weiker** was a technician at Cando, ND for about 28 years. One of his first jobs was with the Cando Creamery and he took a short course in ice cream making at the University of Minnesota, then came back to be the first to practice that skill in the area. After retirement he continued to help farmers, worked for ASC, served as a county commissioner, served his church, the cemetery board and veterans groups of the Cando American Legion and was a lifetime member of the VFW. He enjoyed fishing, spending time at their cabin, wintering in Arizona for 22 years, and attending all family events.

I first met **Pete Balkan** when I started to work at the Bismarck Area Office out of college. He was moving from Area Engineer to be State Irrigation Engineer. I also found out he was from my hometown of Hillsboro, ND. A new Area Engineer was just starting work in Bismarck and Pete liked to joke that it took two people to replace him and one was from Hillsboro. He spent many years as a Scoutmaster for Boy Scouts even though he had four daughters and was active in his church. After retirement they spent summers at Lake Maud in Minnesota and winters at South Padre Island, TX and later Mission, TX.

When I started work in Bismarck, ND, in 1968 I met **Mina Victor**, the area clerk. She was very proficient in making the office run smoothly, including the ACP and the Great Plains programs. When they reorganized the Areas, she worked in the State Office until retirement. I have kept in touch with Mina and her husband **Otto** who celebrated being 100 years old a couple years ago and then died about a year later. They were a great couple.

That brings me to **Orlin Lyng**, who was DC in Linton, ND before moving to Bismarck. Orlin was a cowboy at heart. He was retired Captain of Bismarck Mounted Police and loved riding in the Badlands of western ND. In his later years, he and his dog, Nelly, performed many dog shows at nursing homes, churches, retirement groups, and schools. He also came to our weekly retiree breakfasts periodically and kept in touch with some of our SCS retirees, especially those who worked at the same time as he did.

We will miss these four retirees and hope that their families will find peace with their passing and recognize their contributions to their families, profession, and communities. It is surprising that we find out more about someone after they die than we knew about them when they were living. I'll try to find out some news about our living retirees in the next newsletter. I'm trying real hard to think spring. It is supposed to warm up here in Texas, and I need to look up a former co-worker while in Texas.

OHIO

Larry Tornes, ARCSE Representative

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While my wife and I were in Florida last week, we had a party at **Kathy Kelly's** house in Punda Gorda. **Kathy Kelly** took this picture. Also, they all had worked together in Michigan.



(from left to right): **Bill Fude, Larry Tornes, Anna Tornes, Loren Brendt, Trudy Brendt, and Ken Kell.**

OREGON

Don Stettler, ARCSE Representative

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The winter quarter lunch for the Oregon retirees was held at The Old Spaghetti Factory at Tanasborne on January 22nd. This restaurant is no longer open for lunch to the general public during the week, so we had the place to ourselves as a private party. A record 38 attended. Those attending included **Stefanie Aschmann, Kay Denfeld, Gary Formanek, Tom Fujii, Bobbie Hart, Cliff and Sandy Hillebrandt, Dave and Joan Johnson, Jack Kanalz, Jon Lea, Ramona "Bunny" Leuthold, Rose Loehr, Jim Marron, Chad McGrath, Terry Mitchell, Bruce Newton, Jeff Repp and Maureen O'Rourke, Lamont and Karen Robbins, Leland Saele, Pat Smith, Pat Straka, Gene Sturtevant, Wendell and Jan Styner, Dick and Kathy Sylvester, Eldena VanderZanden, Dick Verboort, Gail Vogue, Ralph Wadleigh, Don and Diana Wallin, René Walls, Tom Watson**, and yours truly, **Don Stettler**. The group welcomed **Rose Loehr** who was only days from her retirement. **Tom Watson**, Oregon's assistant state conservationist-operations leader, updated us on the status of our favorite USDA agency and its many challenges.

The spring quarter lunch will be held on April 23rd at the Clackamas The Old Spaghetti Factory. Watch for the announcement.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Byron Thompson, ARCSE Representative

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Byron and Mary Thompson got away for a week in Florida in Feb. We were able to visit friends and family members. It was 85 degrees most of the days. We also experienced an earthquake (4.1 magnitude) within 25 miles of our home in SC on Valentine's day and a 3.2 two days later. We are planning our spring meeting in April.

TEXAS (NORTH AREA)

Arnold King, ARCSE Representative

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Texas AlumniNews—January 10, 2014—Edited Version

Marie Garsjo presided over the business meeting. **David Stockbridge** swore in the officers for 2014: **Marie Garsjo** is President, **Dave Drennan** is Vice President, **Arnold King** is 2nd Vice President, **Dennis Gaster** is Secretary Treasurer and Newsletter Editor, **Barbara Gillum** is Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, **Anita Plummer** is Member Relations (Cards and Memorials), and **Joyce Petty** is Newsletter Distributor.

Twenty six persons were present for the December 17th meeting: **Earl Blakley, Dennis Gaster, Don Kapalka, Anita Plummer, Rocky and Del Rockenbaugh, Joyce Petty, Barbara Gillum, Dave Stockbridge, Don and Bernice Newman, Dave Drennan, Dennis Erinakes, Harland and Anita Dietz, Jim and Jere Rickman, Mary Mattinson, Joe Nichols, Morris Lobrecht, Arnold and Willeene King, Bernelle Baxley, Marie Garsjo, Betty Sisson, and Bernie Owen**.

Special thanks go to **Dell Rockenbaugh** and **Jere Rickman** for making this Christmas meeting so enjoyable and to **Earl Blakely** not only for his donation of poinsettias, but also for his yearlong efforts in making the coffee and setting up the meeting room and refreshment tables.

Bernie Owen reported for **Maxine Owen** that the club newsletter had information about the passing of **Dorothy Green** and **Judy Reh**, Maxine's sister-in-law. Maxine could not attend the meeting due to recent surgery for a hernia but she is getting along very well. **Helen Shanklin** was recovering from oral surgery.

Maxine received this note from **Charles Adams**: "Dear friends, my travel is still somewhat restricted due to my heart surgery, yet the recovery is remarkable. I had initially thought about coming to the party today but decided not to make the drive. I do wish each of you and your families a blessed Christmas season and the best for 2014. I look forward to seeing you all in early 2014 at a meeting. With Christian Love, **Charles R. Adams, Prenella A. Adams**."

