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NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter for Retired SCS and NRCS Employees

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Mar/Apr, 2013

NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

John Stierna

Four key dates—Congress and the Administration are facing these deadlines:

- March 1st – Sequestration is triggered, amounting to \$2 billion in across the board cuts for USDA, and \$85 billion overall for the Federal government, in FY 2013.
- March 27th – Date when the current continuing resolution (CR) for FY 2013 expires. This will likely lead to another government—wide CR for the remainder of the year in lieu of FY 2013 appropriation bills for USDA and other agencies.
- April 15th – Due date for a budget resolution for Congress to use for formulating FY 2014 appropriation bills.
- May 19th – Expiration of the current “suspension” of a debt ceiling.

These four dates are the trigger points that will shape most of what happens in Washington for this year. The sequestration, which is highly likely, will impact NRCS to the tune of a \$222– million reduction for conservation operations and farm bill programs.

Farm Bill—Sometime in April or perhaps the end of March, the agriculture committees will begin marking up their respective versions of a farm bill. While the conservation title is expected to be very similar to that adopted last year, the available funding is uncertain. The preliminary baseline released by the Congressional Budget Office in early February cut conservation programs by \$351 million over ten years, largely due to cuts in the Conservation Reserve Program, including CRP technical assistance. Most farm bill conservation programs for NRCS were not cut in the February baseline, although the wetlands reserve and the grassland reserve have no baseline going forward. In the new farm bill, these two programs will likely be combined with the Farmland Protection Program into a new easement program. Most of the farm bill debate will likely be focused on the commodity title, the insurance title, and funding for nutrition programs. Dairy will be one of the challenges facing the committees.

Capitol Hill transition—Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS) used his seniority to assume the ranking member position from Pat Roberts (R-KS) on the Senate Agriculture Committee. It is expected that southern crops like rice and peanuts will benefit from this shift. Senator Stabenow (D-MI) remains as the committee chair. Rep. Lucas (R-OK) and Rep. Peterson (D-MN) remain as chair and ranking member, respectively, on the House Ag. Committee. There are 20 new members (out of 46 total members) on the House Ag. Committee. Of the five Senators that have announced that they will not run for re-election, three are on the Senate Ag. Committee.

Conservation Compliance—On February 26th, former Deputy Secretary Jim Moseley released a report on conservation compliance and the proposal to link it to the crop insurance premium subsidy. The report stresses that compliance has been highly successful in protecting vulnerable lands and wetlands and that, as the farm safety net evolves more from direct payments to insurance, then the gains from conservation compliance must be retained by re-establishing the link to crop insurance premium assistance.

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES

Sodsaver Bill—Representatives Kristi Noem (R–SD) and Tim Walz (D–MN) have reintroduced the Protect our Prairies Act (HR–686), which would establish a national sodsaver program. It would limit federal assistance for farmers who break native prairie and grasslands for conversion to crop production. There are 7 cosponsors to the bill thus far, including Ranking Member Peterson (D–MN).

CRP—USDA announced a general CRP signup beginning May 20th and ending on June 14th. Because of the farm bill extension as part of the fiscal cliff deal on New Year's Day, the CRP cap remains at 32 million acres. Current enrollment is at 27 million acres, and 3 million acres will be expiring this year.



Conservation systems in Iowa (<http://photogallery.nrcs.usda.gov/res/sites/photogallery/>)



The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) honored **John Peterson**, an elected director of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District with the NACD Distinguished Service Award during its 2013 Annual Meeting in San Antonio. See more on this in the Washington Capitol section.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mark Berkland

To all my NORTHERN friends, spring is just around the corner??????

Please reserve July 21–24, 2013 on your calendars for our annual meeting at the Peppermill in Reno, Nevada.

I am really glad to see several of the State Representatives taking advantage of sending in color photos of retiree events for publication in the electronic newsletter. I think this really adds to our newsletter. It is nice to hear what some of our friends are doing, but it is also nice to be able to see them as well!! Anyone wanting to switch from the hard copy to the electronic version please let me know and we will make sure you get on the electronic mailing list. Send us your email address so we can make this happen for you. Also as a reminder—if you are changing email addresses, please let our editor, Jerry Bernard, know so there are no delays in your receiving the newsletter.

ARCSE President's Award For Outstanding Community Service

It is time once again to start thinking about potential nominees for the award. Nominations for the award and documentation (no more than 2 pages) of the qualifications of the nominee are to be made by the ARCSE Representative. Nominees' names and qualifications will be sent to the Regional Vice President **by May 15th**.

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

Qualifications:

- ☐—Is an ARCSE Member.
- ☐—Demonstrates strong character and high ethical and professional standards.
- ☐—Selection will not be based upon his/her achievements while employed by SCS/NRCS.

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

If you have not already done so, I would encourage you to identify those folks in your state that have retired this year or have plans to retire this year and ask them to join the Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees (ARCSE). If anyone needs application forms, just shoot me an email and I will send them to you (mberkland@homesc.com). Remember, new retirees are eligible for a one-year free membership.

ARCSE ELECTION BALLOT

Candidate for ARCSE President–Elect

Cecil B. Currin

Cecil B. Currin grew up on a farm in NC and has spent his whole life in agriculture. His 41-year career with SCS/NRCS took him from NC to VA, NY, MA, TX, NJ, and Washington, DC. He is a professional engineer and was the State Conservation Engineer for MA and TX and State Conservationist for NJ and MA. **Cecil** and **Lou** live in Hadley, MA and spend summers on a St. Lawrence River island in upstate New York. **Cecil** retired as State Conservationist in Massachusetts in 2006. An ARCSE Life Member, **Cecil** is completing his third two-year term as the East Region Vice President.

Candidate for ARCSE South Region Vice–President

Arnold King

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

Candidate for ARCSE West Region Vice–President

Jerry Richard

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

Candidate for ARCSE East Region Vice–President

William J. (Bill) Bowers

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

Bill has been serving as the president of the Pennsylvania chapter of ARCSE since 2008 and is the state representative to ARCSE. He is a Life Member of ARCSE.

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

Candidate for ARCSE Midwest Region Vice–President

Norman R. Kempf

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

Since retirement in 2001 at Lincoln, NE, **Norman** has been active in the NE chapter of the ARCSE. He has served as vice-president and president and has been state representative to ARCSE for 5 years. An ARCSE Life Member, **Norm** is completing his second two-year term as Midwest Region Vice–President.

Norman & Sylvia are the proud parents of 4 children, 8 grandchildren, and 4 great grandchildren. They are active in the Lutheran church and other organizations. They also pursue many hobbies including travel which has led them to all 50 states, many foreign countries, and all 7 continents.

A BIT OF HISTORY

Douglas Helms, Historian

Email: douglas_helms@verizon.net

CREATION OF ARCSE

ARCSE marks its 40th anniversary this year, having been born as the Association of Retired Soil Conservation Service Employees in 1973. In a notice that can be found on the ARCSE website <http://www.arscse.org/qhist.htm>, **Mel Cohee** recounts that retired Administrator of SCS, **Donald A. Williams**, conceived of the idea. **Hal Jenkins**, former public affairs specialist with SCS, edited the first newsletter, which, was mailed in January, 1974. **Roy Hockensmith**, the first president, used lists of retirees provided by SCS state offices to solicit additional members. By the time the second newsletter was issued in March, another 221 members joined, bringing the total to 452.

FORMATION (1973):

Don A. Williams is given credit for the original concept of ARSCSE. Don was an engineer in the northwest from the inception of SCS to the late 1940s when he moved to Washington, DC. Soon thereafter, he became the 3rd **SCS Administrator** (position now known as Chief) from November, 1953, until his retirement in 1969. After 3 assignments in India, Don actively started to organize a group that would allow retired SCS employees to keep up with and support conservation work as well as providing a means for social activities. He sent a letter to about 1,000 SCS retirees on June 1, 1973, stating "Assuming that not less than 200 of you respond and that you say 'yes,' then the matter MAY be worth pursuing. If so, it would be my intention to arrange an interim committee to appraise the situation, 'organize' if considered wise, and seek a manager-writer to do the work for a portion of the annual dues." His letter ends with, this "is not for my work or past-time; if it has merit, it is for YOU and the welfare of the agency and its work to which we have been so long dedicated. Nice to greet you all again and may God bless all of you."

Well, just over 200 responded favorably, and on August 23, 1973, an interim committee met at the **Minot (June) Silliman** home in Alexandria, VA. The committee included **Ogden W. Greene, H. L. (Hal) Jenkins, F. J. (Joy) Hopkins, Charles Cook, Charles Koechley, Paul Lemmon, B. O. (Ben) Osborn, E. J. (Pete) Peterson, J. B. (Joe) Rogers, Wallace (Wally) Anderson, A. A. (Kling) Klingebiel, R. D. (Roy) Hockensmith, June Silliman, and Don Williams**. Don and June had prepared a charter prior to the meeting. After many revisions, it was adopted, and the committee decided to move forward. On September 10, 1973, Don sent a letter to those interested. After expressing disappointment in not receiving a healthier response, Don tells about the committee's work and its request that he send this letter with a copy of the charter. He asked each person to send the \$6.00 membership fee by December 1, 1973 so that a part-time manager/editor could be hired and further organizational work could be done. The newsletter was to have four functions: (1) comments on going SCS programs and activities, (2) proposed changes in SCS functions by legislative, executive order, etc., (3) personal news items about fellow retirees, and (4) suggestions of things retirees might do to help further conservation work and SCS interests.

Concerning that first newsletter, I find the files of the organization do not include a copy. Should anyone have a copy, please send a PDF to douglas_helms@verizon.net, or mail a hard copy to me at 398 N. Edison St., Arlington, VA 22203.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

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

**DEADLINE FOR
MAY/JUNE 2013 NEWSLETTER
CONTRIBUTIONS IS APRIL 24**

Wondering If Your Dues Have Been Paid For 2013

1. If your dues are not current, you should have received a colored postcard in the mail in late February. Postcards were mailed on February 21, 2013 to the 150 members who had not paid their 2013 dues.
2. 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 "12," "C12," or "12S" your dues are due! Numbers like "C13," "13," 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.

NEW MEMBERS

Ron Marlow

Aschmann, Stephanie	OR/WA
Brach, John	MN
Kolesinskas, Kip	CT
Reid, Janice	FL
Rohaley, George	NHQ/MD
Wallin, Don	OR
Wheat, Josh	GA

ARIZONA

Karl Klingelhofer, ARCSE Representative

Email: krklingel@aol.com

Karl Klingelhofer ("drafted rep")—Nothing on myself since I have already reported the exciting experiences of the recent year: pilot's license and S. Africa trip. Now planning an April trip to Asia. Report on that next time. Five retirees live in the SaddleBrooke community 25 miles north of Tucson: myself for 21 years, **Galen Bridge, Tom George, Ron Marlow**, and **Gordon Odell** for lessor period.

Ken McManus, Sun City West (texeban@cox.net)—I finished my SCS career as State Conservationist for Missouri. Retired in 1981 and moved to Sun City West, AZ to live and play in the sunny southwest. My wife Lois died in 2005 from Alzheimer's disease. I have a son Greg in Ft. Meyers, FL. He retired as Vice-President of Sales for Whirlpool Corporation. His son is an architect and daughter works for Whirlpool. My daughter Debra lives on Whidby Island in the Puget Sound. She is a scientist and teacher and has a son Ben in his last year in college. I do not have much more news. However, on January 22, 2013 I had surgery at Mayo Clinic in Phoenix to replace my left knee. I am doing fine and receiving physical therapy as an outpatient at the Mayo branch at Arrowhead. Hope to be ready for golf by May. I reached 90 years of age last September and was surprised that surgery was an option at that age. Feeling fine and progressing well.

Steve Black (steve.black531@gmail.com)(Phoenix) and wife, **Licia**, moved to Phoenix about a year ago from Edwardsville, Illinois, where they had been since Steve retired in 2001. They are enjoying the warmer weather in AZ as compared to the mid-west. Steve goes back to Illinois several times a year to work at his corn and soybean farm in southwest Illinois. He operated that farm after retirement in 2001 until moving to Phoenix in 2011. Steve and Licia's son and daughter and their families also live in the Phoenix area.

Chris Williams (cwilliams50@q.com), Chandler – Hi Karl –Thanks for taking on this position for Arizona. The following update for me is quite late, but explains my lack of involvement in activities for the last couple of years.

After a two-year battle with cancer in her liver, Kay—my wife of more than 49 years, went to heaven on March 1, 2011. She died peaceably here at home. I spent that summer traveling and visiting friends and family just as we had done for the previous 15 years. Near the end of my travels, I had come to the conclusion that the single life was not something I enjoyed or managed well. So, I began praying that God would bring me another wife.

In October, a young lady from Pennsylvania, who works for Open Air Campaigners and was being supported by the church I attend, returned to Arizona to work with our church and other contacts here in Arizona for a month. During this period we began exploring a possible courtship. In March, after a long-distance relationship and a week of premarital counseling in Colorado in February, I asked Karen to become my wife. She accepted and on May 11, 2012 we were married on a boat on Canyon Lake east of Phoenix on the Salt River.

We spent the summer in Pennsylvania, as Karen was scheduled to work with summer camps and vacation Bible schools from mid-June to mid-August. At the end of this time, we packed her belongings and moved to Chandler, AZ which we now call home. Karen will continue to return to PA at times in the year to do ministry and will be seeking to establish contacts with groups here in AZ where she can minister.

Galen Bridge (gkkbridge@aol.com), SaddleBrooke—Now that Karl has agreed to be our Arizona rep for the retirees' newsletter, he seems to think we should give him some news. The most newsworthy event in these parts is Karl getting his pilot's license. What a great achievement for a man well into his eighties. He has become a local celebrity among the flying folks.

