

NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter for Retired Conservation Service Employees

Vol. 48, No. 3 May/June 2021

The **ARCSE Newsletter** is published bi-monthly by the Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees, P.O. Box 8965, Moscow, ID 83843

Website: www.arcse.org



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Cheryl Simmons, <http://www.arcse.org/>

ARCSE MOVES FORWARD

What are we doing in retirement? The Pandemic kept most of us sequestered in home. When States open, what is important to us? Visiting family and friends is top of my list with some volunteer effort to support non-profits and important topics. And, paying a little attention to conservation issues and visiting with old friends and co-workers? That is where ARCSE comes in. ARCSE presents the opportunity for States to visit with retirees and for members to easily reach out to contact and visit across the country. It also allows us to meet retirees we did not work with but have a great deal in common in conservation.

ARCSE is again partnering with the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) by supporting a student intern for the summer. The draft Annual ARCSE Meeting agenda (below) includes over a half hour visit with the SWCS Historian, updates from national and State NRCS leadership, and general ARCSE information. We will be sending out links to the general meeting and presentations.



Cheryl Simmons and Donna Beggs

The Annual Board meeting will convene after a break and move to business concerns, but all are welcome. There is great news in the President-Elect position. We have a nomination for the July annual meeting—**Julie MacSwain**. Julie is stepping forward as she retires and will be a great addition to ARCSE. Nominations remain open and all volunteers are welcome.

ARCS is looking for opportunities to remain a great option for retiring/retired conservation workers. We plan to explore more opportunities with SWCS to look at shifting to an even closer partnership for the future. Feel free to email or call ARCSE State, regional, or national officers with ideas and recommendations for ARCSE.

As I move to the Past President position, I want to thank all the members, State and regional reps, board officers and support positions. I especially wish to thank **Donna Beggs** (a former NRCS volunteer and my wife) for stepping in to support the organization. We are still working out retirement living and usual for me, tend toward the slow track, but she helps me to keep chugging along.

—Best to you all in 2021.



**One World,
Connected through
CONSERVATION**

2021 July 26-28 | Virtual Event
www.swcs.org/21AC

Conference registration is now open.

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES

ARCSE ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA (DRAFT)	
Monday July 26 th , 2021	
SEGMENT 1—ARCSE UPDATES AND RECOGNITION	
9:00 am WELCOME -----	Cheryl Simmons
9:05 am INVOCATION -----	Earl Norton
9:10 am INTRODUCTIONS -----	Cheryl Simmons
ARCSE AREA REPS, OFFICERS, SUPPORT STAFF AND BOARD	
President Elect—Julie McSwain	
SENIOR CONSERVATIONISTS -----	John Peterson
<u>9:25 am SWCS WELCOME/UPDATE</u>	
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF SWCS-----	Clare Lindahl (invited)
CHAIR, SWCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS -----	Rex Martin (invited)
<u>9:35 am NRCS UPDATE</u>	
NRCS STATE CONSERVATIONIST-----	(invited)
NRCS CHIEF-----	Terry Cosby, Acting (invited)
<u>9:45 am ARCSE UPDATE</u>	
PRESIDENT OF ARCSE REMARKS-----	Cheryl Simmons
ARCSE AWARD PRESENTATIONS-----	Arnold King
PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE-----	Jerry Bernard
PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE—TBD	
SEGMENT 2—PRESENTATIONS (10:00–11:30 am)	
10:00 am SOIL HEALTH UPDATE -----	Bianca Moebius-Clune, Director Soil Health Div
10:30 am SWCS SHARING HISTORY -----	Joe Otto, SWCS Historian
11:15 am THE NEXT GENERATION -----	ARCSE Board and ARCSE Intern
11:30 am ANNOUNCE NEXT ANNUAL ARCSE MEETING ---	Cheryl Simmons, Pres
SEGMENT 3—ARCSE BOARD MEETING (11:45 am–12:30 pm)	
NOON, Call to order -----	Arnold King, President
Attendees welcome to sit in virtually ZOOM Meeting ID, Password	
1:30 pm Adjourn	

Today (4/15) marks the 140th birthday of Dr. Hugh Hammond Bennett—the Father of the Conservation Movement. Bennett was the founder of USDA's Soil Conservation Service (SCS), now the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the first director of the Soil Erosion Service (SES). Bennett served as the Chief of SCS and SES from 1933–1951.

Today, many of Bennett's foundational guiding principles live on. He understood that agency employees needed to walk the land side-by-side with the land user to experience firsthand an area's natural resource challenges and opportunities. He also understood the significant role science plays in the foundation of voluntary conservation on private lands.

As a conservationist with more than 40 years of service, I have always held dear the work of Hugh Hammond Bennett's early conservation efforts. He paved the way for myself and thousands of employees over the years to successfully do the great work that we love—working one on one with landowners to protect soil, water, air, plant and animal resources.

Today, we are featuring a blog entitled "Dr. Hugh Hammond Bennett: Sparked the Creation of a Conservation Agency and a Conservation Movement" on the [farmers.gov](https://www.farmers.gov) website.