Dennis Gaster received these notes from **Lu Logan** and **Maurice "Whitey" Spears**: "Best wishes for this New Year. I miss all my former members of the Credit Union. I am staying so busy—I am still Assistant Director at the Benbrook Senior Center. I volunteer at People Helping People and am the chaplain for our local American Legion. I am so thankful that all my family is nearby. I will be a great grandma again in July. This will be number seven! Best wishes to all! **Lu Logan**." Whitey wrote: "I had a stroke last year. Fell off ladder and hurt my shoulder and back in December, but am now back on the golf course. I am a lucky guy! **Whitey Spears**."

Patsy Hocker sent **Jim Rickman** a request for prayers on December 15, 2013. He sent her note to those with e-mail, but wanted to share it with the rest of our members. Patsy wrote: "**Jimmie Hocker** was diagnosed with colon cancer that has spread to the liver and lungs. He had colon surgery Tuesday December 10th and it was successful. He is in the hospital. As soon as he is strong enough they will start chemo. Please remember us in your prayers. Thank you so much." On January 9, 2014 Patsy added the following news. Jimmie is doing really well. Tomorrow he will go to the doctor for his follow-up appointment. He is scheduled to begin chemo on January 14th. Patsy said he stays very busy and has had no pain. Her son had moved to France a year ago, but he and his wife were in Texas for their son's wedding on December 11th and stayed to be with them throughout Jimmie's surgery and chemo. She said they had been so much help to them, and they were amazed at how the timing of their visit worked out.

Marcia Delucchi wrote in December: Having just read the newsletter, and Dave's mentioning of my back surgery, I need to let the group know that I have certainly improved, maybe not 100%, but much better, and I appreciate everyone's concerns. Thanks, Marcia.

Dave Drennan presided over the January business meeting. Some new retirees include **Bill Kuenstler**, **Sue Brooks**, **Doug Seibel**, **Tommie Parham**, **George Peacock**, **Homer Sanchez**, and possibly others.

Fourteen persons were present for the January 17th meeting: **Earl Blakley**, **Dennis Gaster**, **Anita Plummer**, **Dave and Barb Stockbridge**, **Dave Drennan**, **Dennis Erinakes**, **Joe Nichols**, **Bernelle Baxley**, **Bernie and Maxine Owen**, **Bill and Rita Kuenstler** and **Clyde Goodman**.

Dennis Erinakes stated that he will be attending a geology conference in Houston as will **Marie Garsjo**. Dennis also reported that the Ground Water Districts are setting up a 36-foot education trailer to use in educating school children and the public about ground water and geology in Texas.

Bernie Owen continues to be an income tax preparer, but reported that he will no longer be volunteering his time to work with the AARP on tax preparation. **Clyde Goodman** reminded members who take the Star-Telegram to be sure to call the newspaper office to ask for the senior discount on their subscriptions. It is a substantial discount. **Dave Stockbridge** showed members how to put on their shoes! No kidding! Seriously there is a proper way to do it to prevent some foot problems. **Joe Nichols** works with his church in preparing meals for the homeless in Fort Worth.

Bill Kuenstler and his wife **Rita** were guests at the meeting. They have a daughter who is a senior at the University of Texas. Their plan is to eventually leave Texas and move to Florida where they have a home. **Dennis Gaster** announced that his third grandchild is due to be born in July.

Barbara Stockbridge reported a wonderful time spent with their kids over the Christmas holidays. She and **Dave** went with **Jim** and **Jere Rickman** for a fishing trip to Arkansas (antiquing for the ladies). **Dave** reported an air temperature of 11° F. with a water temp. of 64° F. Yes, they did catch some fish.

Estella Williams reports that she has a new role as grandmother. Her daughter **Monica** and husband **Mike** became parents to **Morgan Elise Garrett** on January 16th. She sends her regards to everyone and said she thoroughly enjoys keeping up with everyone through the newsletter. **Henry Bogusch** sends his wish for everyone to have a blessed and prosperous 2014. He and his wife **DeeAnna** are enjoying their grandkids, horses, and volunteering at church.

Don Stelling sent this newsy report: I stay pretty busy taking care of the usual farm chores like fixing fence, building maintenance etc. I'm still driving a 1983 SCS surplus pickup which has served me well for nearly 20 years. I am starting my tenth year assisting funeral homes in Hebron, Deshler, and Bruning, Nebraska. That involves setting up for funeral services and other related activities. I enjoy working with the owners. Otherwise, I would pass it up, as standing out on a Nebraska cemetery with the temperature -10° F isn't enjoyable. We both have some health issues so our out-of-state travel has pretty well ended. **Mary** does a lot of volunteer work with the Thayer Co. Hospital in Hebron, American Legion Auxiliary and others. We both retired from delivering Meals on Wheels. Mary started in Lincoln in the 60s and ended up with over 40 years of service in Nebraska, Maryland, Oregon and Texas. She belongs to two bridge clubs also. I am having trouble with my coffee breaks with respect to time involved. I usually make it to the coffee shop about 7:30 a.m. to catch up with what is happening with the farmers. At 10:00 a.m. the city employees gather at a different location so I need to hear what is happening in "our town." The 3:00 p.m. break covers a little bit of everything. Sometimes my afternoon nap interferes. They enjoy the newsletter.

Ken and **Judy Twitty** are keeping busy with assisting in the care of their great granddaughter **Mieshka**. They take her to preschool at 9:00 a.m. and pick her up at 11:30 a.m. and therefore miss our meetings. They miss seeing everyone each month, but they enjoy the newsletter.

Paul and Pat Larson send their best wishes to the club members. They enjoy the notes about the membership each month (newsletter). Pat is teaching a precept bible study, and Paul is involved in church activities. They wish they lived closer to

their kids and grandkids. Of the six grandchildren, two have graduated from college and one is in college. **Jim Brasfield** reports that he and **LeAnn** are still alive and in good health. He sends thanks to all the club officers for the job they do and for the newsletter.

Janey Milhollin noted that 2013 was not a good year for her health-wise, but that 2014 will be better. Two more of her grandchildren will be graduating from college in May— TCU and UTA. She knows that Quinton would be so proud of them. Another grandchild is out of the Army and going to school, and one is working for Walter Reed Medical Center doing research. **Janey** plays lots of bridge and volunteers a lot. She does try to stay home sometimes. She had six family members for ten days during the Christmas holidays.

Marion and **Audrey Porter** appreciate the newsletter and look forward to seeing members at the April reunion in New Braunfels. **Joan Trew** sends her thanks for keeping her informed (newsletter) and also enclosed a very nice donation to the club.