I have recently checked out a new mode of travel for me. Jumped on one of those cruise boats along with two thousand others for a trip from Los Angeles to Fort Lauderdale. My first experience of being on a boat for two weeks and probably my last. It is a little too sedentary way of travel for me. Lots of laying about. The highlight of most days being the consumption of excess food. We did make brief and informative stops in Costa Rica, Panama City and the Canal, Colombia, and Aruba. The Canal was fantastic, a tremendous engineering undertaking in the early nineteen

hundreds. Living conditions were nearly impossible with numerous deaths from yellow fever and malaria. David McCullough's book, "The Path Between The Seas," is a great read if you are going that way. They are now underway on the construction of a new set of locks scheduled to open on the one hundredth year of the canal in 2014. The stop in Fort Lauderdale was fun. I had been there several times but had forgotten how much wealth has collected there. I now know what a seventy million dollar pleasure boat looks like. This place could make one believe in the graduated income tax. My next stop was in Stuart, FL, where I have been doing much needed maintenance work on one of those Florida bargain houses my daughter talked me into buying. From here it's Puerto Rico with friends for a week. Then will come the fun part, a week skiing in Oregon with my grandson and great granddaughter. This will be her first experience on a snowboard. Summer will find me in Oregon with a little travel in western Canada and a trip to Maine in October.

The loss of **Karen** about eighteen months ago has made me realize even more the value of good friends. **Tom and Jeanne George, Ron and Barb Moreland, Ken and Connie Cookson and Karl Klingelhofer** all live in this community and are now my new family. They have been friends for many years and have surrounded me with love and invaluable support.

Mel Davis, Yuma – I found Mel's phone number on the Internet and called him. **Marilyn** answered but put Mel on we had a conversation. They do not have Email. He said that he has had Parkinson's for about 3 years but is getting along OK, except that they have had the 2-week+ cold that seems to be hitting most people. He invited me to stop by on my next trip to California. I tried to last time when I was there overnight but couldn't make contact. He agreed that I could put this in the newsletter. His mailing address in the directory is 12523 Del Rico, Yuma AZ 85367

Gordon and Carol Odell (gocozy@q.com) are still enjoying retirement in the SaddleBrooke resort Community north of Tucson. Gordon bicycles and plays pickleball. Carol is a golf putter, is in the book club, P.E.O., and Red Hats. They square dance and take trips with the RV Club.

Over the last two years they have cruised from Rio, Brazil, up the Amazon and ending in Florida in 2011, a trans-Atlantic cruise to the Mediterranean ending in Venice in 2012, and went on a guided birding trip of Costa Rica in 2013. They spend summers near Durango, CO, In their RV, fishing for kokanee and trout, watching birds and reading. They are able to visit their three daughters, son, and two grand kids in AZ, CO, and NM for holidays and special occasions. "Life is Good" for them!

Ron and Barb Moreland (bmore7875@aol.com) continued their travels in 2012. We went to Northern Italy and Slovenia where we hiked the Dolomites, took an Italian cooking class at Lake Como, and fell in love with all of Slovenia, especially Ljubljana and Piran. We continue to spend our summers in Hamilton, MT, with flyfishing, golf and hiking. Each summer we take time to hike in Glacier, Yellowstone, and the Tetons. Currently, we are doing our stint as volunteers for the Accenture Golf Championship in Tucson.

Ken and Connie Cookson (ckcookson@aol.com), SaddleBrooke, spent the second weekend in December in Illinois with family to celebrate an early Christmas. The gathering location is with his brother and sister-in-law in Arthur. A son and daughter-in-law come down from Rantoul and a daughter and son-in-law come from Gaithersburg, MD. This has become a family tradition.

Ken and Connie are planning a trip into Mexico next month that will take them to the Copper Canyon area. Copper Canyon is estimated to be four times as large as the Grand Canyon. They are looking forward to the trip and a new experience.

Tom and Jeanne George (JGeorge545@aol.com), SaddleBrooke, spent two weeks in the Fall in Boston, New Hampshire, and Maine visiting grandchildren and meeting up with **Galen Bridge, Dennie Burns and Jerry Seinwell** to eat Lobster every day. They also were in Oregon to spend a month with their daughter and grand-daughter. Several trips were made to California to spend time with son **Steve** and family. Tom plays golf three times a week and recently had his first eagle on a par five hole by holing out from 145 yards.

Bill Fobair (billfobair@gmail.com and **Joyce**), Cottonwood, sold their '41 Lincoln Zephyr Custom Coupe in June, 2011, to **Jack Jones**. He and his wife **Cindy** are now the proud owners of a very rare car. To Bill's knowledge, it is the only one of the 77 custom coupes that has been authentically restored. During ownership of the past 36 years, Bill and Joyce trailered it 37,375 miles to National and Regional Shows, winning over 150 awards. While on tour, they showed it to SCS friends in Michigan, Nebraska, and more recently, Arizona. If interested, you can see how remarkable this car is by accessing Bill's website that has been passed on to Jack Jones at bill@41zephyr.com.

CALIFORNIA

Bill Ward, ARCSE Representative

Email: wardclan@comcast.net

Hello from California to all our fellow SCS and NRCS retirees across the nation. California retirees continue to have an enjoyable luncheon for all who can make it in Davis the first Wednesday of the month. It is a great opportunity to get together, shake hands, share the latest personal information and enjoy each other's company. The photo below shows the 14 of us that made it to our January lunch. In February, our lunch group had a special guest, retired US



California retirees' luncheon

Forest Service Soil Scientist **Brent Roath**. Brent shared with us an effort to bring "Dig It! the Secrets of Soil" to California. It is a Smithsonian exhibit that was at the National Museum of Natural History and is now a traveling exhibit. Below is a link to a video with **Pat Megonigal**, the exhibit curator, talking about the exhibit. It's about 3 minutes long. We believe the exhibit would introduce school children and the general public to the wonder and importance of soil, a topic near and dear to the all hearts of all NRCS folks! The Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento is one potential "temporary home" for the exhibit.

(<http://www.forces.si.edu/soils/video/tour.html>)

In California's last update I shared information about **Darwyn Briggs'** passion for Fly Fishing and a scheduled "Heart Procedure" February 12 to correct an irregular Heart Beat problem. I am happy to report Darwyn's irregular heartbeat was successfully treated in a several-hour procedure using a catheter into the heart. A few days of rest following his treatment found him ready to go fishing again. He sends his thanks for your concerns and best wishes.



Chuck Bell, Former California State Conservationist

"Spotlight Report" on the activities of **Chuck Bell**, former California State Conservationist, retired February 5, 2005. Many of our California Retirees continue to be active and do very interesting things in their retirement. For this edition of our newsletter, California is proud to share the following update on a passion and activity that Chuck has taken up since retirement. In recent years Chuck has done something very unique, challenging, and I am sure most amazing to all the rest of us retirees. Chuck has made three self-supported, pedaled bicycle trips (not a motor bike!) ACROSS the United States to visit family he has on the east coast! On his trips he carries approximately 70 pound of camping gear and tools and is not supported by any van or car that is commonly used by many folks who undertake this trek. Here is an abbreviated update on his most recent trip in 2012 at the age of 66 from Paradise, CA, to Wilkes Barre, PA. Chuck left his home in Paradise, CA, on June 26, 2012. His general route took him through Idaho, Montana and then North Dakota where he traveled along the Lewis and Clark trail. From there he traveled through Minnesota, Michigan, and into Wisconsin. He then crossed Lake Michigan (4-hour ferry trip) landing in Michigan but then taking another ferry into Canada! From there he rode across the tip of Ontario on the eastern edge of Lake Erie all the way to Niagara Falls where he crossed back

into New York. He then continued on to his final destination to meet with family in Wilkes Barre, PA on September 6, 2012, a staggering total of 4,300 Miles!! As Chuck shared in his write up to me, every day is an adventure on a trip like this. He saw many fascinating sights and landscapes during his travels and got a real good look at all of them as well. He met many wonderful people along the way and was able to ride with a few for 5 or 6 days at a time. He stayed in his tent all but about 5 or 6 nights through the trip and fixed most of his meals on his camp stove. Chuck has lots more information on his trips and would be glad to share more with anybody interested or actually considering doing something like this themselves! Here are some other interesting facts about his trip. Starting the trip he was averaging about 40 miles per day in difficult terrain through the Sierras and Cascade Mountains. Once he dropped down over the Cascades, he picked up speed (and strength) and managed to average somewhere near 75 miles per day. At one point with the help of a tail wind he covered nearly 100 miles in a day! Chuck has thoroughly enjoyed these trips, saying he has hated to see them come to an end. All in all a most amazing accomplishment for one of our California retirees, especially having done it now on three different times! Chuck says he believes anyone with their health and

enough time can make a trip like this and says many do each year. Congratulations Chuck and thanks for sharing this fascinating experience of yours with all our Retirees across the Country!

And here is one more short story and photo about retirees taking up new activities that involves my wife **Dana** and I. As part of our 35th wedding anniversary celebration in Lake Tahoe last month we took the opportunity to try snowshoeing for the first time. We discovered it was a lot of fun and a wonderful opportunity to get off the main roads and really see and experience the beauty of the mountains in the Wintertime. We now look forward to getting our own snowshoes and doing some of this every winter.

Best Wishes to all from the California NRCS Retirees!

COLORADO

Ivan Wilkinson, ARCSE Representative

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Snow pack in Colorado is way below average for this time of the year. The following was a Denver post article as of Feb 7, 2013: "Colorado's snowpack has dropped to 72 percent of normal and time is running out to make up the difference. The Natural Resources Conservation Service, a federal agency that tracks the levels, says the below-average snowpack is producing a bleak water-supply outlook for this year."

Personnel action in Colorado since the last news letter include the following retirees: **Terri Sage** (Biologist), **Richard Sparks** (IWM Specialist), **John Knapp** (Area 4 A.C.), **Julia Ramirez** (Area Administrative Coordinator), and **Charles Pannebaker** (R.C. – Tech.). My apologies for others I may have missed.

We are saddened by the report from **Darlene Milbradt** of the death of her husband **Tom Milbradt**. "I want to respond to you that Tom Milbradt passed away February 10, 2013. He had pancreatic cancer, that we knew of, since January of 2011 and had surgery at that time for removal of a tumor on the pancreas, as well as removal of the spleen and 8" of intestine. He did very well for a year and then January of 2012 he began the chemo treatment GEMZAR for some tumor growth. Continued with that for one year and was doing very well—none of that sick stuff that accompanies chemo, and he remained so strong. He was out cutting wood near Evergreen, CO, for a land owner until Oct. 29 2012. He did have a rather rough couple of months this year 2013—with weakness of legs and that sort of stuff, but never gave up.

Super Bowl Sunday he was experiencing a little confusion here at home toward the end of the game so we called the ambulance. After checking him, it was decided to take him to the hospital, and would you believe.....he even walked to the ambulance with a paramedic on each side. Now that's MY TOM!!! Was in the hospital 3 days where he experienced a seizure and multiple strokes—and he was in hospice for 3 days. He simply stopped breathing and entered the Kingdom of our Savior. He is at peace. I look to the strokes as God's work in that Tom did not have to suffer life with deteriorating health with the cancer. Cause of the death were the strokes. Celebration of his Life was at our church Feb 16 and burial at Ft Logan National Cemetery Feb 18.

It will be a tough road ahead without my 'Rock of Gibraltar' but will face each new day with faith and love. Three daughters and son Gary are all close by. God's Blessings to you all."



Dana Ward
Snowshoeing at Lake Tahoe for the first time!

FLORIDA

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The annual Captain ET (**Ernie Todd**) fishing extravaganza was held in late October in Steinhatchee, FL. This year's group of hardy fisherman included, in addition to Ernie, **Wes Oneth**, **Billy Milliken** and **Bob Halstead** (Who brought 12 pounds of **Sue Halstead's** famous seven-layer cookies). The first day found the group facing 45 degree temperatures, 25 mph winds and four to five-foot seas—a typical fishing day in Florida. Day two the group headed south to better weather on the beautiful Suwannee River. Arriving to 45 degree temperatures, 20 mph winds and two to three-foot waves, the group put in a very short day of fishing. The remainder of the trip found Bob heading South for more cookies and the other three battling slightly better weather but landing few fish. But as the group likes to say "fishing ain't all about the catching." Ernie, as always, was a great host. A good time was had by all talking about the "good old days" and saying nice things about those cowards who used to fish with the group. Next year's plans call for an earlier date and all hope that Bob finally comes back with more of Sue's cookies.



Ernie, Bob, Billy and Wes ready for Florida fishing.



Billy and Wes enjoying a beautiful fall day on the water.

GEORGIA

George C. Norris, ARCSE Representative

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Retired Georgia NRCS and SCS employees, spouses and guests enjoyed lunch together at Ryan's Steak House in Athens on January 24, 2013. Attending were **Kitty Stevens, Don & Evelyn Stewart, Bob Wilkes, Kim Reuning, Cecil & Gene Martin, Bill & Norma White, Vivian Patten, Simmie & Betty Bell, June Andrews, Marge Lucas, Carolyn Adams, Earl Brantley, Jim & Judy Helm, Edna Firor, Edward Ealy, and Ellen & George Norris.** **Bob Wilkes** introduced his daughter, **Kim Reuning**, who was visiting with him and **Frances** for a few days.

Vivian Patten told the group that the second recipient of the **E. John Patten** Scholarship in Civil Engineering and Environmental Design at Georgia Tech has been selected. We are pleased that the memory of **John, Vivian's** late husband, is honored in this way each year.