<https://www.farmers.gov/connect/blog/conservation/dr-hugh-hammond-bennett-sparked-creation-conservation-agency>

In June 2017, NRCS also produced the video "Hugh Hammond Bennett: The Story of America's Private Lands Conservation Movement to celebrate Bennett's conservation achievements." As you read the blog and watch the video, I hope you are reminded why you joined NRCS.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/about/history/?cid=NRCSEPRD1356274>

I encourage you to spend some time learning about a man who made such a significant difference in soil conservation. We do have many resources on the NRCS website available to help you learn more. Or, contact **Shelby Callaway** our NRCS historian, who is a great resource for historical information. He can be reached at Shelby.Callaway@usda.gov.

Hugh Hammond Bennett, thank you for your vision and your dedication. Happy 140th birthday to you. Your voluntary, incentive-based approach to voluntary private conservation lives on today.

—**Terry Cosby**, Acting Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Production and Conservation Mission Area, United States Department of Agriculture

NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

Doug Lawrence and Patty Lawrence

One reason the historical development of agriculture in Minnesota was so interesting to me was it was consistent with my memories of working on my uncle's farm in the 1950s and early 1960s. Another reason the Minnesotsa Historic Farms Study was interesting to me is because I grew up in nearby Fargo, North Dakota, and my father was a Surge Milker salesman/installer. It was enlightening to see my father's job in the broader context of the development of the dairy industry in Minnesota and eastern North Dakota. Also, because my mother had told me about her childhood experience living, for a time, in a sod farmhouse (around 1905) located north of Brandon, Manitoba, I had a keen interest in the history of agriculture in the late 19th century and early 20th century.



A settlement-era barn, still looking sturdy at the turn of the century. Location unknown, circa 1900. (MHS photo by Louis Enstrom)

Here's an excerpt from the Study (page 3.9) that provides insight into how difficult it was to expand agriculture into the forbidding northern prairie:

By the end of the early settlement period, much of the state was agriculturally undeveloped. According to Jarchow:

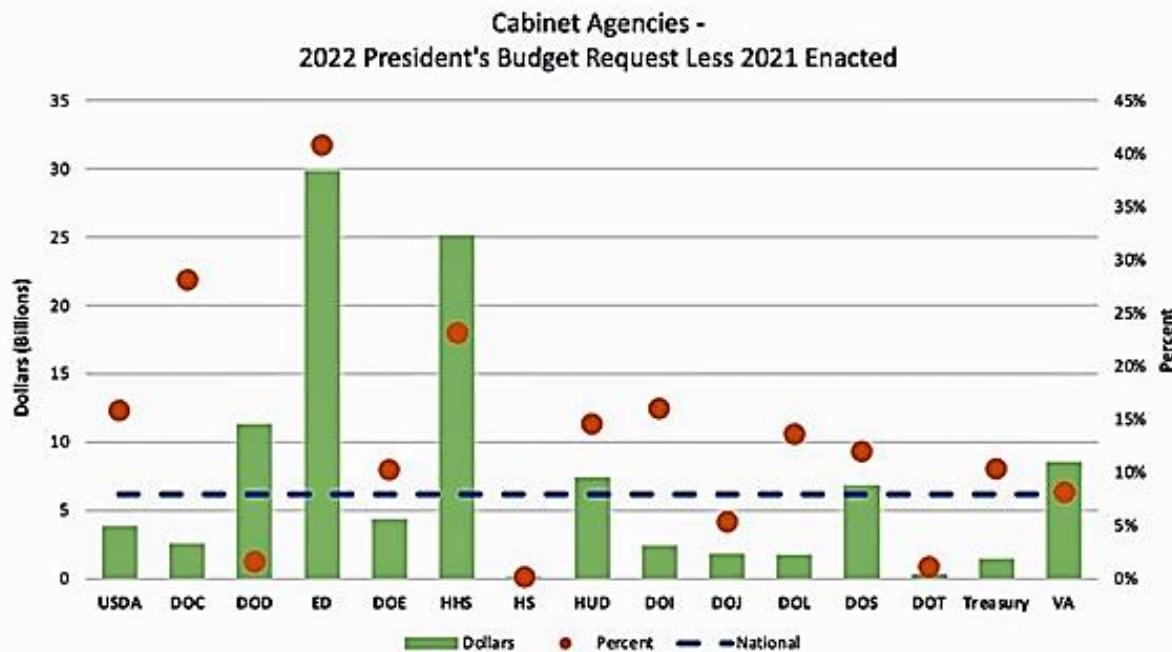
As late as 1870, four-fifths of the population in Minnesota was [still] concentrated in the southeastern part of the state, accessible to the Minnesota, St. Croix, and Mississippi rivers. and lack of transportation facilities seemed to doom the settler to failure or death (Jarchow 1949: 80).

This area, in general, was wooded, the kind of area congenial to the pioneers, for it furnished them with materials for fuel, fences, and houses. Only with reluctance did they venture out on the open prairie, where tradition maintained that the soil was less fertile, and where winds, blizzards, fires, insect pests, Indians,

And here's the link to the Study:

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/culturalresources/docs/crunit/devperiods.pdf>

The President's 2022 Discretionary Budget Request



On April 9th, 2021, the Administration submitted to Congress the President's priorities for fiscal year 2022 discretionary spending. The President's 2022 discretionary request includes \$27.8 billion for USDA, a \$3.8 billion or a 16 percent increase from the 2021-enacted level (figure). Across all cabinet agencies, the 2022 proposed increase was 8 percent (blue dashed line) above 2021-enacted levels, with five agencies at or below that level. USDA, at a proposed 16 percent increase, was even with DOI (percentage-wise), and both were in the top tier of increases, exceeded only by three of the 15 agencies (DOC, ED, HHS). We don't have any specifics on proposed NRCS funding levels, as individual agency-level details were not available at the time of this writing. That said, the odds of any President's Budget request being followed closely are next to nil. While the request signals priorities and serves as a roadmap for investment, funding levels are determined and appropriated by Congress and subject to the vagaries of the political process.