WASHINGTON

Gerald Richard, ARCSE Representative

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On January 6th SCS and NRCS retirees met for lunch at the Timber Creek Grill and Buffet. Present were: **Jud Melton, Chet Jahn, Harry Riehle, Larry and Jean Edmonds, Gary Johnson, Hans and Kathryn Krauss, Jerry and Phyllis Richard, Carl Vennes and Ken Kaul**. Our February luncheon was canceled. Snow day. Next meeting will be the first Monday in March at the same place. **Ken Kaul** had a good trip to Texas. And was able to do some fishing with **Alton Jones**, a professional bass fisherman. It was a windy day on the lake, and consequently Alton could only go 64 MPH with his new boat. On a calm day he would be cruising around 75 plus. Ken caught 2 of the 12 fish caught that day, and it was the biggest (see photo).

Ralph Schmidt is volunteering some of his afternoons preparing tax returns for seniors. Ralph has been doing this for several years under the AARP tax help program. As you can imagine, he meets some very interesting people. And they are very appreciative for his help, especially when they get a refund!

Bob Olson had a pleasant surprise when **Sylvia Russell** called recently. Says she goes to lunch every Thursday at some restaurant with her nieces and nephews. And when she was at Tomato Street she ran into **Lew Kehne**. He seemed to be doing good. He was with a young fellow who Bob had previously met. He fixes Lew's meals, cleans up the house, runs errands and pretty much takes care of him. **Sylvia** (widow of **Hal Russell**, Asst. St. Con.) is still at the retirement home at Northpointe, and Bob says it was certainly good to hear that she is doing well for someone who will be 102 in June.

We were saddened to hear that **Lee Nelson** had passed on (See Memoriam Section). Lee had been an active member of our retirement group for many years. Lee was tall, handsome, witty, positive, and had a great smile. His stories about serving in the Army Air Force during WWII and participating in some of the longest air missions between Guam and Japan were extraordinary. He and **Gloria** had a section of raw land that they developed into a working irrigated farm as part of the Bureau of Reclamation Columbia Basin Project. Gloria wrote a book about that experience titled "We Built a Farm." We will miss Lee.

Jim Canterbury reports from **Rex Tracy** that **Dick Gallo's** former Pastor called and told him that Dick's triple by-pass heart surgery went well. Dick will be in Rex Hospital for a few days and probably does not need visitors at this time. If you would like to send Dick a card, his home address is: Richard A. Gallo, 104 Ontario Place, Holly Springs, NC 27540



12/3/2013. Ken Kaul holding 5-3/4 pound largemouth bass. Alton Jones, pro bass fisherman on the right

WASHINGTON DC NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

John Peterson, ARCSE Representative

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You know, time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems just yesterday that I was young, just married and embarking on my new life with my mate. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams.

But, here it is—the “back nine” of my life and it catches me by surprise. How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go? I remember vividly seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that “I was only on the first hole” and the “back nine” was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like.

But, here it is—my friends are retired and getting grey. They move slower and I see an older person now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me, but, I see the great change. Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant—but like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd become. Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore—it's mandatory! Cause if I don't on my own free will, I just fall asleep where I sit!

And so, now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did! But, at least I know, that though I'm on the “back nine,” and I'm not sure how long it will last, this I know for sure, that when it's over on this earth—it's over. A new adventure will begin!

Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't —things I should have done, but indeed, there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you're not on the “back nine” yet, let me remind you that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life, please do it quickly! Don't put things off too long! Life goes by quickly. So, do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether you're on the “back nine” or not! You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life, so live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember, and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past!

Life" is a gift to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one.

Live it well! Enjoy today! Do something fun! Be happy! Have a great day.

Remember, "It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver. LIVE HAPPY IN 2014.

Lastly, consider the following:

- *Your kids are becoming you—but your grandchildren are perfect.*
- *Going out is good—Coming home is better!*
- *You forget names—But it's OK because other people forgot they even knew you!*
- *You realize you're never going to be really good at anything—especially golf.*
- *The things you used to care to do, you no longer care to do, but you really do care that you don't care to do them anymore!*
- *You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV blaring than in bed. It's called "pre-sleep."*
- *You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" switch.*
- *You tend to use more 4 letter words: "what?" "when?" "???"*
- *Now that you can afford expensive jewelry, it's not safe to wear it anywhere.*
- *You notice everything they sell in stores is "sleeveless!"*
- *What used to be freckles are now liver spots.*
- *Everybody whispers.*
- *You have 3 sizes of clothes in your closet—2 of which you will never wear.*
- *But Old is good in some things: Old Songs, Old Movies, and best of all, OLD FRIENDS.*

Stay well, "OLD FRIEND!" Send this on to other "Old Friends!" and let them laugh in agreement.

It's Not What You Gather, But What You Scatter That Tells What Kind Of Life You Have Lived. Today is the oldest you've ever been, yet the youngest you'll ever be, so enjoy this day while it lasts.

John Peterson received an award from the Fairfax County, VA, Board of Supervisors for his environmental accomplishments. “**Laura, Willie, Asad, Kory, Bob and John**, thanks so much for being at the BOS meeting this morning. Your presence means a lot to me. I found the attached picture on the BOS website today. Thanks again.”



The Fairfax County, VA, Board of Supervisors recognized John W. Peterson on January 14 for his accomplishments on behalf of the environment, resulting in a National Association of Conservation Districts Distinguished Service Award.

John also reports: "My cataract surgery was at 8:30 this morning, and I was home by 10:30. They said it went well. I visit the ophthalmologist again tomorrow for a check. They will do the other eye in 2-3 weeks. I'll be using eye drops for close to a month. They say no snow shoveling for 2-3 days, and here we are supposed to be getting 6" to 10" of snow today. We'll see how that goes. The ground is covered now. I think they don't want me jarring that new lens. I can fly to Anaheim for NACD however. Given the snow, most everything here in DC is closed today. I couldn't reach people at NRCS. Haven't tried NACD. Understand that NACD's Laura Peterson had a baby girl about a week ago."

Justin A. Jeffery, SCS MN Retired, passed away yesterday morning. Jeff and John Peterson were both HS and college Civil Engineering classmates, and both made careers with SCS. He and John were friends since grade school.

Mack Presley sends this. Not much happening here in Tyler, TX except the coldest winter we have had in the 20 years we have lived here. Last year **Ann** and I decided that we were "maturing" and decided it was time to give up fertilizing, mowing, and using the edger on our yard, trimming shrubs, painting trim on our house, digging post holes and repairing the backyard fence. So last year we bought a Condo—sold our house and enjoying a different life style. We can now spend more time visiting family in Texas, Oklahoma, and Utah, plus more time for golf.