The Georgia group will meet next in Athens on April 25th. Plan to visit with us if you are in our part of the world then.

ILLINOIS

Dale Benz, ARCSE Representative

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The Southern Illinois retirees met for lunch and visiting on December 12 in Mt. Vernon. Attending were **Glynn and Marge Shubert, Harold and Barbara Magnuson, Doyce Sheraden, Bill Pohl, and Dwight Esarey.** Dwight reported that he recently received the Illinois 4-H Foundation Hall of Fame award for his 34 years of judging 4-H projects in county fairs in Hamilton, Edwards, Wabash, White, and Wayne counties. Congratulations, Dwight.

Mary Hess, Administrative Coordinator at Marion, is retiring March 1. Mary has over 45 years of service with SCS/NRCS. She has taken a new career as Administrative Coordinator with the Madison County SWCD. Congratulations on your retirement from NRCS and best wishes in your new work.

Judy Hummel recently had a new knee replacement. I think she is getting ready for the Illinois Marathon Race in Champaign-Urbana in April. We wish you quick healing.

The next gathering of retirees in Illinois is April 4 at Ryan's Steakhouse in Champaign. Hope you can attend.

IOWA

Maralee Sarasio, ARCSE Representative

Sent by CC Monahan on behalf of Maralee Sarasio.

Des Moines SCS/NRCS Retirees sadly inform you of the sudden death of **Marge Miller** at her home on January 22, 2013. Marge retired in April, 1994, with more than 36 years of service, most of which was as secretary to Iowa's State Conservationists. In 2008 Marge was honored by ARCSE as the recipient of the Presidential Award for Community Service. Not only did Marge touch lives and careers of Iowa retirees but also of retirees in other states who spent part of their careers in Iowa. After retirement Marge continued her leadership in volunteering at Planned Parenthood BookWorks book sales and garage sales, at Living History Farm, her church, and serving on various boards. Her

death will have created a void wherever she participated, especially in our Des Moines retirees' breakfast bunch. Rarely did she miss Wednesday morning breakfast as it was a stopping off place on her way to do something for somebody. She had great fun having a present for everyone at our holiday parties—she was already wrapping presents for this year. We all know there was only "ONE MARGE".

The following was submitted by **Duane Miller**. The Black Hole Ramblers completed their 28th annual trip for skiing and snowshoeing in Colorado January 12–19th. It was another great trip, which basically means there were no car crashes on the way out and back, and none on site. Several below-zero days but luckily there are several micro-breweries in Summit County to keep us entertained. The Ramblers this year consisted of **Jody Christiansen, Bob Dayton, Duane Miller** (all three charter members who have been on all 28 trips), **Rick Knutson** and his friend **Rick R.**, **Kim and Craig Muhlberg**, and **Dale and Joanne Bruce**. A small but quality group!

Duane and Mary Jo Miller will be heading to Florida for several weeks of sunshine and warmer weather. Children and Grandchildren will be joining them for a week in Orlando and all the fun stuff to do there!

Many of the geezers have been traveling south for anywhere from a couple of weeks to six months, because we can.

As always, the group of retirees meets at IHOP on Douglas Ave. by Merle Hay Mall every Wednesday morning. With the passing of Marge Miller, the group is diminished and she is greatly missed. Happy Trails, Duane Miller.

Snowbird News—**Judy & Mark Clause** are enjoying Florida; **Dennis & Linda Miller** were in Mesa, AZ; **Rosie & Bob Gaudette**, Myrtle Beach, SC. The rest of us (Des Moines) are at home waiting for spring.

KANSAS

Deanne Lull, ARCSE Representative

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In December I closed the Kansas news with a news flash that **James McDowell**, former Soil Scientist in the Kansas State Office, would be receiving a new heart. His surgery was performed in Oklahoma City and went very well. After being dismissed from the hospital, he has remained in Oklahoma City during his recovery. He was able to visit the Kansas State Office the middle of February and said his recovery is way ahead of the curve (six months is usual with most transplant recipients) and that he will be released to return to his home in Lucas, Kansas, the first of March.

There have been a number of retirements since last fall that have not been reported in the newsletter. **Arthur C. Boltz**, District Conservationist at Syracuse, Kansas, retired October 21, 2012. **Dennis J. Brinkman**, Supervisory Soil Conservationist at Lyndon, Kansas, retired December 2, 2012. And **Richard A. MacKinnon**, Civil Engineering Technician on the Technical Staff in Dodge City, Kansas, retired January 11, 2013.

Three retiring from the Kansas State Office this year were **Larry J. Kuder**, Natural Resources Specialist on the Water Resources Staff, on January 3, 2013.

James J. Krueger, Assistant State Conservationist for Operations, on January 11, 2013; and **Mary D. Shaffer**, State Public Affairs Specialist, on February 3, 2013.

Jim was honored with a retirement dinner on February 16, 2013. He started his career in 1987 as a soil conservationist in Belleville, Kansas. In 1991 he transferred to Abilene, Kansas, as a district conservationist. He moved into the Kansas State Office in 2003 and served his last six years as the Assistant State Resource Conservationist for Operations.

Mary will be honored at a casual gathering on February 24, 2013, in celebration of her retirement. Mary began working as a clerk typist for the SCS in December 1980 and has worked her entire 32-year career in the public information arena.

Dale McClaskey recently returned from a tour of the Hawaiian Islands. He says he had a great time and he even took the opportunity to model his fancy Hawaiian shirt in church one Sunday.

MASSACHUSETTS

Jim Wesolowski, ARCSE Representative

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O.K. So I've been a not-so-good correspondent lately. I'll try to do better in the future. But, hey – it's a small state and my fellow retirees never seem to do much news-worthy so it's a difficult job. And besides, I've been extremely busy. Most days the Daily Hampshire Gazette gets delivered at 4:00 A.M., so I need to get up quite early to see that they get it in the box properly. They did publish on President's Day so that meant I had to work the holiday. Add to that, the Stop and Shop circular gets thrown in the driveway on Thursdays so I need to be alert for that. On the weeks where they miss the driveway and it lands on the lawn I need to make calls to their office and complain. Between 11 and noon the mail is delivered. I can usually hear the truck as he starts around the circle, but some days I'm so busy that I

miss him and the mail stays in the box and gets cold. When they stop Saturday deliveries, it will take some of the burden off me. My nap usually lasts from 1 to 4, and combine that with three meals and some snacks and eight hours of sleep and my Saturday night bath and you can easily see that I hardly have time to do these reports.

The western Mass. area lucked out with Super Storm (Hurricane) Sandy. High winds. Torrential rains but just scattered power outages and no major tree damage. No need to send the watershed crew out to get high-water marks and property damage because there wasn't any. Besides, there isn't any watershed crew left to do it anyway. Must be global warming that is not bringing us the likes of Hurricane Diane of 1955, the storm that created a lifetime of work for many of us in the watershed program.

February brought the Great Blizzard of 2013 that left over 20 inches of snow in western Mass. and nearly three feet in Boston. Again we lucked out with continuous electricity and the governor closing all state roads for 24 hours. Imagine driving north on I-91 in Connecticut and as you reach the Mass. state line seeing the signs: "Go Back! Go Back! Governor Patrick has closed Massachusetts--You're on your own"

The storm brought to mind a blizzard in the 1970's when we were still on Cottage Street. The office stayed open, of course. About 3 p.m. with 12 inches of snow **Frank Resides** calls **Arthur Verdi**, the SAO, and sez: "Arthur, is it snowing on your side of the building?" After much consultation and soul searching the office was closed two hours early. Nowadays it seems like the office gets closed if the word "snow" appears more than twice in the forecast. With lots of people teleworking it makes it easier to make the decision to close. But we hear grumblings from the teleworkers at home in their pj's with the bunny feet about "How come we gotta work when the office was closed?" Seems like grounds for a class-action suit. Of course people could use annual leave. You remember that concept? You get paid for not working. Sort of like being retired.

Oh, I forgot. In mid-January **Mark Zinan** (SAO) convened a quarterly meeting of retirees at the Route 9 Diner. I was so busy with my French toast with the imitation maple syrup (Oh, by the way, the farmers have the sap buckets up and they're already boiling sap--always seems too early for that) that I forgot to make a list of attendees but I'm sure it included **Steve Fischer** (Soil Scientist), **Frank Wilda** (Contracting), **Jeff Anliker** (ASTC), John Kick (ASTC), **Carl Gustafson** (SCE) **Dave Nelson** (ASCE) and **Dennis Verdi** (CE). **Jeff Anliker** is gearing up for another tax season at Anliker Financial Services, LLC (www.anlikertaxprep.com) in case you happen to be looking for a good tax preparer. **Dennis Verdi** will be working for H&R Block preparing returns. Both guys report stories of people trying to claim their dogs as dependents and questionable deductions.

Not retiree news but you might be interested that **Al Averill** is the new State Soil Scientist, **Luis Laracuenta** (from AZ) the State Engineer, **Terron Hillsman** (from TN) the ASTC) and **Luis Hernandez** (from AR) the new Regional MO Staff Leader. And, the "Completion of the Franklin County Soil Survey" is no longer a recurring annual goal but is now an accomplishment.

Only a few days until the Sequester. There's talk of having us retirees put in a few less days of retirement each month. But just as long as the checks keep coming, in the words of Alfred E. Newman: "*What, Me Worry?*"

So, now you can see that just like you can put lipstick on a pig and make a silk purse out of a sow's ear, you can also submit a newsletter report even though there's not much to report.

MINNESOTA

Marlene Mechelke, ARCSE Representative

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Minnesota metro retirees gathered for lunch on Wednesday, January 9th, 2013, at Pippins in Roseville: **Gloria McCalip, Cathy and Don McCormack, John Brach, Vic Ruhland, Dave and Kay Breitbach, Ron and Sylvia Olson, John Handler, Bud Finney, Sonia Jacobsen, Sid Cornelius, Marlene Mechelke**. First timers were Sonia Jacobsen, Sid Cornelius and John Brach. They're starting out their retirements the right way--joining us for lunch!

Dave Breitbach: The Breitbach's missed the October 2012 Retirees' Luncheon and fellowship with this distinguished group. They were enjoying a four-day adventure to Las Vegas (first time visit). We stayed at the Tropicana located on the south end of the strip. Highlights included a tour of Hoover Dam, the water show on the pool in front of the Bellagio, the inside scenery of spots like the Bellagio gardens and Caesars Palace, people watching, and Downtown's Fremont Street. Gambling was okay, as we nearly broke even. Spent recent holidays with daughters and families at the farm in northern IA (Thanksgiving) and in Ames, IA (Christmas). Winter has been good with not too much snow or cold temperatures. Hope we get some early spring moisture to help the dry conditions.

Jim Ayres, retired AC from Fergus Falls, MN, is really keeping busy as a "new" vintner: "I actually started making wine in 2006 but didn't get real serious about it until I retired in April of 2008. Prior to that, I made wine and gave it away to folks for feedback as to what they thought was good and those batches that weren't so good. I was trying to match the proper yeast for the type of wine I was making, whether it was a type of grape wine, a berry wine or a mixed fruit wine.

"I've had a lot of favorable feedback and even have one guy that would like me to start a winery out at his place. I make about 300 gallons of wine per year and basically give it away as gifts. It goes especially well during the Holidays from prior to Thanksgiving until after New Year's Day. I currently have 9 carboys full of wine plus 26 five-gallon buckets that are at some stage of fermentation. This represents a total of about 150 gallons of wine at various stages of the fermenting, racking and bottling stage.

"Eleven of the 26 different varieties of wine that I make that are favorites of many people are: Raspie (a raspberry/apple blend), Chokecherry, Wild Plum, Rhubarb, Red Grape, Green Grape, Grapple (a red grape/apple blend), Blueberry, Cranberry, Nanking Cherry/Apple blend, and a Strawberry/Rhubarb combo.

"This past year I entered around 8 of my wines at the State Fair for the first time (2012) and had my Red Grape Table Wine finish 2nd out of 32 entries and my Grapple Wine finished 5th out of 30-plus entries in the open class. My other wines didn't place, but I was extremely pleased, having two wines finish in their respective classes, especially since many of the other vintners had been entering their wines for 10 or more years already.

"Needless to say, I am currently beginning batches of wine that I plan to enter in next year's State Fair as my wines take anywhere from 7 to 10 months to make from start to finish.

"And now you know what a retired AC does in his spare time when he isn't fishing, chasing after 7 grandchildren, traveling to warmer climates, attending meetings for Fergus Falls Planning and Zoning Commission, the Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors, the Hope Lutheran Church Council and the Otter Tail County Conservation Commission; volunteering and preparing taxes for AARP during tax season and, occasionally, grilling out while drinking a beer. Yes, retirement IS the good life! So far, wine making has kept me busy and out of trouble, and it is productive. I also donate a lot of my wine for silent auctions as fund raisers for non-profits and medical need families, as well as Pheasants Forever and the Otter Tail Historical Museum."

Cathy McCormack: "Very concerned about no farm bill in 2013—enjoying the 1.7% pay raise on my pension—started receiving my Navy pension in 2012. Last year enjoyed trips to Pipestone, MN, and Grand Portage National Monument. 3rd grandson, **James McCormack**, is now one year old. Get lots of happiness from our kids and grandkids—very active in my Lutheran church—active in Scandia Marine Lions' events with husband, Don—just put 9 new windows in this old house!

"Sure do enjoy the friendship of this retiree group—we've been friends for so long—planning on going to the Winter Carnival to see the ice sculptures and snow sculptures and then have lunch at Cossetta's. Cossetta's, the great Italian restaurant that has been around St. Paul for a long time—used to be a hole-in-the-wall down on the Levee."