The President's FY-2022 discretionary request for USDA signals investments in ten broad areas:

-Expands Broadband Access. The discretionary request provides an increase of \$65 million over the 2021-enacted level for Reconnect, the Rural e-Connectivity Program for grants and loans to deploy broadband to unserved areas, prioritizing tribal lands.

-Provides Safe Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure to Rural Communities. The discretionary request provides \$100 million over the 2021-enacted level for Rural Water and Wastewater Grants and Loans; \$25 million for grants targeted to Colonias, Native Americans, and Alaska Native Villages and \$75 million for grants targeted to rural, poor communities.

-Addresses the Growing Threat from Wildfire. The discretionary request provides \$476 million over the 2021-enacted level for high-priority hazardous fuels and forest resilience projects.

-Invests in Critical Research and Development Capacity for Farmers. The discretionary request provides \$647 million above the 2021-enacted level for USDA's research, education, and outreach programs; including an increase of \$161 million above the 2021-enacted level to integrate science-based tools into conservation planning to measure, monitor, report, and verify environmental services (e.g., carbon sequestration, greenhouse gas reduction, etc.).

-Bolsters Voluntary Public and Private Lands Conservation. The discretionary request includes significant investments within the Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to support the health and resilience of public and private lands; including \$100 million to address orphan oil/gas wells and abandoned mine lands in the National Forest System and an increase of \$40 million for USDA's climate hubs.

-Helps Rural Communities Use Clean Energy. The discretionary request provides \$400 million in new funding to give rural electric providers financial flexibility as they accelerate to carbon-pollution free electricity by 2035. The discretionary request also provides \$1 billion over the 2021-enacted level to support additional clean energy, energy storage, and transmission projects.

-Partners with Rural Leaders to Grow Rural Economies and Tackle Rural Poverty. The discretionary request provides \$32 million for a renewed and expanded initiative to leverage USDA's extensive network of offices to help people in high poverty communities tap into Federal resources (i.e., "Strikeforce" initiative).

-Takes Steps to Advance Equity. The discretionary request supports USDA's new Equity Commission to review racial and geographic inequities related to farm programs and increases funding for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.

-Fosters Development of Regional Food Systems. The discretionary request proposes \$74 million over the 2021-enacted level for FSIS to bolster small and regional meat processing capacity and ensure safe food production, including \$15 million to support local supply chains.

-Supports a Strong Nutrition Safety Net. The discretionary request provides more than \$1 billion above the 2021-enacted level for critical nutrition programs (e.g., Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)) to help vulnerable families.

You can see more about the President's FY2022 discretionary funding request at:

www.whitehouse.gov/omb/fy-2022-discretionary-request.

The Economy

What the Fed is Thinking

On March 23rd, 2021, **Federal Reserve Board Chairman Jerome Powell and Treasury Secretary Janet L. Yellen** testified before the House Committee on Financial Services, and on March 24th they testified before the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. Chairman Powell's opening comments are available here:

<https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/testimony/powell20210323a.htm>

Powell said that the combination of fiscal and monetary policy averted the worst possible economic outcomes associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. However, he went on to say "But the recovery is far from complete. So at the Fed, we will continue to provide the economy the support that it needs for as long as it takes."

Yellen said that the expanded unemployment insurance that's part of the recently signed COVID-19 relief package not only provides critical support to those people that have lost their jobs because of the pandemic, it's needed to support the general economy. Yellen went on to say that the unemployment supplemental insurance will be phased out by the fall of 2021.

Powell emphasized the Fed's promise to get the economy back to full employment, with little worry about inflation unless prices begin rising in a persistent and troubling way. "We are just being honest about the challenge," Powell told lawmakers when asked about Fed projections that inflation will remain at or below the central bank's 2% target through 2023.

The Fed has said it will not raise interest rates until inflation has exceeded 2% and "we believe we can do it; we believe we will do it. It may take more than three years," Powell said. The current inflation rate is about 1.3%.

With the inflation target a long way off, Fed officials have focused on what they see as a major gap in the labor market as well—a scar that goes well beyond the 6.3% headline unemployment rate to include concerns about disproportionate joblessness among minorities and the exodus of women from the labor force. Over the past few weeks, Powell and others at the Fed have used an alternative measure of unemployment that is around 10%. This measure of unemployment includes those who have left the labor force in recent months.