Glen Black sends this: "Many have recently asked about **Dick Wenberg**. **Dick** has stage 4 lung cancer and has started chemo treatments (for now these are being given every 3 weeks) he is not able to take radiation, so our prayers are for the chemo to zap the cancer cells. **Dick's** son **Bryan** lives about 2 miles away and he is being a big support for **Mary** in meeting **Dick's** needs. **Dick** is staying close to home due to his weakened immune system. His spirits are good and he would appreciate hearing from old friends. His home address is: Dick Wenberg, 211 Claremont Dr., Belton, TX 76513, Ph: 254-780-2322." Your reporter's spouse **Blanche** called **Mary** as we learned of this. Apparently they just discovered it in late January. **Mary** said we could let people know. Please keep the **Wenbergs** in your thoughts and prayers. Thanks **Glen**.

John Peterson attended NACD 68th Annual Meeting in Anaheim, CA Feb 2-5. **John** represents VA on the NACD Board of Directors. He is also the Chairman of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District. At times these NACD meetings seem like an SCS/NRCS reunion. **John** spent time visiting with **Tom Wehri (CA)**, **Bobby Rakestraw (MD)**, **Rich Duesterhaus (VA and NACD)** and a number of active NRCS officials who many of us know. There is also a great deal of business conducted, and the Farm Bill was passed during the meeting.

John and Blanche Peterson were honored by George Mason University as the "Fans of the Game" at the GMU vs. St. Louis University game on Wednesday, Feb. 19th. They were recognized during the first half for their being long-time season ticket holders and contributors. They started attending GMU games in 1978 when they moved to VA with SCS. Their fondest memory was the fabled GMU run to basketball's Final Four in Indianapolis in 2006. All 5 of their children grew up

going to GMU games, and some even came back to play against George Mason. Now their grandchildren are enjoying GMU games with them. Unfortunately the Patriots lost to the 10th ranked Billikens 89-85 in overtime in a very exciting and close game.

WEST VIRGINIA

Peg Reese, ARCSE Representative

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Retirements and Resignations: **Steve Ritz**, Plant Material Specialist at the State Office and former District Conservationist in Romney retired on January 3rd. **Diana Bokock**, Human Resources Manager at the Morgantown State Office retired on January 25th.

Marlene Menear lost her husband, **Ray Menear**, on December 20, 2013. Ray was a nephew of **Walter "Bud" Menear** who once served as SCS's mechanic. More details can be found on the Memorial Page of this newsletter.

Dee Weston reported that she "had two cysts removed from my left hand on Jan 15th and I'm starting physical therapy on Feb 10th. I'm right-handed but just didn't realize how much I used my left hand, so I'll be glad to be able to use it once again."

WISCONSIN

Jim Enlow, ARCSE Representative

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The Wisconsin retirees met for lunch on February 13th at Grandma Mary's Café in Arena, WI. Prior to the lunch, the group toured the Arena Cheese Factory. Those attending the luncheon included the host, **Gene Hausner**, **Dan Lynch** and **Monica Donahoe**, **Doug Knox**, **Mike Lieurance**, **Ken Lubich**, **Betty** and **Gerald Stibbe**, **Stan** and **Marlene Dingle**, **Howard Gundlach**, **Bob Weihrouch**, **Bob** and **Jeanine Uhrig**, and **Keith Behling**.

Those attending enjoyed the cheese factory tour and fellowship. The next luncheon is scheduled for April 10th at The Northwoods Brew Pub in Eau Claire, WI. **Vic Price** will be the host.

**DEADLINE FOR
MAY/JUNE 2014 NEWSLETTER
CONTRIBUTIONS IS APRIL 25**

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

Warner R. Barker	Olive Hill, KY
Stewart M. Calvert	Georgetown, KY
John W. Chenoweth	Van Buren, AR
James M. Cooper	Morgantown, WV
Donald S. Henry	Winchester, KY

See IN MEMORIAM for the Senior Conservationists who left us since the last Newsletter. Please help us identify retirees who should be named Senior Conservationists. Please provide their contact information to your ARCSE Representative or Regional Vice-President.

SENIOR CONSERVATIONIST CHRONICLE

Marc Safley, Chronicler

**Senior Conservationist
Donald S. Henry**

Senior Conservationist Donald Henry ("Don") was born at Benham, Kentucky; Benham is located in Kentucky's southeastern portion. He spent his earliest years in Benham and moved with his family to Pulaski County, KY, when his

father retired from coal mining and bought a farm near Science Hill. Don completed high school at Science Hill. He spent a year at Berea College then decided to try his hand at college football. He left Berea College and enrolled at the University of Illinois. He was there for two semesters when he received his draft notice for the Korean War. He joined the US Navy in 1951 and served on the Fletcher Class destroyer **USS The Sullivans** from 1951 to 1955 seeing duty in the war zone.

Following his honorable discharge in 1955 he resumed his college studies by enrolling in the University of Kentucky, where he graduated in 1958 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agronomy.

Don began his career with SCS in the spring of 1958 when he was hired as a soil scientist mapping soils in several Kentucky counties. He mapped soils for about 8 years. He then became District Conservationist for both Powell and Wolfe counties. Three years later he accepted the position of District Conservationist for Clark County on the eastern side of the Bluegrass Region.

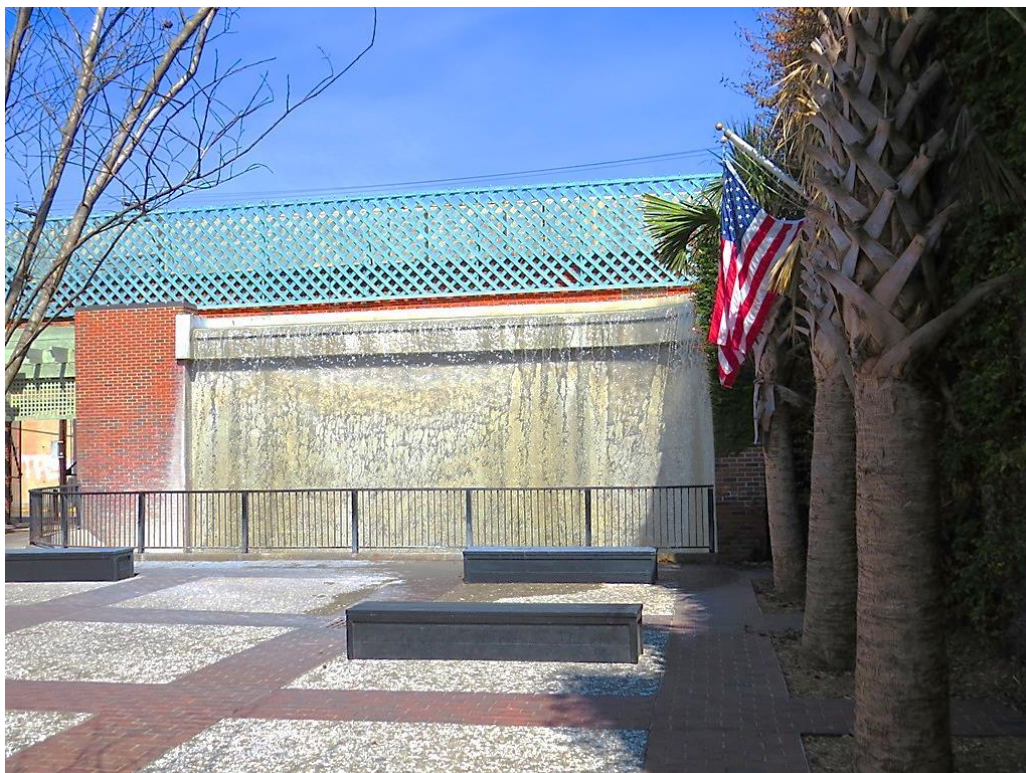
In 1971 Don was named Manager of the Plant Materials Center at Quicksand, Kentucky. He worked there until 1977 when he was selected to the position of Plant Materials Specialist for the states of Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, and a portion of West Virginia. His office was at the SCS State Office in Lexington. He served in that capacity until his retirement in September 1989.