Happy 18th Anniversary to **Cathy and Don** on February 19th!

Vic Ruhland: "Something going on in my life these days is my reading of C.S. Lewis' MERE CHRISTIANITY. It's 'a book that makes religion exciting and stimulating for the ordinary man' (person). Dr. Lewis writes about his struggles of life as an Atheist eventually becoming an Anglican Christian. I find his analysis very comforting, for as he says he is just an ordinary layman, that he is not preaching and that if his views are not helpful, then just ignore them. He was a Professor of Medieval and Renaissance English at Cambridge University. He wrote scores of books – many covering the application of religion to the problems of the twentieth century. His writings are similar to that of G. K. Chesterton, another writer whose books I have enjoyed reading as I too struggle to understand the mysteries of life."

Bud Finney: "Hey, I made it to the year 2013 at age 84. I never thought I would live so long. But the years are showing, of course. I had to give up bowling this season because of a torn rotator cuff, which I am trying to cure with various exercises. Winter came in with a bang in this part of the planet on December 9th with 13 inches of snow on my 1/8 acre farm. Very little snow has fallen since then. This year (2012) tied with 1931 for being the warmest ever recorded for the Twin Cities. The second half was very dry. In the big picture, going into winter with dry soils in much of MN does not bode well for next year's crops.

"I had an enjoyable visit with my son, **Bruce**, and his wife, **Katie**, over the New Year's Holidays. I take some classes offered by the University of MN Alumni Association, in cooperation with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, to keep my brain in "shape". My dear friend, **Jan**, and I have enjoyable times together. I continue to volunteer for the University of Minnesota Master Gardener program."

Margy Gangl (and sister, **Micki**): "We've had a busy Fall and Winter so far. In September we went on a tour to Croatia, which was very interesting. We were gone for two and a half weeks. We began our adventures in Zagreb. The scenery was spectacular as we traveled along the turquoise Adriatic Coast. Dubrovnik was a wonderful place to explore. It is completely walled-in, and is a medieval time-warp, with narrow winding streets, and ancient buildings. We also visited Split and toured the remains of Roman Emperor Diocletian's imperial palace. Some of the underground rooms still remain, and gave us an idea of how magnificent the palace must have looked at one time. We stayed on an island in the Adriatic called Hvar. It was covered with lavender plants and little picturesque towns.

"On to the Istrian peninsula, with more quaint seaside towns. We have a ton of beautiful scenery pictures. Our last stop was Venice, where we stayed on after the tour ended for a few more days to continue with our exploring. Venice is always wonderful and does not change, except for the hordes of day-trippers coming from the cruise ships. The trip went too fast, and we were soon back in Minnesota, playing catch-up on our yard work. The terribly hot summertime made us lazy, and we had neglected our yard. So, we did a lot of work trimming and cutting back, and getting ready for winter. So far, we have only had one large snowstorm of about 16 inches here in the Twin Cities. This week has been rather unusually warm and the snow is melting quickly. Every week is one week closer to Spring!

MISSOURI

Dave Rastorfer, ARCSE Representative

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The Columbia area retirees gathered on February 13 for their quarterly breakfast. Fifteen retirees and wives attended. **Mike Wells** says that he and **Fran** are planning trips to Florida for Spring Training (*he didn't say if he was watching or participating*), and in April they are going to California to visit their son, daughter-in-law and grandson for his first birthday. **Frank and Kay Miller** are planning a trip to Eureka Springs, AR, with a cousin from Topeka. **Frank and Kay** also attended a family get-together in Topeka last month. **Bill Pauls** announced that he is "Still Runnin'". He has raced in one marathon this year already and has 5 more to go this year (**Bill** is on his second round of running a marathon in all 50 states). Also attending the breakfast were: **Odie Swanegan, Virgil and Joy Gardner, Neil and Louise Randal, Darlene Edwards, Richard and Marjorie Koenig, Ron Miller, John Turner and Dave Rastorfer.**

From **Lane Thurman**: The Springfield retirees had their Jan. meeting a week late this year, on Jan. 25 rather than the 18th. Reason being I was supposed to be in LA duck hunting, but I didn't make it. **Nancy** came down with a kidney stone and had to spend a few days in the hospital, which she did; spent 4 days, got out for about a week or so and went back in this past Saturday and is still in there. She came down with a really bad bug, called Clostridium difficile. She has really had a bad January and starting into Feb. She is feeling somewhat better right now, but I don't expect her out until maybe this weekend. She is in isolation at the hospital. Her spirits seemed good this morning, but I would ask all of you to keep her in your prayers so that she may get over this. As for the retirees, we only had 6 at our meeting but still enjoyed our normal visiting and talking about the old times. In attendance were **Mary and Wayne Weaver, Forrest Tindall, Claris Wildermuth, and Lane Thurman.**

From **Steve Black** in sunny Arizona: I had lunch with **Ken McManus** a few weeks ago and we had fun talking about old times in Missouri. **Ken** had knee replacement surgery in late January and is making a great recovery. He was up walking around on his new knee within a week. He will be undergoing rehabilitation over the next few months. His son was there helping him for a week and his daughter for another two weeks. My wife, **Licia**, and I met **Don and Nancy Paulus** a few weeks ago for lunch. **Don** worked in the Hannibal Area Office with us, as you remember.

Paula Price: Our son, **Andrew**, was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2012 semester at Park University, Parkville, MO. Park University is a private school. Andrew received a very nice letter from Jerry D. Jorgensen, PhD., Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Park University. Andrew is a senior education major. He, wife **Cindy** and daughter **Jordin** reside in Excelsior Springs, MO. The other big news is that **Alan** and I celebrated our 40th Wedding Anniversary on January 20, 2013. We were married on that date in the First Presbyterian Church, Albany, MO. Our son, **Andrew**, and his wife and daughter, **Cindy**, and **Jordin** respectively, hosted an open house at the First Christian Church, Savannah, MO. We were overwhelmed with the number of people who came to share our day. Ran out of cake, had 1 dozen (out of 5) cookies, and 4 cups of punch left. At least the last of the 105 people who signed in got the last piece of cake! We delivered a full size SUV and a van loaded with paper products to Hope Lodge of Kansas City plus a nice amount of cash that were collected in lieu of gifts. It was a great day!

Ross Braun: I am looking for one or two more good people to volunteer for a project in Peru. A retired agronomist and a retired soil scientist indicated serious interest, and it would be good to have one or two more people on our team. This year's trip will primarily be for reconnaissance, so we are looking for problem-solving people. Cash crops for the region include coffee and cacao in the cloud forest and rice in the floodplain. Subsistence farming on the hills is their way of life. Water quality protection, drinking water treatment, and wastewater treatment are critical concerns, along with soil erosion control and nutrient and pest management. We will volunteer through the Yantalo Clinic in Peru (www.yantalo.org), probably two weeks in June, after their main harvest. Understanding Spanish is not necessary. If you are interested please contact me atrbbraun48@yahoo.com or 573-228-1040.

Remember the movie "Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure?" Well here's the tale of **Gary Barker** and **Ted Utz's** Excellent Adventure. They kept their wives working so these old boys could play, and play they did. They're on the golf course most days when temperatures are above freezing. They even played at Mozingo Golf Course on February 6 when the temperature reached 60 degrees, but the course still had some snow. In August they went to Wisconsin to play in a golf tournament with **Gary's** and **Terry Rouse's** long-time friend and hunting buddy, **Dave Arneson**. Later in

the fall, **Dave, Gary** and **Ted** tried their hands at Musky fishing in MN. After Ted gets back from his ski trip, the fellows are taking their lovely wives to TX for some beach time, salt water fishing and of course, more golf. Think these fellows are enjoying their retirement. (Submitted by **Gary's wife, Jan Barker.**)

Lucille Major: I am spending a few weeks here in Sunny California visiting daughter **Carolyn** and her family. I plan to detour to Dallas, TX, on my way home and see **Trish** and her family. I understand **Carlene Nolte** is living in that area and I plan to try to see her. I haven't used a computer for years and am having trouble getting onto my new I-Pad. Give my best to all.

Dennis Shirk: Hello all. We are well. Not too much news from here in Maries Co. I have a couple of riding/camping trips planned for May and Oct. We are planning a trip with **Lois's** sister to eastern Tennessee, but no date set for this excursion. I will be planting forage turnips again this fall; it's amazing how they have stretched the hay. Hope you all have a healthy and enjoyable SPRING and SUMMER. See ya down the trail.

All is well in the **Cowart** household. **Walter & I** will be celebrating our 40th wedding anniversary this month. No big plans, just a few days down at Big Cedar near Branson. Our daughter, **Amanda**, delivered our 5th grandchild on Wednesday, January 16th. **Kayson Lane** weighed 8 lbs., 9 oz., and was 21-3/4 inches long. He's doing well as are the other 4 grandchildren. I might add that now with these 5 (four boys and a girl all under the age of 5), retirement couldn't have come at a better time! And I can't end without a victory cry of "Roll Tide Roll" as Alabama is once again THE National College Football Champs! Take care all, **Laura Cowart**.

Keith Davis: I've been keeping at home pretty much. I'm building a pre-fabricated deer stand at the moment, to be reassembled at a later date in a strategic place at the farm. When I finish with it and the weather turns, I plan to be in earnest about building my shop. My younger son and his wife should be returning to the states later this month with a new adopted son from the Congo. He is four months old, and they have named him **Adlai**. In a couple more months, they plan to bring home a six-month-old girl they have named **Kwen**. I went to a fur auction recently with **Dennis Potter**, where I sold some furs I acquired on my trap line this fall. All told, I brought home less than \$200 for my efforts. The trapper who preceded me at the sale sold almost \$10,000 worth of fur. It was something to see. As **Dennis** would say, "I've been to two world's fairs and a goat-ropin' contest, and I've never seen anything like that before." I hope you are wintering well

From **Jim Rickman** in Texas: We are traveling a lot these days. **Jere** and I went to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands in September. We are going to China in March, Europe in June, and Burma in November. Our grandkids are going to Europe with us. We are looking forward to some rain, as we are in an extreme drought in most of Texas. Lake Granbury is very low, and most people can't get their boat in the water. It has been very mild, and we have tomatoes planted in our garden already. I hope everyone is enjoying good health.

Mike Blaine: I trust you all had a good holiday season. We did too, but it went by much too fast. We made our annual New Year's trip east to see our girls and grandkids. We stay a week at each place and help out with whatever jobs my son-in-laws haven't had time to get done. Back here, I have spent some time cutting Cedar trees and piling brush on the farm this winter. Also tore down an old shed that was going to fall down one day. I have been gathering scrap metal from all over the farm that my uncle had left lying around when he was alive. I have taken several loads to the recycler and got enough money for it to make it worthwhile doing, as well as cleaning up the farm. Brush cutting and fence maintenance are never ending jobs. But I enjoy being out there working.

From **Jess Epple** in Oklahoma: As usual, we are spending the winter on J P Ranch. So far, the temperature has been great in this part of Indian Country, but moisture has been limited. We continue to be classified in EXTREME DROUGHT conditions. We anticipate having enough hay to get through the winter, so that's good news. We hope for adequate rain this spring/summer, so pastures and hay land will do well. Our fall calves are healthy, weaned, on feed, had their shots, and generally are 'happy campers.' Our one and only great-granddaughter, **Holland Hope Hughes** from Columbia, MO, came to visit us for Valentine's Day. She just happened to bring her Mom and Dad and her grandparents from Raymore, MO. Holland had so much fun investigating the wildlife and livestock that I suggested that they leave her with us for a month or two. That suggestion was (politely) ignored. But, maybe next year! Be well, stay active, and enjoy retirement.

Jeff Lamb: The company contract for me to provide storm water management services to Fort Wood ended on January 31, so I am back to retired for the month of February, and it feels good. A new contract should pick up again around March 1. Our house remodeling project is nearing the end after about 5 months. Slightly over budget and overdue, but it is turning out really nice. We added some things along the way and deleted others. At some point you just have to say that's enough for now. I haven't gotten to do a whole lot of recreation other than a day float or two on the river since the house project started.

Jack Schneider: Our son, **Matt**, got married on December 28 in Union, MO, and one of Linda's nieces tied the knot in Eureka on February 2. Matt and new bride live in Portland, OR, where I was earlier this month helping install new kitchen cabinets. This is part of extensive renovations he is doing on his house. Linda's niece and hubby are returning

to Korea to complete their English teaching contract which ends in August. It's certainly getting to be a worldwide life, these days.

Buck Burch (from last December): **Carolyn and I** just returned from a week in Gulf shores, Alabama. It was the time of year they celebrate with their annual shrimp festival. It is worth attending if you are looking for something to do and like to eat tons of shrimp. We went for the shrimp but also in celebration of successful Deep Brain Stimulation Surgery that has taken place over the past 3 months here in Columbia. I am still going through the "tuning" process, but thus far it is controlling my Parkinson's to a great degree.

MONTANA

Dick Gooby, ARCSE Representative

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Montana Big Sky ARSCSE Report.

Gordon Decker Report: The January breakfast attendance was low, but the hard core was there: **Smiths, Hunters, Remers, Ron Batchelor, Van Haderlie, Bob Lohmiller, Dan Mclean** and myself. I missed the February breakfast.

Kathy and I slept in after a two-day trip with the Bozeman Senior Center to West Yellowstone, then into Yellowstone National Park on snow coaches. The park is really beautiful and different in the winter. While in West Yellowstone, I called and had coffee with **Glen Loomis**, retired SCS Montana State Conservationist. Glen rescued me from National Headquarters in 1986 as State Soil Scientist to lead the charge of completing the soil mapping on all the cropland in Montana.