Economic Stimulus Package

The \$1.856 trillion economic relief bill passed and signed in early March is about \$350 billion less than the stimulus law enacted about a year ago. The March 2021 law provides:

- \$350 billion for state, local and tribal governments
- \$10 billion for critical state infrastructure projects
- \$14 billion for the distribution of vaccines
- \$130 billion to primary and secondary schools
- \$30 billion for transit agencies
- \$45 billion in rental, utility and mortgage assistance
- \$15 billion for "shuttered" small businesses and live performance venues.
- \$400 billion for another round of direct payments to American taxpayers, sending checks of up to \$1,400 to individuals making up to \$80,000, single parents earning \$120,000 or less and couples with household incomes of no more than \$160,000.
- Funding for Federal unemployment payments of \$300 per week will be extended through September 6, 2021, and up to \$10,200 of jobless aid from last year was made tax-free for households with incomes below \$150,000.
- Funding that increases child tax credits, providing \$300 per child age 5 and younger and \$250 per child ages 6 to 17.
- A substantial, though temporary, expansion of health care subsidies that could slash monthly insurance payments for those purchasing coverage under the Affordable Care Act.
- Funding from April 1, 2021 until September 30, 2021 to fully cover so-called COBRA health insurance costs for people who have lost a job or had their hours cut and buy coverage from their former employer.

For more information:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2021/03/10/what-is-in-the-stimulus/>

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS UPDATE

If you've been watching USDA senior appointments, testimony, and federal register notices, there's no doubt in your mind that conservation's immediate future will be all about helping agriculture tackle **climate** change! Farmers are the first to feel the effects of shifting weather patterns. And being bound to the land, they need reliable tools to respond, mitigate, and adapt to changing conditions. Since the last newsletter, conservation program news has been closely aligned with **climate** change, from protecting critical landscapes such as wetlands and investing in **climate**-smart agriculture, to expansion of tools like DamWatch® and new conservation delivery frameworks for working rangelands. Conservation technologies, tools, and programs will be essential to USDA's **climate** change effort. To wit, here's the closing paragraph used in every USDA press release:

"USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America."

Climate-Smart Agriculture

On March 15th, 2021, USDA published a Federal Register Notice requesting **public input about climate-smart agriculture and forestry**. President Biden's Executive Order (EO) on Tackling the **Climate** Crisis at Home and Abroad states, "America's farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners have an important role to play in combating the **climate** crisis and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, by sequestering carbon in soils, grasses, trees, and other vegetation and sourcing sustainable bioproducts and fuels." You can read the full EO here:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/27/executive-order-on-tackling-the-climate-crisis-at-home-and-abroad/>

To assist in developing its **climate**-smart agriculture and forestry strategy, USDA is seeking public response to 15 questions in four areas: **Climate** smart agriculture and forestry; biofuels, wood and other bioproducts, and renewable energy; addressing catastrophic wildfire; and environmental justice and disadvantaged communities. Comments are due by April 30th, 2021. You can read the notice here:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/03/16/2021-05287/notice-of-request-for-public-comment-on-the-executive-order-on-tackling-the-climate-crisis-at-home>

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/03/15/usda-requests-information-usdas-climate-smart-agriculture-and>

Program Milestone

On April 2nd, 2021, USDA announced that NRCS in partnership with private landowners has enrolled more than **five million acres in conservation easements**, protecting wetlands, grasslands, and prime farmland. Since October alone, NRCS has enrolled 110,000 acres in new conservation easements, bringing USDA to this important conservation milestone. **Secretary Vilsack** noted the achievement, saying "We celebrate their efforts in helping us protect sensitive lands, create jobs, expand access to the outdoors, and *help tackle climate change*. We look forward to building on these partnerships."

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/04/02/usda-recognizes-5-million-acres-enrolled-conservation-easements>

Program Investments

On March 15th, 2021, USDA announced **\$28 million going to six new Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership (WREP) projects and four ongoing ones**; allowing enrollment of up to nearly 20,000 additional acres. WREP enables conservation partners and producers to work together to return critical wetland functions to agricultural landscapes. Partners will contribute \$2.82 million, bringing the total investment to \$30.82 million.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD1751632>

On March 16th, 2021, USDA announced up to **\$75 million available for new, unique projects under the Regional Conservation Partnership Program's (RCPP) Alternative Funding Arrangements (AFA)**. NRCS will fund up to 15 projects this year through AFA and prioritize projects related to **climate** smart agriculture and forestry in making selections. AFAs allow partners more flexibility in working directly with agricultural producers to support the development of new conservation approaches. AFA project proposals are being accepted through May 28th, 2021. Information is available at

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=332146>

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD1752236>

On March 18th, 2021, USDA announced more than **\$218 million going to fund Great American Outdoors Act projects** to conserve critical forest and wetland habitat, support rural economic recovery, and increase public access to national forests and grasslands. The Forest Service will invest more than \$94 million to fund 28 projects under the Forest Legacy Program and \$123 million to fund Land Acquisition Program projects, including projects for recreation access and other needs.

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/03/18/usda-announces-218-million-investment-land-and-water-conservation>

On April 8th, 2021, **Interior Secretary Haaland** and **Agriculture Secretary Vilsack** released a joint statement recognizing the **worsening drought conditions in the West** and the impacts of the crisis on farmers, tribes, and communities. The statement highlights a commitment to identifying immediate financial and technical resources for irrigators and Tribes, as well as continued engagement in development of a long-term plan to respond to **climate** change and improve water security.

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/04/08/joint-statement-interior-secretary-deb-haaland-and-agriculture>

On April 14th, 2021, USDA announced availability of up to **\$10 million in assistance from USDA's Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus** to assist agricultural producers impacted by the worsening drought conditions in the Klamath River Basin. The announcement follows the release of the Bureau of Reclamation Klamath Project 2021 Temporary Operations Plan,

which indicates that water from Upper Klamath Lake will become available to charge Klamath Project canals and allow for limited irrigation no earlier than May 15th. Remaining project deliveries will begin no earlier than June 1st.