During his career with the Plant Materials Program he oversaw release of several cultivars. These include a cold-tolerant bermudagrass ("Quickstand") for athletic fields and other high-traffic areas; a low-growing *sericea lespedeza* ("Appalow") for hillside pasturage and critical area stabilization; a multi-stem, dwarf willow for stream channel erosion management ("Bankers"); and, a germplasm-improved switchgrass (KY1625).

Following his retirement in September 1989 he volunteered and then worked for the Clark County (KY) Conservation District for 15 years. He also worked occasionally as a substitute teacher at the local high school in Winchester, KY.

Don's first wife, Doris, passed away in May of 2010; they had been married 57 years. Don has two sons and one daughter, 10 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren. He is now married to Marjorie Whitley. They enjoy traveling and spending time with their families. Don's hobbies have included wood working and the occasional golf and fishing outing. He and his wife enjoy participating in church activities.

Don reports that he truly enjoyed his career in conservation that spanned over 50 years. He also cherishes his "...time spent with the wonderful people of SCS and NRCS."



War Memorial Waterfall, Walterboro, South Carolina

IN MEMORIAM

SURNAME

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

- Balkan** **Peter L. Balkan** (86) passed away December 31, 2013, in Mission, Texas. He worked as a civil engineer in North Dakota and retired as the State Irrigation Engineer in 1976. He is survived by his wife **Lilli (Anderson)** who he married in May 2004; four daughters: **Lore Cunningham**, Shady Spring, WV; **Shelley Balkan Grant (Peter)**, Kasson, MN; **Petrice Balkan (Greg)**, Lake Maud, MN; and **Kristen Bringgold (John)**, Lakeville, MN; two stepchildren, **Richard Anderson**, Detroit Lakes, MN and **Tula Smajstrla**, Fredericksburg, TX; a sister, nine grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and one on the way. He was preceded in death by his first wife **Sylvia** in 2001. The family would like memorials sent to Legacy Hospice, 3607 Plantation Grove, Mission, TX.
- Becwar** **Francis Joseph Becwar** (75) of Montello, Wisconsin passed away January 5, 2014. He worked a total of 35 years as a soil conservation technician for the Soil Conservation Service, retiring in September of 1993. Being outdoors was his favorite place to be. **Francis** leaves behind his wife of 51 years, **Janice**, two daughters, four grandchildren as well as one great-grandson. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the family. www.CrawfordFH.com.
- Bratcher** Member **Robert F. Bratcher** (84) of Henderson, Tennessee passed away on November 6, 2013. In 1946, at the age of 17, he joined the US Navy and served 5 years and was involved in the Korean Conflict. After his discharge, he attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and earned a BS in Agricultural Engineering and a Masters in Engineering in 1963. **Robert** worked for the Soil Conservation Service for 30 years before retiring in 1984 as a hydraulic engineer. He was a member of the Sanford Hill Baptist Church. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, **Maleta Webb Bratcher** of Henderson; a daughter **Sandy (Lyle) Rich** of Henderson; a son **Bobby (Suzanne) Bratcher** of Cordova, TN; and four grandchildren. In lieu of flowers the family requests that memorial donations be made to the American Cancer Society.
- Brewster** **Robert Walker Brewster** (93) of Glen Allen, Virginia passed away on January 8, 2014. He was preceded in death by his first wife, **Pat Dye**. He is survived by his three daughters, his wife, **June Adams Hogg** of Mechanicsville, VA, who he married in March, 2009, numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. **June** retired from the SCS in 1994 as Special Program Assistant. After college at the University of Texas, **Bob** joined the US Border Patrol in 1941 and ended his career as Assistant Southeast Regional Commissioner with the Patrol, taking a leave of absence from the Border Patrol for service as a pilot in the US Army Air Corps during World War II. In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to Laurel Park United Methodist Church, 2700 Hungary Rd., Henrico, Va. 23228.
- Donahue** Honorary Member and Senior Conservationist **Robert L. Donahue** (97) of Solvay, New York passed away January 1, 2014 at his home with his two daughters at his side. He retired from the US Soil Conservation Service in Syracuse in 1976 where he was State Administrative Officer. **Robert** had been a federal employee since 1934, having served in the Civilian Conservation Corp and in the Army in WWII in the Southern and Western Pacific. He was an elder, trustee, and former deacon of South Presbyterian Church, a member of the Syracuse Kiwanis Club, the Syracuse Scottish Rite bodies of Masonry, and the American Legion. He was a volunteer for many years at Community General Hospital and was a member of the Hospital Auxiliary and its Board of Directors. He was predeceased by his wife **Denise**. **Robert** is survived by his daughters, **Barbara Kriesel** of Syracuse and **Didi (Richard) Acosta** of Albuquerque, NM; six grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren. Contributions may be made to Hospice of CNY, 990 Seventh North St., Liverpool, NY 13088.
- Dymond** Senior Conservationist **Sterling Atwood Dymond Jr.** (93) of Bangor, Maine passed January 7, 2014. A 1938 graduate of Bangor High School, **Sterling** was a civilian employee of Dow Air Force Base during World War II and later worked for Northeast Airlines as a ground marshal. One job highlight included being a member of the crew that marshalled Air Force One during **President Lyndon Johnson's** pass-through in 1966 and having the opportunity to shake the President's hand. After receiving his associate's degree from Husson around 1967, he became an engineering technician and joined the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, retiring in 1985. His brother, **Willey**, also worked for SCS. **Sterling** continued to work part-time for 12 years at the former Bangor Auditorium. He was baptized at St. John's Episcopal Church and became a member during his teens, holding various lay positions over the years; past Worshipful Master and 35-year 32 degree Brother of North Star Lodge No. 22, Prince Hall Masons Jurisdiction of Massachusetts; and former president of the Bangor Area Chapter of the NAACP. For his civic contributions, **Sterling** received one of the 34 Paul Bunyan Citizen's Award from the City of Bangor in 2009. He was predeceased by his wife of 32 years, **Dorothy (McIntyre) Dymond**. He is survived by his three children, **Nancy** and **Sterling III** of Bangor and **Claudia** of Brooklyn, NY. Gifts in Sterling's memory may be made to the Youth and Outreach Ministries of St. John's Episcopal Church Parish Office, 234 French St., Bangor, ME 04401; or the College Scholarship Fund of the North Star Lodge No. 22, 156 Cedar St., Bangor, ME 04401. Condolences to the family may be expressed at www.BrookingsSmith.com.
- Echaide** **Joyce Echaide** (63) of Sacramento, California passed away on February 11th, 2014. She is survived by her domestic partner of 35 years, **Danny Maxim**. Her loving and giving spirit will certainly be missed, but not forgotten. **Joyce** was the former Administrative Assistant/Secretary with the SCS Soils Staff in Davis, CA. Danny is a retired Civil Engineering Technician in California.