James Johnson Report: We were at the retiree breakfast on February 6th, and counted 15 in attendance. In addition to **Joan and I, Bob Ross, Bob Lund, Hal and Judy Hunter, Don and Jan Rehmer, Van Haderlie, Don Jones, Dan McLean, Bob Lohmiller, Bob O'Driscoll, Ron Batchelor, and Ralph Bergantine** were there. Everyone there seems to be enjoying the nice winter in Bozeman.

Scott Hoag Report: **Scott and Nancy Hoag** are in the process of building a home south of Bozeman. They'll break ground when the snow's gone and the ground thaws. In the meantime, **Nancy** has a story in *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Finding My Faith* and has been asked to submit additional pieces. She continues to write and publish articles in Christian magazines and recently submitted her mainstream novel to both a screenwriter friend and a former editor from Boston . . . on speculation only.

Scott volunteers one day a week with Habitat for Humanity and skis when there's snow and attends the Men's Group at the church. And for those of you who remember their daughter, **Lisa**: she has now opened her own design business in downtown Seattle.

Gooby Ranch Report: We have a field right by the house where I like to watch the wildlife while **Mary Ann** is doing the chores. The field was planted in peas and barley this past summer. A few weeks ago the geese started moving in to eat out of the field. Some of them are as close as 150 feet from the house. Everyday more are coming in. One day **Mary Ann** decided to count them and she counted 750 geese. Then she went out to get some fire wood. It appeared to me that there were 756 geese. I always feel bad when Mary Ann is wrong so I got my shotgun out and gathered 6 geese, so she was right.

The same thing happened the next day, the next and the next. Mary Ann ended up with enough down to make us both a vest, two coats and one sleeping bag. I don't need a vest much since Mary Ann does all the outside work, but sometimes I do go out and give her some work improvement suggestions. We have so many geese Mary Ann has been taking them to the farmers market to sell. We can sell them as "free-ranging" geese but not "organic" geese because they may have eaten in a farmer's field that they fertilized with commercial fertilizer. Mary Ann uses her metal detector to try to locate the shotgun pellets in the geese. She does provide the customer with a sheet explaining that as they are eating the goose they need to keep using their metal detector to find any pellets Mary Ann might have missed.

Mallard ducks started coming in as well. Now Mary Ann is double-cropping the field, and they sell good at the farmers market too. I know of one guy who shoots a lot of geese and ducks, and he doesn't worry about how many shotgun pellets he eats. One day he had a gas expulsion and shot a hole right through the seat of his trousers.

Can you imagine what would happen if Mary Ann sold a bunch of geese and mallards at the farmers market, and she didn't remove the shotgun pellets? Then a few days later the Chamber of Commerce held their annual chili feed.

The geese are really adding to our soil health project. Last fall we grazed cattle on the stubble. As well as eating the peas and barley that fell on the ground, the geese are fertilizing the field as they go. By selling some of the geese we are making an additional income while practicing good soil health. Also, by eating the peas and barley we won't have to worry about spraying the field before we plant it next spring.

It's a good thing I saw **Lynn Betts'** article he published in the Farmer-Stockman magazine titled, "Cover Crop Mix Offers Best Bet." Lynn retired with NRCS in Iowa. Even though he is retired, he is still helping get the word out on conservation. Once an NRCSer, always an NRCSer. After reading the article, Mary Ann is looking at planting crops that will bring in all kinds of wildlife. Wildlife are a lot easier to raise than cattle, since you don't have to worry about calving problems, shots, branding, neutering, etc. All I have to do is sit in my chair on the deck and harvest however many Mary Ann needs for the Farmers Market.

Now we are thinking of painting the house camouflage color, and it would be like a tree stand. What could be better than sitting on the deck to go hunting?

NEBRASKA

Norman and Sylvia Kempf, ARCSE Representatives

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President, Gary Muckel, called the meetings to order. There were 20 people attending in January and 29 people attending in February.

Travel reports:

Russ Shultz's will be on their way to Pennsylvania for a month to spend time with children there. **Steve & Jan Stover** spent the holidays in Cincinnati, Ohio with family. **Virginia Adkins** left home early in December to spend time in Denver, Colorado Springs and then on to Arkansas. **Jim & Susie Harder** spent a week in Flower Mound, Texas, then had grandchildren with them at home for a week. **Bill & Colleen Hance** will be attending a wedding in Denver the weekend of February 23rd. The **Muckels** had children and grandchildren here for Christmas.

Birthdays:

Jim Harder and Bill Hance celebrated January birthdays.

Death Notice:

Deaths of former SCS employees **Bob Hays**, engineer at Soil Mechanics Lab and **Sig Quam**, SCT at Fairbury were reported.

Health Notice:

Dave Langemeier reported that he is now getting chemo therapy and is doing quite well. He has been meeting the golfers for breakfast and even golfed 9 holes on the last nice day. His score was as good as it ever is????

Gus Dornbusch had his second knee replacement on January 17th. He is getting along very well and after one month has thrown away his cane.

Norman Kempf reported that **Sylvia** will be having surgery on March 14th to remove rods and screws that were installed in her back 2.5 years ago. The screws have moved and loosened and appear to be putting pressure on some nerves and are causing a great deal of pain.

NEW YORK

Nancy Lee, ARCSE Representative

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Keep this date open: Wednesday, July 17, 2013, NY Retirees' Picnic, Dorchester Park, Whitney Point, NY

Allan Connell writes: We just got back from a trip to Oslo, Norway to visit our son and his family. Our granddaughter **Sophie** is three and speaks fluent English and Norwegian. It is amazing to hear. It was the first time we have visited in the winter and it was really special. The cross country skiing was great!! We helped move them into their brand new home they just purchased in the country just outside Oslo.

We also spent Christmas in Atlanta visiting our daughter and her family. It was really nice spending Christmas with our two grandchildren, **Mary Kate**, who is 4, and **Sean** who is 2.

I worked as an ACES employee at the Riverhead office for over a year, but that came to an end in the beginning of January due to budget problems. It was a really enjoyable experience and allowed me to concentrate on the technical aspects of the job which I really enjoyed.

Golf has consumed me since I retired. I never thought I would play the game, but took it up the first year of retirement and really love it. Now I am spending a lot of time trying to get better. It can be a frustrating sport but only takes one good shot to keep me coming back.

John Dickerson writes from Ohio: **Gail and I** are keeping active here in northern Ohio doing all the normal activities like keeping up with the kids and grandkids and volunteer activities. **Scott**, our youngest, is currently in Afghanistan as a civilian with the Army. While he is there, we are providing as much technical and logistical support to **Irina** and girls (4 and 2), meaning frequent trips to Alexandria, VA. **John's** sister and brother-in-law are dealing with some acute health issues, and 2013 may prove to require some extra trips to Rochester. **Shawn**, our oldest son, is getting ready for a career change that may take him out of Ohio in the future. Our daughter, **Cheryl** and her family, are still in the Charlotte, NC, area and very unlikely to move. This has us contemplating another move from Ohio to probably southwest Virginia along the Blue Ridge, roughly central between DC and Charlotte.

Julian Drelich writes: Yes I'm still alive. Still puttering with the Delaware Co. SWCD one or two days a week. We have a 17-month-old granddaughter, **Molly Marie Rathman**, our daughter's first. Son **Daniel** is still employed by Sporting KC, the Major League Soccer team in Kansas City, MO. Currently he is in Florida with the team at spring training where he works in Operations. **Sylvia** is still working at Oxford Central School: one more year to go she says. Leaving for five days in Florida for some time away and a chance to see Danny and some soccer. Other than the above, I'm still coaching soccer and maintaining the Club's facilities.

Fred Gilbert writes: **Mary and I** have spent a quiet winter in Manlius. Our children were here for parts of the Christmas Holidays. We continue to be somewhat involved in our community activities and, like many our age, stay involved with various medical visits.

Brad Higgins writes: **Barbara and I** celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary last July. We repeated our vows at the Penfield United Methodist Church. Many friends and family were there to celebrate with us. After the celebration, we went to New Hampshire with our children and grandchildren and spent a week there at an old farmhouse near where I grew up.

Nancy Lee writes that she and **Mel** are keeping busy attending Syracuse Orange Basketball games. They are also excited about getting ready for their first grandchild in July from son, **Andy** and wife, **Mary**.

Gene Hanchett reports his health is OK.

Nancy Luna has decided it is time to grab her orange hat and yellow boots and ride off into the sunset after 34 years of government service. **Nancy** plans to spend more time sleeping in, laughing, and letting the days unfold, petting the dog, and getting to know her new grandson. On a bigger scale, she hopes to travel and even learn to SCUBA dive.

Marilyn Stephenson, Area Conservationist in Albany, retired January 1st after 38 years with NRCS. She will continue to be active in farmland protection and water quality projects in her community. She is also looking forward to spending more time with family and pursuing art projects and enjoying life.

Erwin Rice writes that he has little to say, although **Gwenn** did have a stroke and has gone from wheel chair to walking with a cane this winter. Even being in my nineties I've been able to do for her. Our garden was quite successful—still digging carrots. Our grandson received a scholarship at Chambers University, partly based on his performance in the Shilouetts. Even with a full academic schedule, he has earned some income in local shows during his first semester.

Forwarded by **Fred Gilbert** from **Dr. Richard Arnold** who was, for many years, Professor of Soil Science at Cornell and the experiment station leader for the National Cooperative Soil Survey in New York. Later, he assumed positions in the Soil Conservation Service including Director of Soils. He now lives in "retirement" in West Lafayette Indiana. The following is a short note that was interesting.

"I recently received word that **Gleb V. Dobrolvolsky**, a strong leader of pedology and their Soil Science Society for many years, and I were elected to receive the Lomonosov Gold Medal for 2012 from the Russian Academy of Science. It is their highest accolade. It is the first time that Pedology has been so honored in their Academy which is the home of our modern day soil science. I think they are as excited as I am. The ceremony will be in late May and I have renewed my passport and will try to go. Because there will not be simultaneous translation, I am trying to pick some really nice photos to illustrate a few concepts related to soil resource inventories over the past century and how we hope they will help civilization in the current dilemma. The problem with me is I have more to show and tell than I will have time for. Such is life!

Also I have been invited to give one of the keynote addresses to the ISCO, International Soil Conservation Organization, meeting in Medellin, Colombia, in July. I once gave a dinner speech at an ISCO meeting in New Delhi, India, and have enjoyed friendships with some of their leadership over the years.

In the meantime I keep starting to clean out old files but get lost in the wonderful reverie of being in the field with so many wonderful soil scientists and learning from them about their perceptions of the pedosphere. Fascinating stories to be sure."

NORTH CAROLINA

Jim Canterbury, ARCSE Representative

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Twelve retirees and guests from the Raleigh area met at Bob Evans Restaurant for breakfast. This event takes place a couple times each year. Attending the breakfast were **Jim Canterbury, Dr. Maurice Cook, Tommy Cutts, Frank Evans, Dick Gallo, Coy Garrett, John Garrett, Charles Godley, Hubert Hawkins, Ed Helmey, Harold Lile, Cecil Settle, and Rex Tracy.** John Garrett made the arrangements for breakfast.

OKLAHOMA

Randy Freeland, ARSCE Representative

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We have had several join our retiree ranks in Oklahoma. They are: **Brad Elder**, Soil Conservationist in Anadarko; **Ron Hilliard**, State Conservationist in Stillwater; **Lanny Miller**, Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operation in Stillwater; **Greg Scott**, State Soil Scientist in Stillwater; and **Ron Schmidt**, District Conservationist in Cordell.

The next meeting for Oklahoma Retirees is scheduled for Friday, April 26, 2013, at the Golden Corral Buffet, 520 South MacArthur Blvd. in Oklahoma City. It is located between I-40 & Reno behind the Shell Station. Take Exit #144 off I-40. Go north on MacArthur Blvd. The doors will open at 10:45 AM.

OREGON

Don Stettler, ARCSE Representative

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A nice group braved the threat of icy roads to attend the winter quarter lunch on January 23rd. Those attending were **Keith Cromwell, Tom Fujii, Gary Formanek, Roy Fox, Lee Hardy, Bobbie Hart, Dave Johnson, Jack Kanalz, Lowell and Marian Kenedy, Roy and Linda Mann, Bruce Newton, Jeff Repp and Maureen, Lamont Robbins, Leland Saele, Joe Sahlfeld, Pat Straka, Wendell and Jan Styner, Dick and Kathy Sylvester, Gail Voge, Ralph Wadleigh, Don and Diana Wallin, Beth Zetter** and yours truly.

Lee Hardy told us that **Elwin Ross** had finally retired. Lee and Elwin started a private engineering practice after they retired from SCS. Later **Bruce Wilson** joined the practice. Even though Elwin has retired, Lee and Bruce continue to plug away.

It was announced that it was just learned that **Paul Monville** passed away last October. Several reminisced about their memories of Paul.

Eldena announced that her sister-in-law, Susan Davis, and family will again be holding the Annual "Open House" of "Papa's Toys" Car Collection. It features a private collection of street rods, classics, customs, race cars and special interest vehicles from 1922 to 1982. It will be held on May 11th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at 495 N. Holladay Street, Cornelius, OR. Donations for admission will be given to Doernbecher Children's Hospital.

Bruce Newton, director of the West National Technology Support Center, gave us an interesting update on what is happening in NRCS.