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/04/14/usda-allocates-10-million-partner-california-and-oregon-assist>

On April 21st, 2021, NRCS announced the availability of up to **\$25 million of Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)** On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials (On-Farm Trials) to stimulate the adoption and evaluation of innovative conservation approaches in partnership with agricultural producers. NRCS is seeking proposals that address at least one of the following four priorities:

- **Climate**-smart agricultural solutions
- Soil health demonstration trial
- Irrigation water management
- Management technologies and strategies

Proposals are due by June 21st, 2021. You can find out more about the funding opportunity at

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=332993>

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD1767429>

Technology

On March 29th, 2021, USDA announced the **expansion of DamWatch® to include Forest Service dams**. NRCS entered into an interagency agreement with the Forest Service to add up to 600 of FS dams to NRCS's Nationwide DamWatch® system. DamWatch® provides real-time updates of rainfall, snowmelt, stream flow and seismic events that could affect the safety of NRCS-assisted dams and meet the needs of the approximately 12,000 NRCS project dam owners and sponsors. In addition to monitoring features, the Forest Service will have access to the structure management system that DamWatch® provides for sharing essential dam safety documents such as emergency action plans, inspection reports and inundation maps.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD1758622>

On March 30th, 2021, USDA unveiled the **new Southeast FireMap**, a fire mapping tool for the Southeastern United States that enables resource managers to improve their approaches to managing wildfire risk and fire management needs through targeted prescribed burns and training. The SE FireMap version 1.0 decision support tool will map all detectable fires, including managed prescribed burns and wildfires, across nine states – Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas. The map and associated tools aim to improve fire management in urban and rural communities through remote sensing and will track both prescribed fire and wildfires.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD1758624>

On April 6th, 2021, NRCS rolled out **new action-based frameworks to increase conservation work to address threats facing America's working rangelands across the West**. These frameworks are designed to benefit both agriculture and wildlife in sagebrush and grassland landscapes of the western United States. NRCS partnered with state-level organizations to develop the new frameworks to combat the most severe and large-scale threats: woody encroachment, land-use conversion, exotic annual grass invasion and riparian and wet meadow degradation. More than one million acres of Western rangelands are lost annually to invading non-native grasses, plows, or land development. The frameworks will help guide voluntary conservation work over the next five years and will contribute to USDA's efforts on **climate** change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD1762446>

On April 14th, 2021, NRCS extended the deadline for public comment on **proposed revisions to 23 national conservation practice standards** from April 8th to April 22nd, 2021. The proposed revisions intend to reflect the best technology and address the needs of producers and the natural resources on their lands. Revisions were proposed for the following practice standards:

- Agrichemical Handling Facility (309)
- Air Filtration and Scrubbing (371)
- Channel Bed Stabilization (584)
- Contour Orchard and Other Perennial Crops (331)
- Cover Crop (340)
- Dry Hydrant (432)
- Dust Management for Pen Surfaces (375)
- Energy Efficient Agricultural Operation (374)
- Facility (319)
- Fence (382)
- Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment (548)
- Land Reclamation - Abandoned Mined Land (543)
- On-Farm Secondary Containment
- Precision Land Forming and Smoothing (462)
- Recreation Land Improvement and Protection (566)
- Roof Runoff Structure (558)
- Sinkhole Treatment (527)
- Sprinkler System (442)
- Stream Crossing (578)
- Waste Separation Facility (632)
- Waste Transfer (634)
- Wastewater Treatment - Milk House (627)
- Wetland Creation (658)
- Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment and Renovation (380)

You can see the notice here, as well as the information on how to submit comments, which are due April 22nd, 2021.

<https://public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2021-07686.pdf>

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD1764635>

On April 14th, 2021, a new report outlined lessons from an **assessment of conservation finance projects funded through the Conservation Innovation Grants** (CIG) program. The Report was developed by Gordian Knot Strategies in collaboration with The Conservation Finance Network and support from the Walton Family Foundation. Between 2015 and 2017, NRCS has funded 25 diverse conservation finance projects through CIG, ranging from consumer-driven certification and labeling programs to urban green infrastructure and pay-for-success approaches. The report found that of those conservation finance projects:

- 64% achieved on-the-ground conservation outcomes;
- 32% successfully sourced and deployed private investment capital; and,
- 68% led to follow-on projects, post-CIG award.

You can read the full report here:

<https://gordianknotstrategies.com/enduring-arches/>

Secretary Vilsack–House Ag Committee Opening Statement

On March 25th, 2021, Secretary Vilsack appeared before the House Committee on Agriculture. In his opening remarks, the Secretary focused on equity and the need to do more to address the cumulative effect of discrimination and break the cycles that have held back African American producers and other groups of socially disadvantaged farmers. He reiterated the pledge he made before the Senate “to ensure all programming is equitable and works to root out systemic racism. Andto build one of the most capable and diverse teams in the federal government, one that looks like the America we serve.” You can read Secretary Vilsack’s entire opening statement here:

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/03/25/opening-statement-thomas-j-vilsack-house-committee-agriculture>

USDA Senior Staff Appointments –

Mar 1st, 2021–Dr. Dewayne Goldmon – Senior Advisor for Racial Equity to the Secretary of Agriculture. Goldmon has more than 30 years of experience in the agricultural sector and is also a farmer in southeast Arkansas. Most recently, Goldmon served as Executive Director of the National Black Growers Council (NBGC) advocating to improve the efficiency, productivity, and sustainability of Black row crop farmers.