- Engle** **Melvin E. Engle** (74) of Ashland, Pennsylvania passed away on December 31, 2013. He was a Navy veteran, serving on the **USS Oglethorpe, USS Little Rock, USS Allen M. Sumner** and **USS Mullinnix**. He retired from NRCS in 2004 after working 20 years as a soil conservation technician. He coached Little League in Easton and was an avid coon hunter, member of the American Kennel Club and was a bench show judge for hounds for 20 years. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Mary Jane Metz Engle** in May 2012. Three daughters, three sons, 10 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren survive. Website at www.kullfuneral.com.
- Esarey** **Dwight M. Esarey** (84) of Fairfield, Illinois passed away on January 15, 2014. He graduated the University of Illinois with a BS in Agriculture. **Dwight** was a member of the Kirk Chapel United Methodist Church in rural Robinson for over 50 years. For 36 years he was a District Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service in Crawford, Jasper, Lawrence and Wayne Counties. **Dwight** was awarded the Wayne County Friend of 4-H award and was elected to the Illinois 4-H Hall of Fame in 2012. He coached girls youth softball for many years in Oblong and Fairfield and was a "#1 Fan" of multiple youth sports. **Dwight** is survived by two sons, two daughters 12 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Kirk Chapel United Methodist Church or to a charity of the donor's choice. To leave condolences online, visit www.jg-tc.com.
- Gillogly** **Wilma Kathryn Gillogly** (97) of Ashland, Ohio passed away on January 19, 2014. Her husband, **Loyd Gillogly**, passed away in 1989 and was the Assistant State Conservation Engineer in Ohio. **Wilma** graduated from Summerfield High School, Class of 1933. She leaves behind her loving daughter, **K. Dianne (Tom) Reed** of Mansfield; five grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Edward's Catholic Church, 501 Cottage Street, Ashland, OH 44805 and Hospice of North Central Ohio, 1050 Dauch Dr., Ashland, OH 44805.
- Gray** **Roy "Mack" Gray** (78) of Belton, Texas passed away February 2, 2014 at a Temple nursing home. He worked for the Department of Agriculture for 33 years and retired as Deputy Under Secretary of Agriculture in 2006. Over the years, **Mack** resided in Washington D.C., Maryland, and then Belton. He was a Sergeant in the National Guard and had a Bachelors, Masters, and Ph.D. in Agriculture Economics from Texas A&M. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Belton, a Mason and member of the Belton Masonic Lodge. Survivors include his loving wife of 57 years, **Patricia Ann Gray** of Belton; two sons, **Keith (Barbara) Gray** of Katy, Texas and **Mitch (Michelle) Gray** of Cary, North Carolina; and five grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, the family wishes donations be made to the scholarship fund at the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Texas A&M, 556 John Kimbrough Blvd. Suite 200, TAMU 2140, College Station, TX 77843-2140.
- Hendershot** **Connie Sue (Criswell) Hendershot** (60) of Circleville, Ohio passed away on January 11, 2014 from an aggressive form of thyroid cancer. She is survived by her parents, **Paul and Delores (Brown) Criswell** of Caledonia, Ohio; her husband of 36 years, **Robert Lee Hendershot** who retired from NRCS in 2012 as Resource Conservationist/Grassland Management; and two daughters, a son, and a granddaughter. **Connie** graduated from The Ohio State University in 1976 with a major in education. Memorial contributions can be made in lieu of flowers to the Memorial Bible Program, The Gideons International, PO Box 140800, Nashville, TN 37214-0800. <https://www.gideons.org/HowYouCanHelp/general donations.aspx>.
- Ice** Life Member **Mervin Ray Ice** (78) of Dillsburg, Pennsylvania, passed away on February 13, 2014. He earned an Associate in Science degree from Vincennes University and then graduated from Purdue University in 1958 with a degree in Agricultural Engineering. After graduation, **Mervin** took a job with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Soil and Conservation Service (SCS), which he held for a 37-year career. He progressed from an Area Engineer and Project Engineer to Indiana's State Construction Engineer and eventually to Indiana's SCS Assistant State Engineer. In 1974, he was hired as the State Conservation Engineer for SCS in Pennsylvania. He retired in 1994 as National Construction Engineer for SCS in Washington, DC. Mervin stayed busy after retirement by helping **Carla's** business, the Blossom Shop Florist. He was involved with the Northern York County Historical and Preservation Society (NYCHAPS) since the early 1980s. For the past 40 years, **Mervin** was an active member of the West Shore Baptist Church in Camp Hill where he taught Sunday School. He held many professional affiliations, including a 32nd degree Mason. He remained a registered civil engineer in Indiana and Pennsylvania until his death. **Mervin** was passionate about learning and took every opportunity to discover new information. He was an avid supporter of ARCSE, having made the largest amount of monetary contributions on record, nearly \$500. **Mervin** is survived by his wife of 58 years, **Carla (Lockhart) Ice**; his son **Douglas Ice**; his daughter, **Karyn Leftwich**; and his ten grandchildren: and a great-grandson. He is also survived by two daughters-in-law **Beth Ice** and **Lisa Ice-Jones** and two sons-in-law **Linwood Leftwich** and **James Jones**. He is preceded in death by his son, **Mervin R. Ice, Jr.** Memorial contributions may be made to NYCHAPS, 35 Greenbrier Lane, Dillsburg, PA 17019 or West Shore Baptist Church, 2025 Market St., Camp Hill, PA 17011.
- Jeffery** **Justin A. Jeffery** (77) of Benson, Minnesota passed away on January 6, 2014 at a family member's home in Wisconsin. "Just Jeff," as he was known, was an engineer with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, retiring in 2001.
- Jessup** Senior Conservationist **Robert G. Jessup** (88) of Raleigh, North Carolina passed away on February 8, 2014. **Bob** was born in Mocksville, NC but moved with his family to Eau Gallie, Florida where he grew up on the Indian River. He enlisted in the Navy during WWII and was in the Naval Officer's Training V-12 program at Georgia Tech from