The spring quarter lunch will be held on April 24th at the Clackamas, The Old Spaghetti Factory.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Mark W. Berkland, ARCSE Representative

Email: mberkland@homesc.com

Niles and **Carolyn Glasgow** attended the January 12, 2013, performance of the South Carolina Philharmonic in Columbia, SC. This was a special event since we got to hear and see **Frank Killian's** last performance after 37 years with this group. **Frank** played the Viola in the symphony. He was given special recognition during intermission. **Frank** retired a couple years ago where he had served for 37 years as the contract specialist for NRCS in Columbia. Congratulations to **Frank** on these two accomplishments.

Charles Murdaugh reported that on December 31, 2012, after 32 years as a Soil Conservation Technician, he threw in the towel and closed his "toolbox" with NRCS. **Charles** said he is now settling into the most anticipated and uplifting phase of my life, Retirement!!

SOUTH DAKOTA

Michael Kuch, ARCSE Representative

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We are in the planning stages for our first ARCSE get-together for South Dakota. Please mark your calendars for the first weekend in August, 2013. We are working on scheduling activities for the 2nd and 3rd of August in Pierre, SD. The get-together will be for all retirees, and we will be sending out a "Save the Date" notice in the next couple of weeks. Once all of the planning is complete, we will send out a notice with the final agenda and costs. Group get-together activities will be at the Ikes Cabin in South East Pierre. Other activities that are being considered are golf, boating/fishing, and tours of local attractions (Capitol, Heritage Center, etc.). If anyone has any preferences, please get in touch with **Penny Galinat** or me. My email is miklon@swifotel.net or my mailing address is **Mike Kuck**, 1706 Orchard Drive, Brookings, SD 57006. My Phone is 605-697-7459. Penny's phone number is 605-224-9586. We are also looking for a few good volunteers to help during the get-together, so if you are interested, please let us know. Also, talk with the retirees you know and let them know about the get-together, as we are not sure we have email or mailing addresses for everyone. We are looking forward to a good turnout this summer.

I don't have much information from other retirees, but I do know that **Pat Kuck**, Engineer/RC&D Coordinator/Area Conservationist had five bypasses completed two weeks ago in Texas where they are wintering. The surgery went very well, and he is recovering quickly. If you are interested in sending a card, his address is 206 South Stewart Road, #122, Mission, TX 78592. His wife stated that if he does a little better job of minding, he may live to recovery. Doesn't sound like he has changed much.

Hope this finds everyone enjoying retirement and planning on visiting Pierre the first weekend in August this summer.

TEXAS (NORTH AREA)

Arnold King, ARCSE Representative

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Twenty three members were present for the January 18, 2013, meeting: **Earl Blakley, Elaine & Billy Don Davis, Joyce Petty, Joe Nichols, Dave & Barb Stockbridge, Betty Sisson, Bernie & Maxine Owen, Jim & Jere Rickman, Dave Drennan, Dennis Erinakes, Hugh and Sue Allcon, Dennis Gaster, Clyde Goodman, Mary Mattinson, Jim & Carol Robinson, Marie Garsjo, and Don Newman**. It was good to see Hugh, Sue, and Clyde at the meeting.

President **Marie Garsjo** presided over the business meeting. Club business included a treasures report from Dennis Gaster. The club has about \$1,557 in the treasury.

Bernie Owen gave an update on the new tax laws for 2012 and 2013 as our January program.

MEMBER NEWS:

Marie Garsjo reported that she had been involved in some of her club activities to raise money for scholarship funds.

Dave Stockbridge had been duck hunting and got 11 and is going again this week-end.

Betty Sisson watched many of the college football bowl games.

Dave Drennan went to the Armed Services Bowl, at the TCU stadium in Fort Worth and saw Rice beat Air Force. Dave's wife, **Jean**, is scheduled for surgery next week for a torn rotator cuff. **Dave** is also planning a trip to Alaska with his brother.

Carol Robinson reported that Christmas was exciting this year with their 2-year-old grandson, and they are raising a new puppy.

Jere Rickman said that her granddaughter did very well her first semester at U. of Texas.

Dennis Erinakes stated that the geese were not at the coast this year due to no water or crops. Water for irrigation is restricted. Dennis is very involved with groundwater and the present drought Texas is experiencing.

Joyce Petty said she was enjoying a pretty dull life.

Anita Plummer's daughter **Penny**, son-in-law **Andy**, and grandchildren **Warren**, age 11; **Derek**, age 7; and **Charlotte**, age 5, were all here for Christmas. She said the kids were so excited about playing in the beautiful snow on Christmas Day.

Maxine Owen had their Tucson son and his family visit for 10 days over Christmas. The granddaughters, ages 9 and 6, had a ball playing in the snow. It made a very special Christmas for them. Maxine enjoys staying up-to-date through text messages with their 19-year-old college student.

Mary Mattinson had a grandchild turn 16 and received a text message, "I'm legal."

Elaine Davis is going to the stock show, where she is a judge for those who compete in plant identification.

Barb Stockbridge reported that she had company from December 13 thru December 26.

Dennis Gaster spent Christmas with his grandchildren, ages 8 and 10. Dennis gave them money for a Christmas present, and then they went shopping. His wife, **Kathy**, is having knee problems, and had some knee injections. **Dennis** was planning to go cold-weather camping with Scouts on Saturday.

Clyde Goodman and his wife have spent a lot of time as care-givers. This is the first year in a long time without major surgery. He reported knee replacements are just over \$300,000 (TGFI – thank God for insurance). He has run into several retirees at hospitals. Clyde spent Christmas at the beach in Port Aransas.

Bernie Owen commented that, in addition to another member (**Marie Garsjo**) who was married in Alaska, that he and **Maxine** were married in Fairbanks in 1962. He also mentioned that Kansas State looked good in the Fiesta Bowl pre-game warm ups (and then the game started).

Maxine saw on Facebook that **Don Kapalka** is still in the hospital waiting to get on the lung transplant list. She added that visitors would be welcome.

We sadly recognize the passing of these colleagues:

Rhett Johnson's mother, E. D Johnson, passed away February 2. Her services were Tuesday in Elbert, TX. We extend our condolences to **Rhett, Sharon** and their family.

We are saddened to report the passing of our long time Alumni Club member, **Philip H. Trew** on December 20, 2012, at the age of 87. Thank you to **Anita Plummer** who discovered his notice in the Star Telegram recently. Our sincere condolences are extended to his wife **Joan Taylor Trew** and their family.

WASHINGTON

Gerald Richard, ARCSE Representative

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Attending recent retiree luncheons at the Timber Creek Grill and Buffett were **Joe Carmack, Lenny Husa, Ralph Schmidt, Ken Kaul, Larry Edmonds, Jerry Richard, Carl Vennes, Bob Olson, Jud Melton, and Harry Riehle**. **Joe Carmack** completed the fall harvest on the family farm in Tennessee. The drought affected the yields with the corn being impacted more than the soybeans, but with some timely rains the harvest and the yields were bearable. **Ralph Schmidt**, former regional engineer for the Pacific Northwest was on his 13th medical mission to Belize, Central America, in January with 42 medical specialists, where they served in a regional hospital and several remote villages. They also had the opportunity of assisting with the medical needs of two rural schools. During the tax season, Ralph is doing federal income taxes with AARP. The 8-member team will complete more than 1,000 returns this tax season for low to moderate income taxpayers. **Bob Olson and Jerry Richard** have had a severe case of the stumbles. **Bob** cracked several ribs with his fall at home, and **Jerry** tried to do some snow plowing with his shoulder at Schweitzer ski area resulting in a broken clavicle.

WASHINGTON DC NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

John Peterson, ARCSE Representative

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Barb and Don Woodward went on a river cruise in the Ukraine that involved visiting Kiev, Yalta, and Odessa with a side trip to Istanbul. **Don** is now the Dean of Keese School, a continued education school at Asbury Retirement Community, which involves lectures twice a week and classes several time a week. **Don** has also recently been selected to be a Fellow of ASCE because of his activities within ASCE and promotion of the NRCS Curve Number Hydrology within the society. Congratulations, **Don!**

Peter Smith had hip replacement joint "revision" surgery in January. His three-year-old metal on metal joint was sloughing off cobalt and chromium particles causing pseudo tumors in leg muscles and quite a bit of pain. (His nine year old metal on metal replacement hip joint is fine). During the surgery, the pseudo tumors were removed, the metal ball was replaced with a ceramic one, and the metal cup was replaced with a plastic one. The operation was successful, and **Peter** says that he's ready for the raspberry and golf seasons. He has become an expert hip replacement patient.

John Peterson was honored by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) with their Distinguished Service Award during its 2013 annual meeting in San Antonio, TX on January 29th, 2013. John was also inducted into the NACD SE Region Hall of Fame in 2012. The NACD SE Region consists of AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN and VA. In 2010 he was again honored by VASWCD with their Bobby Wilkinson award. The award goes to a Virginia

SWCD Director who has furthered the Association's policies and objectives by their unselfish acts and dedication to soil and water conservation. **Blanche says John** has completely failed at retirement.

BURKE RESIDENT, JOHN PETERSON, HONORED BY NATIONAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

(<http://vaswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/2013-Press-Release-VA-Director-John-Peterson-Recognized-for-Conservation-Leadership.doc>)



The Distinguished Service Award recognizes an individual has made significant contributions to the conservation and proper management of our nation's natural resources.

John has been a valuable advocate for conservation at the state and national levels. Peterson was nominated for the honor by the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD) where he also serves on the VASWCD Board of Directors, and is Virginia's representative to the NACD Board of Directors. John has been a valuable advocate for conservation at the state and national levels. His distinguished career and service in soil and water conservation includes serving as a professional with the USDA Soil Conservation Service, as a local elected director on the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District in Fairfax County, and as Virginia's representative on the NACD Board of Directors; in addition to significant professional conservation work with a number of organizations.

Peterson founded KEMPS Consultants, Inc., with expertise in natural resources public policy, water resources, and erosion and sediment control in 1994 after a highly successful career at the top of the US Department of Agriculture's federal Senior Executive Service. At retirement he was an Assistant Chief of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS, now called the Natural Resources Conservation Service - NRCS) one of the top line officers of that agency. He had also served SCS as the Deputy Chief for Administration, responsible for the SCS's financial and personnel activities. John's SCS career took him from MN, to SD, OH, IN, and AZ before coming to USDA Headquarters in Washington, DC. He started working with conservation districts in 1953 as a high school junior. He has been involved with our nation's 3,000 conservation districts in some capacity since that time. Since his retirement from USDA John served as the Executive Director of the National Watershed Coalition (NWC), and has been on his local NVSWCD Board since 2006. He was re-elected to another four-year term last NOV. He is also a retired Army COL (INF) after a 32-year active and reserve career. John and his wife Blanche have five grown children and 6 grandchildren. They have lived in Burke since 1978.

WEST VIRGINIA

Peg Reese, ARCSE Representative

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Deaths:

Quentin Preston Bennett of Riverton, WV (formerly of Bridgeport, WV) passed away on January 7th, 2013.

Cora Pomphrey Crowe, wife of **Clement Crowe**, died January 23, 2013 at Princeton Community Hospital.

Cheryl Marlene Delp, D.D.S. died surrounded by her family after a long battle with cancer on December 31, 2012. Cheryl was the wife of **Charles Delp**.

More information about Quentin, Cora, and Cheryl can be found in the memorial section of this newsletter.

William F. Hatfield's death was reported in this newsletter a few months ago. The following item written by **Dave Kingsbury** for the West Virginia Association of Professional Soil Scientists newsletter gives a fuller description of his life.

Bill was a great administrator who was responsible for hiring many soil scientists, both currently working and retired, throughout WV. He was also great with budgets and was always getting extra money for the soil survey. He provided leadership and oversight for soil survey, aerial photography, and the National Resources Inventory (NRI). According to one of his former staff, **Steve Carpenter**, Bill could "size up" a person pretty fast and had a serious stare but a quick smile. He could also be tough and give you a little pep talk when you needed it. Bill could chew you out and you wouldn't take it as such. He was very personable. Bill was a direct descendant of "**Devil Anse**" **Hatfield**, but did not talk about it much. One memory he shared with his staff was that of an elderly Hatfield aunt who rubbed snuff and spit on a hot, pot-bellied stove (He also mentioned that she had a gun too, but we won't go there). After retirement, he could be found in Mt. Morris mowing his lawn or cutting brush on his property near Kirby, PA. Bill always invited you to "come see me." He will be missed by those who knew him.

Updates:

Dee Weston headed to the Myrtle Beach area in January and reports that "I spent some time with **Jim Dove**. He's doing great and still keeps very busy. He plays golf once a week and is active with his church and has prayer meeting once a week at a local nursing home. I fixed buckwheat cakes for him several times while there, and he really enjoyed them. We had a good time remembering the 'old' days at SCS. While there, I enjoyed almost two weeks of weather in the 70s and couple days in the 80s. Returned to the cold and snow. ugh!"

Jim Clevenger and his wife Mary "are on beautiful South Padre Island, TX, where we have spent the months of January and February since retirement. The weather has been beautiful with an average daytime temp around 74. We spent Christmas and New Year's with our families in Virginia Beach and Augusta, GA, before coming here. I play golf twice a week with my senior winter Texan group. We're both having a good time and enjoying retirement. Thank the good lord we are still healthy enough to travel."

Judy Fairbanks reports "I'm celebrating my 74th Birthday by going to the R Horse Ranch here in Georgia (guess I have cryptic desire to end my birthdays). Actually, I haven't been on a horse since I was 14, so I will take a puzzle and books for the three-day cabin trip in the mountains. I spend winters with my son **Danny** in warmer weather, but I'll soon be returning to Morgantown and then back home to Parsons, WV. Other than a tornado wiping out the nearby town of Adairsville and heading for cover when the sirens go off, it has been a boring visit. I'm kidding, **Dan and Laura** have three teenage boys that are involved in football, track, and swimming, and Danny is the coach, so of course, 'Nanny' (me), enjoys watching. Have a safe and Blessed spring."