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/03/01/usda-announces-dr-dewayne-goldmon-senior-advisor-racial-equity-and>

Mar 16th, 2021–Eyang Garrison–Chief of Staff in the Office of the Deputy Secretary. Garrison previously held various roles at USDA, including Program Analyst for the Food and Nutrition Service and Legislative Analyst in the Office of Congressional Relations.

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/03/16/us-department-agriculture-announces-deputy-under-secretary-food>

Mar 15th, 2021–Janie Hipp–General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture. Hipp began her legal career in the 1980s during the tumultuous farm financial crisis serving within the Oklahoma Attorney General’s office while establishing a national presence advocating on behalf of farmers and ranchers. Hipp held several senior roles at USDA, including as senior advisor for tribal affairs and then as director of the Office of Tribal Relations in the Obama Administration.

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/03/15/statement-agriculture-secretary-tom-vilsack-nomination-janie-simms>

Mar 29th, 2021–Oscar Gonzales–Assistant Secretary for Administration. Gonzales previously served in the Obama Administration in several senior positions with USDA, including as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration as well as Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Senior Advisor on Immigration Reform. Most recently, Gonzales served as Vice President for Government Relations, Western States, for Goldman Sachs.

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/03/29/us-department-agriculture-announces-oscar-gonzales-assistant>

On April 16th, 2021–Robert Bonnie–Presumptive Nominee as Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC). Bonnie currently serves as Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor for Climate. Previous USDA roles included as Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment as well as Senior Advisor for the Environment and Climate in the Obama Administration. Bonnie will be guiding department efforts to make climate smart practices work for farmers and ranchers in a market-oriented way.

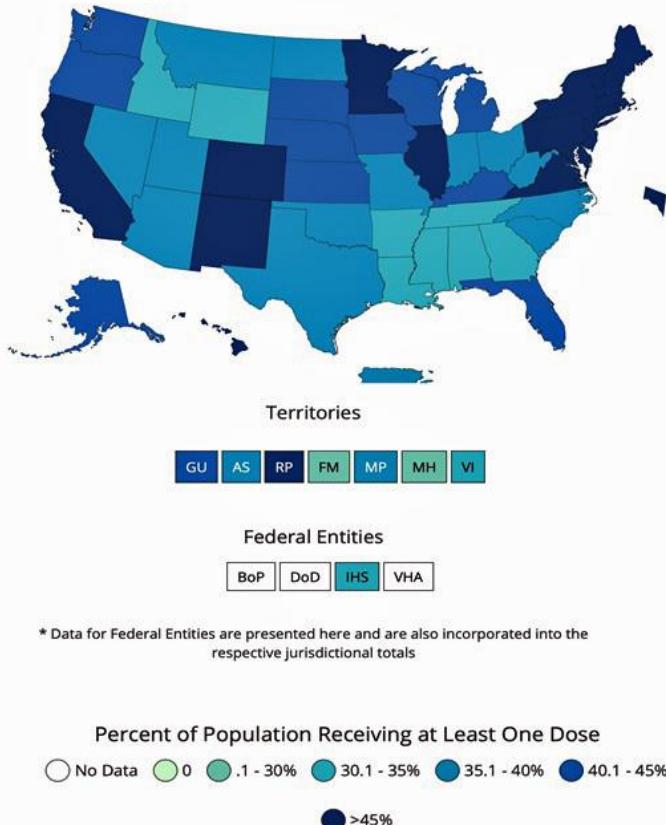
<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/04/16/statement-agriculture-secretary-tom-vilsack-nomination-robert>

COVID-19 UPDATE

Johns Hopkins University data indicate that the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the US has risen since the February "Notes from the Potomac," from 28,415,626 confirmed cases to 32,124,369 cases. This is an increase of 13% which is well below the increase in cases from the December to the February Notes from the Potomac (49%). The number of confirmed COVID-19 deaths has grown from 508,359 to 572,666 (an increase of 13%, also well below the 52% increase in deaths from late December to late February).

Vaccination is making progress across the US, with CDC reporting that 141 million people have had at least one dose, and 96 million people are fully vaccinated.

Percent of People Receiving at Least One Dose Reported to the CDC by State/Territory and for Select Federal Entities for the Total Population



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Paul Benedict, Membership Chair

New Members

Michael Sigrist—Pocomoke City, Maryland
Michele N. Laur—Merritt Island, Florida
Lane Collins—Fairfield, Iowa

New Life Members

Doug Christensen—Lincoln, Nebraska
Angela Greene Gragg—Boone, NC
Julie MacSwain—Portland, Oregon
Billy A. Garner—Booneville, Arkansas
Larry H. Robinson—Columbia, South Carolina
Robert Snieckus—Silver Spring, Maryland

This issue of the ARCSE newsletter and the 2021 ARCSE Directory are going to everyone who is a paid member, 1st-year complimentary member, life member or honorary member, in 2020. Over 70 of our 2020 members have not yet renewed their membership for 2021 by paying the \$18 annual fee. If you are one of these people, this will be your last newsletter unless we receive your payment by May 30th, 2021. I will be mailing you a reminder in the next week. If you have questions or concerns, please email me at soilwarden@verizon.net or call me at 202-578-8226. Dues can be paid online at: <http://www.arcse.org/nFORMS.htm>. Or, you may mail your \$18.00 check to: **ARCSE**, PO Box 8965, Moscow, ID 83843.