1943-1945. He then served as an Engineer Officer on a small Aircraft Carrier (USS Casablanca) in the Asiatic Theater from October 1945 until June 1946. He continued in the Navy reserves until 1959. After WWII, **Bob** returned to Georgia Tech and graduated in 1948 with a degree in Civil Engineering. Following graduation, he began work with the Soil Conservation Service in Orlando and later Gainesville, Florida. **Bob** moved to Raleigh, NC in 1968 as State Conservation Engineer until his retirement in 1986. After retiring from SCS, he served as a consultant for the Agricultural Extension Service at NC State University, where he helped develop the North Carolina Erosion and Sediment Control Planning and Design Manual. He had a lifelong love of fishing both in Florida and North Carolina and enjoyed many trips to the NC coast at Salter Path starting in 1970. **Bob** is survived by his son, **Steven G. Jessup** of Raleigh; daughter, **Janet J. Rakes** of Raleigh; and two granddaughters. He was predeceased in 2005 by his wife of 52 years, **Sarah Calhoun Jessup**.

- Kizzier** **Earl D. Kizzier** (79) of Spirit Lake, Iowa, formerly of Merville, passed away on January 7, 2014. He graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School in Council Bluffs. **Earl** continued his education at Iowa State College, School of Agriculture. He served in the U.S. Army Reserves for six years. He worked for the United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, retiring in 1994. **Earl** was an active member and past president of Trinity Lutheran Church in Merville. He was active in numerous civic/governmental organizations, including past president of the Area Education Association and the Downtown Sioux City Kiwanis. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, **Pat** of Spirit Lake, two sons, a daughter, seven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.
- Lagergren** Senior Conservationist **Frederick Lagergren** (95) of Phillipsburg, Kansas passed away on February 15, 2014. In May, 1942 **Fred** enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard and served until November, 1945. After his honorable discharge from the service, he attended Kansas State University in Manhattan, KS and graduated in May, 1949 with a degree in Agronomy. He worked for the USDA Soil Conservation Service for 35 years, retiring as a District Conservationist in the Lincoln Field Office in 1984. His wives, **Beulah** and **Josephine**, and a granddaughter, **Amanda Munoz**, preceded him in death. Survivors include his son, **Ralph**, of Wichita; daughters, **Joan Bowman** of Phillipsburg and **Nancy Greuter** of Wharton, NJ; six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be given to the Westview Homes "bench fund," the ALS Association, or Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.
- Lyng** **Orlin Lyng** (84) of Bismarck, North Dakota passed away January 17, 2014. He served in the Army in the Panama Canal Zone and was a member of the American Legion for over 60 years. **Orlin** worked 31 years for the SCS in Forman, Linton, and Bismarck, ND. He is survived by daughter **Pat**, Dickinson, ND; son **Tom (Angie)**, Pella, Iowa; daughter **Cheri (Bob) Schulz**, Bismarck, ND; son **Dave (Linda)**, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He was preceded in death by his wife of 57 years, **Margaret**. Family prefers memorials to: North Dakota Veterans Cemetery, 1825 46th St., Mandan, ND 58554.
- Menear** **Raymond Calvin Menear** (71) of Tunnelton, West Virginia passed away on December 20, 2013. He was retired from (Sheidow Bronze), Matthews International. He is survived by his wife **Marlene (Bucklew) Menear**; his two children and two grandchildren. **Marlene** is a retired editor with NRCS who worked in the Soil Survey Section of the State Office. **Ray** was also the nephew of **Walter "Bud" Menear** who once served as SCS's mechanic.
- Nelson** Senior Conservationist **Edwin L. (Lee) Nelson** (96) of the Seattle and Carnation, Washington areas, passed away on December 22, 2013. **Lee** grew up in Council Grove, Kansas, attending a one-room schoolhouse through high school. In 1944 he married his college sweetheart, **Gloria Spiegel**. **Lee** graduated from Kansas State University with a BS in Civil Engineering. He was a Veteran of WWII, having served in the U.S. Army Air Force, predecessor of the U.S. Air Force, as a Navigator and Navigator instructor. He flew on many missions from Guam to Japan and was on the last mission of WWII when they received word of the Japanese surrender. **Lee** joined the Soil Conservation Service and worked in several areas of the Columbia Basin, and also developed an irrigated farm as part of the Bureau of Reclamation Project. He moved to Spokane in the early 60s, later retiring in 1976 from the state office as an engineer on the Watershed and River Basin Planning team. **Lee** is survived by his four children, ten grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.
- Nelson** **William Carl Nelson** (99) of Verden, Oklahoma passed away on January 30, 2014. **Carl** grew up in Geary, Oklahoma. He entered the United States Army in 1943 and served during World War II in the European Theatre. He worked as an engineer for the Soil Conservation Service. After retiring in 1974, he moved to the farm north of Dutton where he farmed for many years. **Carl** was a member of the Verden United Methodist Church. Survivors include his wife of 66 years, **Lucille Cox Nelson** of Verden; daughters **Carolyn (Terry) Teel** of Yukon; **Janet (Dudley) Bourne** of Oro Valley, AZ; sons **Ronnie (Elizabeth) Nelson** of Pocasset; **Glen (Gail) Nelson** of Owasso; sixteen grandchildren; twenty eight great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild.
- Northern** **Lark Joel "L. J." Northern** (89) of Russellville, Kentucky passed away on February 17, 2014. **L. J.** was a Conservationist for the Logan County Conservation Districts for decades, where he led the construction of 23 watershed lakes in four counties, including Lake Malone and Lake Herndon. He retired in 1980 as an Area Conservationist. He was a strong supporter of the Boy Scouts and was one of the people most responsible for the Wildcat Hollow Boy Scout Camp in Logan County. After retirement, **L. J.** worked with his son **Keith** at Northern Nursery for 15 years. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Russellville, a Mason and was a member of the Russellville Rotary Club. He was a World War II Army Veteran and is survived by his wife of 62 years, **Roberta Farris Northern**, a son **Keith (Karen) Northern** of Russellville, KY, a daughter **Nelda Marren** of St. Charles, MO, and six grandchildren. Memorial contributions can be made to the First Presbyterian Church of

Russellville.