Peg Reese tried to escape winter with a visit to Phipps Conservatory in Pittsburgh. Beautiful orchids, green ferns and the company of her sister, **Donna**, were the makings of a very enjoyable afternoon. The snowflakes and cold temperatures that greeted her as she left the building were less appreciated.

WISCONSIN

Jim Enlow, ARCSE Representative

Email: ljenlow@att.net

The Wisconsin retirees met for lunch for the first time in 2013. They met at Tony's Riverside Restaurant and Bar, Spooner, WI. **Randy Gilbertson and Keith Sengbusch** were the hosts on February 14.

Those in attendance included **Randy Gilbertson, Keith Sengbusch, Bob Henrich, Tim Meyer, Leonard Splett, Dale Jakel, Dan Lynch & Monica Donahue, Dave Vold, Jerry Thompson, Larry Natzke, Duane and Elsie Wallace, Kent Wabrowetz, John and Barbara Donlin and Bertha Swan**. What a great turnout on a cold Valentine's Day.

The next luncheon is scheduled for April 11 at Fitzgeralds Restaurant, Middleton, WI.



NEW SENIOR CONSERVATIONISTS

We welcome two 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:

Bradford Higgins Penfield, NY

Beulah C. Souther North Wilkesboro, NC

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

Gerald B. Welsh

Senior Conservationist Gerald B. Welsh (Gerry) was born in New York City. He grew up in the Greenwich Village part of the Borough of Manhattan. After high school, he attended Cornell University where he studied in the College of Agriculture. A requirement for graduation was on-farm experience, and Gerry spent his college summers as a farm worker. Prior to what would have been his senior year in 1951, Gerry joined the US Air Force. Although his desire to become a pilot was thwarted, he attended OCS and Supply Officer School. Just before he completed the latter training in 1953, the Korean War ended with signing of the Armistice Agreement. Gerry left the Air Force and started back at Cornell for his senior year. He majored in agricultural economics and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1954.

Gerry was hired by SCS in 1954 as agricultural economist on the Watershed Planning Staff at Syracuse, NY. He worked there until 1960, when he accepted the position of Watershed Planning Staff Leader in Santurce (a district of San Juan), Puerto Rico. He held that position until March, 1962, when his unit was administratively abolished, and he was named Watershed Planning Staff Leader in Burlington, VT, where he worked for three years. In 1965 Gerry became Watershed Planning Staff Leader in Phoenix, AZ. Also in 1965, Gerry met and married **Alice Campbell**. He was located in Phoenix for six years, during which he was promoted to River Basin Staff Leader and then to Assistant STC for Water Resources. While there, he was instrumental in interagency cooperation that led to development of the Map Information and Display System (MIADS). This system provided significant improvement in analysis of map and landscape-derived information for improved planning and decision-making. During Christmas week of 1971, Gerry and his family moved to the Washington, DC, area so that he could begin his new duties as Soil Conservationist in the Resource Development Division at SCS Headquarters. He worked in that capacity for 10 years. While there he had a four-year assignment to the International Joint Commission, United States and Canada, for the Great Lakes water quality study (Pollution from Land Use Activities Reference Group). In 1982 Gerry was assigned to the post of Research Coordinator during a reorganization of Headquarters. With that shift he joined the Ecological Sciences Division. He held that position until his retirement in 1990. During that period Gerry's work with research agencies both inside and outside USDA did much to improve SCS's ability to more easily acquire the latest in research information. It was also during this period that Gerry was a Legislative Fellow in the office of Senator Paul S. Trible, Jr. (R-VA).

After retirement from SCS, Gerry remained in the Washington, DC, area until 1998 when he and Alice moved to Little River, SC.

Gerry and Alice will celebrate their 48th wedding anniversary on March 30th of this year. They have two sons, **Michael** and **Marc**. Over the years Gerry has been involved in many community and family activities. He is very active in his church (as Deacon and as Sunday School teacher) as well as in the Gideons and in jail ministry. He was a census worker in 1999. He has served on his community lakes and grounds committee. And, he and Alice have enjoyed travels around the United States. His hobbies and interests have also included baseball, softball, fishing, and golf. Gerry says that he is "...grateful for the opportunities he has had to work with so many wonderful people."

OBITUARY INFORMATION

Ron Marlow, Secretary–Treasurer

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

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

In regards to finding obituary information, the following can be most helpful for locating obituaries:

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

<i>SURNAME</i>	IN MEMORIAM (Note: These are recent notices. For a complete list, please see http://arcse.org/nannoun.htm)
Ayen	Beverly Ayen (63) of Urbandale, IA passed away on December 21, 2012. Beverly was the wife of Jim Ayen , retired SCS State Resource Conservationist. She is survived by her husband, Jim , daughters Kari (Scott) Severson ; Kimberly (Ken) Ewing and Erik (Holly) Ayen , and four grandchildren.
Bennett	Senior Conservationist and Member Quentin Preston Bennett (87) of Riverton, WV (formerly of Bridgeport, WV) passed away on January 7, 2013. He was an infantryman during WWII in Patton's 4 th Armored Division and was wounded during the Battle of the Bulge. His military awards include the Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star and Purple Heart. He graduated from West Virginia University in 1952, the first in his family to graduate from college. He married Joy Cooper Bennett of Dry Fork, WV in 1954 and raised three sons. He retired in 1990 as a District Conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service. After the death of his first wife, Joy in 1993, Quentin married Roberta (Harper) Weese of Riverton, WV, in 1999. In addition to his wife, Mr. Bennett is survived by his three sons, Bradley Quentin (Debbie) Bennett of Clarksburg, WV; Jeffrey Dixon (Janie) Bennett of Pueblo West, CO; and Dr. T. Preston (Gabriela) Bennett of Arlington, VA; a step daughter and two step sons; 8 grandchildren; 7 step grandchildren; a great-grandson; and 9 step great-grandchildren. Memorial gifts may be made to: Valley Chapel Church or the American Cancer Society. Memories and words of comfort may be left at www.basagic.com .
Birchmier	Martha (Marti) Birchmier (81) of Centerville, Iowa passed away on November 22, 2012. Marti was the wife of SCS retiree, Richard Birchmier , who worked in the Centerville Engineering Office at time of retirement. She is survived by her husband and six children, seventeen grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren.
Clayton	John Oliver (Jack) Clayton (77) of Reynoldsburg, Ohio passed away on December 26, 2012 after battling lung cancer. He is survived by Barbara (Parker) Clayton , his wife of 16 years; and former contract specialist with SCS, two children, and three step-children, sixteen grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Mt. Carmel Hospice, 6150 E. Broad St. Columbus, OH 43213. Online condolences may be made to www.schoedinger.com .
Crowe	Cora Pomphrey Crowe (91) of The Havens in Princeton passed away on January 23, 2013. Cora was a clerk for the Selective Service during World War II and was a secretary for the Monroe County Superintendent of Schools prior to moving to Princeton in 1960, where she quickly became very active in her church and community. Survivors include her husband of sixty three years, Clement Eugene Crowe of Princeton who retired from SCS, one daughter, and several nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to the First United Methodist Church, PO Box 304, Princeton, WV 24740.
Delp	Cheryl Marlene Delp , D.D.S., passed away on December 31, 2012 after a long battle with cancer. Dr. Delp served Sutton, WV, and the surrounding area as a dentist for more than 36 years, helping thousands with their dental health. Cheryl is survived by her husband Charles H. Delp who retired in 2011 as the Assistant State Soil Scientist for NRCS. Also surviving is a daughter, Alexis (Nikki) Clark , who resides in Riverside, California. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, a donation be made to the West Virginia University Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center, 1 Medical Center Drive, Morgantown, WV 26506.
Desha	Doris H. Desha (85) of Pflugerville, Texas, passed away on December 8, 2012. She was preceded in death by her husband, George Desha , a retired regional resource conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service.
Ellicott	Larry David Ellicott (68) of Gilbert, Arizona lost his battle with brain cancer January 18, 2013. Larry worked for SCS/NRCS for 30 years, served as a Range Conservationist in both St. Maries & Lewiston, Idaho, and as the Area Range Conservationist in Flagstaff, Arizona. Then he moved on to Salt Lake City, Utah, where he served as the State Range Conservationist. He retired in January of 2004. A graduate of the University of Arizona, Larry also

served in the US Navy during the Viet Nam War. **Larry** and wife **Sherry** had moved to Arizona where they could be near children and grandchildren. **Sherry** is currently working as an Administrative Assistant with NRCS in the State Office in Phoenix. He is also survived by two sons, a daughter, and nine grandchildren.

- Ernstes** **Thomas L. Ernstes** (86) of Xenia, Ohio passed away on January 1, 2013, at Liberty Nursing Center of Xenia. He retired in 1993 as a conservationist with the US Soil Conservation Service after 37 years. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, **Wilma (Ohmer) Ernstes**, and four daughters. In lieu of flowers, family requests contributions may be made to Hospice of Dayton, 324 Wilmington Ave., Dayton, OH, 45420. Condolences may be made to the family at www.NeeldFuneralHome.com.
- Frederick** **Arnold H. Frederick** (83) of Broadalbin, New York, passed away on January 8, 2013. He was a dairy farmer and later worked for SCS as a soil conservationist from 1968 until 1989 in Fulton and Saratoga counties. From the 1970s until 1991 he was an owner/trainer of horses at Saratoga Harness Track. He served on the Perth Central School Board of Education from the late 1960s to the early 1970s. **Arnold** was married to **Louise Smith Frederick** on December 31, 1949. She passed away on December 7, 1998. Survivors include six children, 14 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made in lieu of flowers to the First Presbyterian Church of Broadalbin, 54 W. Main St; Broadalbin, NY 12025.
- Furman** **Therold R. Furman** (87) of Emerickville, Pennsylvania, passed away on Jan. 8, 2013, at his home. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, **Marjorie Hackett**. **Therold** was a US Army veteran who served during World War II. For 31 years, he worked as a technician for USDA Soil Conservation service. He is also survived by a daughter, **Jeanne C. (Frank) Squire** of Albion; a son, **Therold Todd Furman** of Brookville who works at the Clarion Technical Office; and three grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren. Services will be held at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to DRMC Hospice, 100 Hospital Ave., PO Box 447, DuBois, PA, 15801.
- Gillespie** **Lois M. Gillespie** (95) passed away on Nov. 23, 2012. She was a long-time resident of Beaverton, Oregon, having moved there in 1953 when her husband, **Roy**, was transferred to the US Soil Conservation Service in the Portland office where he worked as a design engineer. They were boaters and active in the Portland US Power Squadron. She is survived by her son, **Richard Brenner** of Forest Grove.
- Glover** **Robert K. Glover** (88) of Goessel, Kansas passed away on January 19, 2013. **Robert** retired in 1981 from the Soil Conservation Service, where he served as a resource conservationist in Dodge City. During his career he also worked as a soil scientist in Lincoln, Beloit, Hays and Greensburg. **Robert** is survived by his wife of 66 years, **Irma Devine Glover**; daughters, **Pam Zipfel** and **Bobbi Glover** of Wichita, and **Virginia Barnert** of Artesia, NM; son, **Doug (Tina)** of Mission Viejo, CA; eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to Johnson Center for Basic Cancer Research, Kansas State University.
- Gosline** **Lee Ann Gosline** (52) of Killdeer, North Dakota, passed away January 23, 2013, in Bismarck. She worked as a field technician with the NRCS in Killdeer for over 23 years before retiring in 2012. **Lee Ann** is survived by her husband, **Rod**; children, **Tia (Aaron) Cook** of Bismarck; **Josh Dolechek** of Bellingham, WA; **Jessen Dolechek** of Dickinson, ND; and **Kyle Gosline** of Dunn Center.
- Hays** **Robert "Bob" Hays** (80) of Pleasant Dale, Nebraska, passed away peacefully Feb. 5, 2013. He played baseball, softball, and coached youth baseball in Pleasant Dale. He was a US Army Korean War veteran. **Bob** was an engineer for SCS at the Soil Mechanics Lab in Lincoln, NE. Survivors include a daughter, three sons, and eight grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Phyllis**.
- Hodges** **Donald R. Hodges** (85) of Temple, Texas passed away on November 19, 2012. He worked for the Soil Conservation Service and retired in 1986 after 35 years of federal government service. He graduated from Texas A&M University. His military service includes the US Maritime Service, the US Army and the Army Reserve Corps. He served a year in Japan and a year in Korea during the Korean War. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Dorothy Norman Hodges**, on February 27. Survivors include his son, one granddaughter and one grandson and two great-grandchildren.
- Holt** **James Harold Holt** (82) of Albemarle, North Carolina, passed away on January 31, 2013. **Harold** retired in 1992 as Hydraulic Technician for SCS on the River Basin/Watershed Planning Staff in the Raleigh State Office with over 30 years of service, having worked in that position since 1965. He began his career as an Engineering Aid in Troy, NC, in 1958. In 1959 he was transferred to Kinston where he worked on several watershed projects until he was promoted to Engineering Technician in 1963 and worked in the Goldsboro Area Office. Harold was a veteran of the US Navy and a member of the Beekeepers Association of Stanly County. He was married to **Jean Coats Holt** for 63 years. Other survivors include son, **Sam (Debbie) Holt**, of Charlotte, NC; 3 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren. A daughter, **Iris Jean Holt**, preceded him in death on December 27, 2011.
- Ivins** **Darrel D. Ivins** (87) of Windsor, Colorado, formerly of Sterling, Illinois passed away on January 28, 2013. He graduated from high school in Danvers, and served in the Army Infantry during World War II. He had been scouted by professional baseball in high school, but World War II ended that opportunity. **Darrel** worked as an engineer for the Soil Conservation Service for 35 years, designing waterways and watersheds in Northern Illinois. He built four of the family homes. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, **Norma**, and sons **Doug** and **Dana**, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Private family services will be at a later date. Online condolences