ARCSE MEMBERSHIP DUES

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

NOTE: Dues payment includes receipt of the bimonthly electronic newsletter only. All members (both life members and those who pay annual dues) who desire a hard copy of the newsletter must pay an additional fee of \$12.00 per year.
Please submit Dues to ARCSE at P.O. Box 8965 Moscow, ID 83843

ALABAMA

Earl North, ARCSE Representative

Email: earl.norton@charter.net

I will begin my report with the same words as I provided for the last newsletter, "news regarding our retirees continues to be short." Our local group in Auburn continues to meet monthly on the first Monday, and we are seeing the same small group (4-6) of regulars attending. As far as this group knows, our colleagues are staying close to home and are well. We definitely look forward to the time when we have no concerns about COVID-19. As far as I know, none of our other retirees in Alabama are currently meeting as a group.

While Alabama has made the national news as being a state with low vaccination figures for COVID-19, I can add a positive statement. Our local new cases and hospitalization numbers have decreased for several months and are now the lowest since the spring of 2020.

A positive statistic related to Alabama is our employment rate. Alabama's preliminary, seasonally adjusted March 2021 unemployment rate came in at 3.8%. Without going into a lot of details about our economic sectors, I will say that there is a lot of new development related to the automotive industry and home building. I imagine that when many of you hear the words "new development" that you think about the conversion of farms and forest to non-ag uses. Seeing our productive ag. land converted to non-ag uses is an interesting topic that I will provide more details for in a future newsletter.

Many retirees may be interested in sitting in on some of the topics of the upcoming 2021 National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS) National Conference (virtual) hosted by Auburn University June 8–10, 2021. The conference theme is "Evolution from Soil Quality to Dynamic Soil Survey." Registration for the conference is free, and the following link should get anyone that is interested into the appropriate network to see the agenda and to register.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/survey/partnership/ncss/?cid=ncrcseprd1722240>

I should add that Auburn University has a long history of providing strong support to the National Soil Survey program through professors in the Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences (formerly Agronomy and Soils Department), with Professors **Joe Dixon** (moved to Texas A&M in the late 1960s), **Ben Hajek** who retired around 1993, and currently **Joey Shaw**. Dr. Ben was an SCS soil scientist in Texas before earning his PhD at Auburn around 1995. He was known over the U.S. for the success of the Auburn University land judging teams that he trained. Ben and wife **Rosalie** retired in Auburn. He passed away a couple of years ago. Rosalie continues to live in Auburn.

CALIFORNIA

Bill Ward, ARCSE Representative

Email: bluegrassbillward@gmail.com

Greetings from California. We hope all our fellow retirees across the nation are doing well as we move into the spring.

California Update on Coronavirus. California Aims to fully reopen June 15th. Things certainly look much better these days as the number of cases per day has dramatically dropped, and vaccination progress has accelerated. The move forward comes as the state has reached 20 million vaccinations, including four million in its hardest-hit communities. Masking and vaccinations will continue. Hospitalization rates must stay low and vaccination availability high for the state to fully reopen. I myself have had both vaccination shots, and my wife has her first one scheduled in a week. Things are looking up for California!

Rich retired in January 2017 after a 43-year career with NRCS. He has always considered himself "a field District Conservationist" because he says, "I do my best work in the field working face-to-face with landowners and conservation partners and not by staying in the office or behind a computer." He continues to provide assistance to NRCS as an ACES employee with his most recent project being a "Guide on post wildfire recovery for CA DCs." Congratulations, Rich on this prestigious and well-deserved award!

California Retiree Rich Casale receives Prestigious

Award from his College! Humboldt State University (HSU) in Arcata California has selected Rich as their 2021 recipient for the Distinguished Alumni Award for career lifetime accomplishments, including his work with NRCS and more recent work on CA wildfires as an ACES employee since his retirement. They want Rich to meet with faculty and students when it is safe to do that. Rich is hoping to inspire students to consider a career and a Pathway, or even an Earth Team opportunity with NRCS.



CA Monthly Retiree Zoom Meeting April 7th, 2021: participants shown below.



Top: Bob Hewitt and Bob Dunkle, Bill Ward, Peter Brierty SBCO, and Jerry Reioux. **Middle:** Bob Slayback, Bill Gradle, Paul Benedict, and Bob Snieckus. **Bottom:** Harold Honeyfield, Ed Schmidt, Pat Grover, and Walt Sykes.

This meeting was extra special with **Peter Brierty**, Assistant Fire Chief (now retired) with San Bernardino County Fire (local Sponsor for NRCS EWP assistance). He joined us along with other key NRCS staff who worked with Peter's staff. We remember and celebrate our very successful work together on our Southern California Tree Mortality challenge to reduce the extreme fire hazard that existed at the time. This is what the forest looked like when we began our work.