- Osterson** Honorary Member and Senior Conservationist **Irene E. Osterson** (97) of Fort Dodge, Iowa passed away on January 13, 2014. Irene is preceded in death by her husband, **George Osterson** and son, **George W. Osterson**. After graduating from high school, Irene attended the Van Sant School of Business in Omaha, NE. She worked as a clerk-typist at the National Headquarters of the American Red Cross and was employed as a secretary for the Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service in Lansing, MI, and then moved to Washington, DC, where Irene worked for the Plant Science Division for 8 years. She and George retired in 1974.
- Osterson** Honorary Member and Senior Conservationist **George Nels Osterson** (98) of Clarion, Iowa and formerly of Fort Dodge, passed away March 11, 2013. **George** was survived by his wife of 73 years, **Irene**. After graduating from Ruthven High School he enrolled in the Civilian Conservation Corps. He soon was the foreman in the CCC camp. He then worked with the Bureau of Agricultural Engineering from 1937 to 1939. **George** was a conservation technician for the Soil Conservation Service and took a leave of absence to enlist in the United States Army. He was stationed at Fort Belvoir where he became a sergeant and trained new recruits. After his honorable discharge **George** later was assigned to Coshocton, OH. This is where he helped establish a training center to teach new SCS employees. He acted as the assistant training officer at the research station in Coshocton. This training covered employees in 22 states. While in Ohio and as a member of the American Legion, **George** was commander of Post 65 and a district commander in Ohio. He then was relocated to Upper Darby, PA and later to the SCS office in Washington, DC as the safety officer. In the Washington SCS office **George** was awarded the "Outstanding Employee" award presented by Mr. Butts, the Secretary of Agriculture. After forty-two years with the federal government, George decided to retire. George was a recognized trainer, having made an invaluable contribution to the career development of thousands of employees.
- Renken** **Gene Allen Renken** (69) of Bella Vista, Arkansas passed away on January 27, 2014. He graduated from Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. **Gene** was employed with the US Department of Agriculture, serving in field offices in Iowa, California, and Washington, D.C. He retired as the chief information technology (IT) architect for USDA in 2007. He is survived by his wife of 28 years, **Barbara Renken** of Bella Vista and daughter **Sarai Hopfe (Lewis)** of Westminster, CO. Memorials are suggested to Christ The King Lutheran Church or the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation. Online condolences may be made at www.funeralmation.com
- Stalings** **Polly Ann Stalings** (49) of Hoxie, Kansas passed away on January 16, 2014. Survivors: parents, **Charles** and **Carol Sue Stallings**, and several aunts, uncles, and cousins. **Polly** was a Soil Conservation Technician at the Hoxie Field Office. She had been with NRCS for more than twenty years.
- Stanley** **William E. Stanley** (66) of Waverly, Iowa, passed away on January 10, 2014 from heart failure. He was baptized and confirmed at the United Methodist Church in Nashua. He graduated from Nashua High School in 1966 and later attended N.I.A.C.C. in Mason City. **Bill** served in the Naval Reserves, serving in the Midway Islands. He worked with the Highway Commission and later as a field tile sales representative for Sheffield Brick and Tile. He retired in 2008, after 30 years of service with the Soil Conservation Service in Bremer and Fayette County, where he worked as a soil conservation technician. **Bill** loved being outdoors. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, **Sandy Stanley** of Waverly, a son and a daughter. In lieu of flowers, the family would like donations to go to the Bremer County Conservation Board in Bill's memory. Online condolences may be left at www.kaisercorson.com.
- Victor** Honorary Member and Senior Conservationist **Mina Victor** (95) passed away on January 14, 2014 at Villa Maria Nursing Home in Fargo, North Dakota, under the care of hospice. She worked for the Soil Conservation Service in the ND Area and State offices in Bismarck, ND, for many years. She is survived by her granddaughter **Anne Kidder (Kevin)**, Fargo, ND; grandson **Dave Hruby (Pam)**, MS; two great-granddaughters; a step-grandson; five step-great-grandchildren and four step-great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband of 72 years, **Otto**; daughter **Jane** and a step-great-grandson.
- Weiker** **Sterling Weiker** (94) Cando, North Dakota, passed away December 27, 2013 at the Towner County Medical Center of Cando. He joined the Army Air Force in January 1942 and spent 3 years 8 months serving his country during WWII. He worked for the Soil Conservation Service in Towner County from 1954-1982. He is survived by his wife of 68 years **Elsie** and four children: **Margaret Kay (Tim) Hoff**, **Donald Weiker**, **Marla (Wynn) Allen**, and **Sheila (Jerry) Laturnus**; 10 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, a sister, and a nephew.
- Williams** **Joyce B. Williams** (85) of Richmond, Virginia passed away on February 22, 2014. She is survived by her loving husband, **Dudley W. Williams**; sons, **Ransom (Chris) Domes** and **Edward (Sue) Domes**; daughters, **Janice L. Freeman** and **Abigail P. Williams**; several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. When she retired, **Joyce** was the Personnel Officer in the SCS/NRCS State Office in Richmond, Virginia. She was an exceptional woman, who will be greatly missed. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Richmond Animal League, 11401 International Dr., N. Chesterfield, Va. 23236.
- Zollinger** **Sharon Dale Zollinger** (79) of Boise, Idaho passed away January 11, 2014 at home. She is survived by her husband of 62 years **Herman LeRoy Zollinger**. **LeRoy** retired as the State Conservation Engineer with SCS in Idaho. Also surviving are four children, **Bradley (Susan)** of Highland, Utah; **Kary (Jean)** of Twin Falls, Idaho;

Casey (Linda) of Spokane, Washington; and **Sharon Eisenbarth (Eric Wilson)** of Boise, Idaho. She is also survived by 12 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. To share memories with the family please visit her memorial webpage at www.cloverdalefuneralhome.com



Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's home, Charlottesville, VA



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