may be made at www.marksfuneralservice.com

- James** **William Charles "W.C." James, Jr.** (75) passed away on January 21, 2013, at his home in Statham, Georgia. A native of Sparta, Georgia, **W.C.** served for 8 years in the United States Army, leaving the Army with the grade of Captain. He worked with the Soil Conservation Service in several locations in Georgia and retired with 38 years of Service. Following retirement, **W.C.** moved to Statham where he was a member of Freedom Fellowship Church and enjoyed farming, horses, gardening and spending time with his grandchildren. Survivors include his wife of 53 years, **Gloria Mock James**; sons, **Terry** and **Bill**; daughters, **Susan** and **Jamie**; and two grandchildren.
- Keen** **Peggy Keen** (63) of Warsaw, Ohio passed away on December 23, 2012. In November 1972, she married **Robert Keen** who survives. **Robert** worked for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Also surviving are three daughters, a son, and six grandchildren.
- Larson** **Marvin Larson** (79) East Lake Okoboji, Iowa, passed away on January 21, 2013. **Marvin** retired from the Primghar field office as the SCS District Conservationist with 38 years of service. In 1953, **Marv** was drafted into the Army and served in Germany. He graduated from Iowa State University. Survivors include three daughters, seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Verna**, and a daughter in 1971.
- Lewis** **Duane Lewis** (86) of Ephrata, Washington passed away on January 27, 2013 in Spokane. **Duane** attended Washington State University and graduated with a degree in Wildlife Management. After graduating high school, Duane was drafted into the US Army Air Corps and served his country from 1944 through 1946. In 1952 he was hired on with the Soil Conservation Service as a soil conservationist working in Okanogan, Goldendale, and eventually settling in Ephrata, Washington, in 1968. Duane retired in 1979 and then worked as a consultant for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources until 1982. **Duane** had a love for music, singing in college productions, barbershop quartets, and the church choir. He is survived by **Raynell**, his beloved wife of 62 years, his children, **Mark Lewis** of Hoquiam, WA, and **Nancy Lewis** of Spokane Valley, WA, and two grandchildren. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to the Ephrata Methodist Church, 117 C. ST. N.W., Ephrata, WA 98823 or to the Ephrata Kiwanis Club, PO Box 451, Ephrata, WA 98823.
- Lovering** **Ruth J. Lovering** (98) of Grand Rapids, Wisconsin, widow of **Warren N. Lovering**, O.D., passed away on January 16, 2013, from complications of influenza. She graduated from the Maine School of Commerce, now Husson College, in 1933. From 1955 to 1971, she was employed as a secretary at Dow Air Force Base, Bangor, Maine. When the base closed, she worked for the Soil Conservation Service in Bangor as the State Conservationist's secretary, retiring in 1979. **Ruth** is survived by her daughter, **Victoria (David) Henke**, of Wisconsin Rapids, WI; four grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.
- McClure** Member **Dan McClure** (85) of Temple, Texas passed away on November 30, 2012. He worked for the Soil Conservation Service for 35 years, retiring in 1987. Dan proudly served his country in the US Air Force. Dan is survived by his wife of 61 years, **Dorothy McClure**, daughter **Dianne McClure**, and son **Rick McClure**, and 3 grandchildren.
- McCook** **Danny McCook** (69) passed away suddenly on January 25, 2013 while on vacation in south Texas. He was a graduate of Texas Tech, and got his masters from the University of Nebraska. A nationally-respected geotechnical engineer, **Danny** was also a valued mentor to many in his field. He retired from NRCS after 43 years of service and worked as a consultant until the time of his death. In lieu of flowers, **Danny** would have wanted everyone to spend more time with their families, tithe to their spiritual center, and consider organ donation (as he did). **Danny** loved old country music; playing gospel hymns on the piano; Harmony Fellowship; and dove hunting with his family. Survivors include his wife, **Penny**; children, **Danna Luter**, **Clay McCook (Tessa)**, and **Keith McCook (Kristina)**; step children **Christy McGuire (Carson)**, and **John Capes**; six grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.
- Milbradt** Member **Thomas August Milbradt** (82) of Lakewood, Colorado, passed away on February 10, 2013. He spent two years with the Army, including 14 months in Korea. During his time in Korea, he was awarded two Bronze Service Stars and a United Nations Service Medal. In January 1953 **Tom** enrolled in Agricultural Engineering at what was then North Dakota Agricultural College in Fargo, North Dakota. **Tom** graduated with a BS in Agricultural Engineering, and wanting to work with farmers, began working with the Soil Conservation Service in Owatonna, Minnesota in 1957. From 1963 to 1971, he was the Area Engineer for a 12-county area in southern Minnesota. In July 1971, **Tom** accepted the position of Assistant State Conservation Engineer in Colorado. He held this position until retiring in December 1989. **Tom** married **Darlene Meta Meckola**, who survives, on September 16, 1955. To this union were born **Margery (Brian) Hoag**, **Gail (Mike) Prinzi**, **Gary Milbradt**, and **Laura (Greg) Prinzi**, and two grandchildren. Gifts of love can be given to Concordia Lutheran Church—Missions or Landscape Fund, Lutheran Hour Ministries, or Bethlehem Lutheran School—Tuition Assistance Fund.
- Miller** Member **Marjorie Ann (Marge) Miller** (76) of West Des Moines, Iowa, passed away at her home on January 22, 2013. She retired in April 1994 with more than 36 years of service. She was secretary to Iowa's State Conservationists. **Marge** received the ARCSE Presidential Award for Community Service in 2008 for her many hours of community service. She is survived by her brother and sister-in-law, **Don (Dee) Miller**, a nephew **Curt (Sarah) Miller** and their children, **Jack and Colin**; her niece, **Julie Nitchie** and her children, **Landon, Liam,**

Grayson and Ruby. Memorial contributions may be made to Sheldahl United Methodist Church. Condolences may be left at www.adamssodstrum.com

- Monville** **Paul Monville** passed away on October 1, 2012. **Paul** retired as a design engineer with the Soil Conservation Service in Portland, Oregon. Condolences may be sent to his daughter at **Vicki & Chris Caracci**, 136 Arlington Dr., Petaluma, CA 94952
- Overholt** **Betty Jane Overholt** (90) of Dublin, Ohio, passed away on January 10, 2013. She was married to her husband of 68 years, **David Philip Overholt** who passed away in 2011. **David** retired as Director of Conservation Operations for SCS. **Betty** graduated from Michigan State University in 1943 and later received her Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling from the Univ. of Illinois. **Betty** is survived by her children **Jon (Brigitte)** of Fair Oaks, CA, **Kristine (Steve)** of Clinton, NY, **Melissa (Patrik)** of Columbus, OH, six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. A memorial service will be held in the Spring. People are encouraged to support a library of their choice.
- Quam** **Sigurd R. Quam** (95) of Gretna, formerly of Fairbury, Nebraska, passed away on February 3, 2013 from complications of Influenza A. He retired as a soil conservation technician with the Soil Conservation Service. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Ellen**. Survivors include his four daughters, seven grandchildren, and ten great grandchildren. Military Honors by American Legion & **VFW** of Gretna. Memorials to St. Patrick's Catholic Church of Gretna, St. Michael's Church of Fairbury, or American Red Cross.
- Rasely** **Robert C. Rasely** (64) passed away due to natural causes February 1, 2013. **Bob** started his geology career, working with the Bureau of Reclamation for two years in South Dakota. His career in SCS/NRCS started in Indianapolis, Indiana. Then he served as the State Geologist in Salt Lake City, Utah for about 24 years. **Bob** retired in 2005 with 30 years of service to the US Government. **Bob** was famous for his incredible Geological Field Tours of Utah. His shared knowledge was fascinating. He was also noted for his geological expertise for safe and sound design and construction. After retiring in 2005, he and wife **Vicki** continued to live in Salt Lake City.
- Titchner** Member **John C. Titchner** (71) of Shelburne, Vermont, passed away suddenly on February 8, 2013. He started his own farming operation at age 13, earned a degree in Agronomy from Cornell University, and joined the USDA Soil Conservation Service (now NRCS). He earned a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Oklahoma, and retired in 2001 after 20 years as the State Conservationist for Vermont. **John's** tenor voice enriched numerous singing groups. **John's** other lifelong passion was trains—toy ones he could collect, display and run around tracks in the family room. **John** is survived by his mother, **Ruth Huff** of Jamestown, NY; his wife, **Sandy**; two children, daughter, **Tracy Titchner** and husband, **Jim Lawson**, of Essex, and son, **Christopher Titchner** of Raleigh, NC; and three granddaughters. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Contributions in **John's** memory may be made to Autism Speaks, 1060 State Road, 2nd Floor, Princeton, NJ 08540; or the Vermont Association of Conservation Districts, PO Box 566, Waitsfield, VT 05673.
- Trew** **Philip H. Trew** (87) of Ft. Worth, Texas, passed away on December 20, 2012. **Phil** was drafted into the US Army shortly after graduation from high school, and served on the front lines in both Guadalcanal and Okinawa. It was on Okinawa where he was seriously injured in battle, and was subsequently awarded the Purple Heart. **Phil** also endured a life-threatening disease as a result of his war injuries. He graduated from Texas Tech with a B.S. in three majors: agriculture, soil science, and agronomy. Upon his graduation, **Phil** was employed by the Soil Conservation Service as a staff soil scientist, traveling all over the state of Texas. **Survivors:** In addition to his wife of 50 years, **Joan Taylor Trew**, he is survived by his son, two daughters, eight grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.
- Van Doren** Honorary Member and Senior Conservationist **Clifford Paul Van Doren** (95) of Kyle, Texas, peacefully passed away on December 12, 2012. He was a veteran of WWII and retired from the US Army Reserves with a rank of Command Sergeant Major. In addition, he retired in 1976 from the Soil Conservation Service where he served as a conservation technician in Urbana, IL. Cliff's brother was also an SCS'er. **Cliff** was preceded in death by his wife, **Mabel**, and two sons, **Larry** and **Perry Van Doren**. **Cliff** is survived by a son, **John (Cindy) Lovelace**, a daughter, **Martha Donaldson**, two step-children, 15 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren. Memorial Services were held on Saturday, January 12, 2013 at 3:00 pm at Kyle United Methodist Church. In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made to the Kyle VFW Building Fund, Kyle/Buda VFW Post 12058, PO Box 2725, Kyle, TX. 78640.
- Watson** **Burnette Jane Sharratt Watson** (87) passed away on January 12, 2013, in North Fort Myers, Florida. **"Bernie"** graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a nursing degree. She is survived by her husband of 63 years, **Bruce Watson**, who retired from SCS as the State Soil Scientist in Vermont. Also surviving are four children, **Karen Madsen** (Utah), **Kay Watson** (Spain), **David Watson** (Tenn.) and **Kristi Phillips** (South Carolina) and eleven grandchildren. Tennis was her favorite sport, playing several times a week until the age of 87, winning many tournaments and often beating her younger opponents. She was most happy at their home on Lake Champlain in Vermont, snapping green beans for dinner, reeling in bass, or kayaking on a calm summer evening. Funeral arrangements are being made for the spring in South Hero. Online condolences may be made by visiting www.minorfh.com. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Hope Hospice, Florida.
- Willard** **Ervin Willard** (73) passed away at his home in Uvalde, Texas, on December 1, 2012, following a lengthy battle

with Parkinson's disease. He was a graduate of Texas Tech University where he studied Range Science. He retired from SCS/NRCS in 1997 as Assistant State Conservationist with 36 years of service. He is survived by his wife of 46 years **Wanda**; a son, and three grandchildren.

Williams **Robert V. Williams (59)** of Raleigh, North Carolina, passed away on January 17, 2013. **Rob** retired in 2012 as Civil Engineer with NRCS on the State Conservation Engineer's staff in the state office. He graduated from NC State University in 1977 and earned his Professional Engineers License in 1979. **Rob** began his career with NRCS in 1975 while still in college. After graduation he was a design engineer and also served as Project Engineer on several flood control dams in the Crabtree Creek Watershed. **Rob** was an active supporter of the Boy Scouts of America, having earned his Eagle Scout award in 1970. He also earned the God and Country Award and was a member of the Order of the Arrow Brotherhood. He served as Cub master for 6 years, Scoutmaster for 7 years, and served as an Adult Scout Leader mentoring many scouts in their quest of their Eagle awards. He is survived by his wife of 35 years, **Laura Jackson Williams**; a daughter **Ashley (Lewis) Williams Gale** of Fredericksburg, VA; and son **Mark Edward Williams** of Greenville, SC.

Womack **Gene W. Womack (84)** of Perry, Oklahoma passed away on February 18, 2013. **Gene** graduated from Oklahoma State University in May 1960 with a Civil Engineering Degree. He served his country in the United States Army 45th Infantry Division. He was mobilized in 1950 for a tour in the Korean War and was honorably discharged. Gene worked for SCS in the Cheyenne Watershed Office and Perry Area Office in the 1960's. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, **Donez**; one son, three daughters, nine grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

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