Our work to assist the county through our EWP program included removal of dead and dying trees associated with drought and the Bark Beetle Infestations that had turned the forest into an extreme fire hazard. In 2003 that fire hazard resulted in some 17 significant wildfires in southern California over a multiple county area.

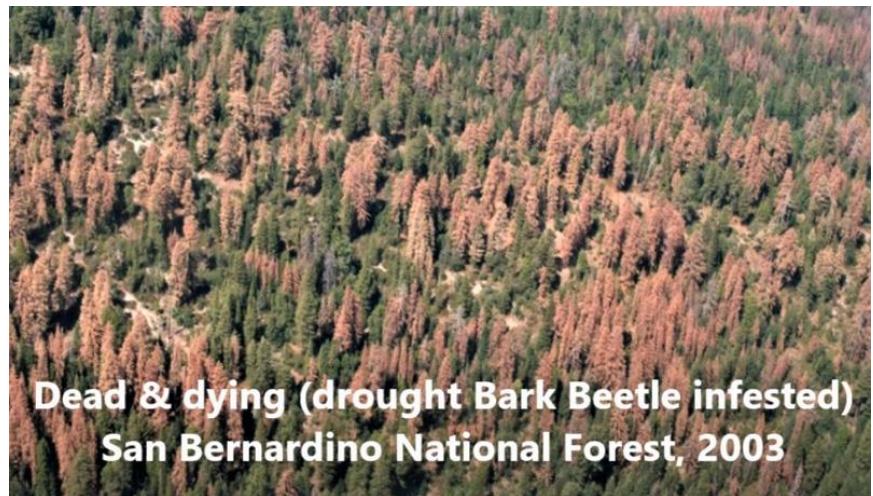
The fires did over a billion dollars in damages, and a state of emergency was declared by California's Governor. That ultimately led to significant EWP funding being made available for California to assist San Bernardino Co. with the challenge of removing hundreds of thousands of dead and dying trees to reduce the extreme wildfire threat they posed.

When we began our work, National Forests were considered almost sacred regarding tree removal, and the idea of removing any trees from the forest—regardless of condition—was almost considered a crime! Peter and the county were threatened with lawsuits on numerous occasions if even one tree was removed. With the help of NRCS Foresters and Environmental Specialists, the work was planned in a careful way to minimize any adverse effects to the forest.

Under Peter's Leadership for San Bernardino County Fire and our Staff Foresters and local Field office staffs working on this effort, a tremendous partnership was developed. The benefits of the work began to show up very clearly early on, as dead and dying trees were carefully removed from the forest. Wildfires still occurred, but when they occurred in EWP-treated project areas, they did not get out of control and were much more easily put out.

There were many other benefits that came from our work that cannot all be identified here. The environmental review process was tremendously expedited thanks to our EWP Programmatic EIS, along with site-specific environmental evaluations for each project. With NRCS assistance and the success of our program, there was a change in the mentality in Southern California. The public and "Friends of the Forest" began to realize that Proper Forest Management, like what we were doing down there, was a good thing!

Well, that is it from California, until next time, wishing all retirees the best and to be safe! —Bill Ward, bluegrassbillward@gmail.com, California ARCSE Representative, PE, Former Design Staff Leader, Davis, CA



COLORADO

Jack Carlson, ARCSE Representative

Email: pspicata@gmail.com

Still mostly quiet from conservation retirees on the Western Great Plains and along the Front Range and Western Slope, but assume mostly vaccinated and out and about prudently. Spring snows have bumped up the snowpack, but western and southern parts of the state remain below normal. Hoping for a quiet fire season after last year's infernos.

Lots of interest in food system resiliency nowadays. In Colorado we're integrating resource concern assessments of soil carbon, soil erosion, and water quality into local and regional food supply/value chain modeling. These assessments tap into NRCS soil and climate data and use ARS-grown and supported environmental models. The mapping tool at <https://cofoodsystems.org/mapping/> is a precursor to more robust analytic capabilities to come.

IOWA

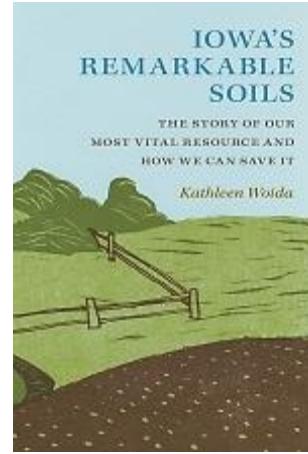
Mark Jensen, ARCSE Representative

Email: amjens1@gmail.com

Kathy Woida was a geologist on Iowa's staff for many years. I always enjoyed working with her. She is intelligent, competent at her job, a good writer, and a good friend. After she retired, she put a lot of effort into writing a book about Iowa soils. It is now available on the University of Iowa Press website at the following address:

<https://www.uipress.uiowa.edu/books/9781609387501/iowas-remarkable-soils>

The book is titled Iowa's Remarkable Soils—The Story of Our Most Vital Resource and How We Can Save It, by Kathleen Woida. The UI Press website states, "This is a remarkable book. Woida's knowledge of, reverence for, and joy in soils infuses each page. With friendly scientific authority, she seamlessly connects the natural history of the landscape with its human history."



Kathy Woida's book – Iowa's Remarkable Soils

Jim and Betty Reel recently travelled to Vincennes, IN, to attend the funeral of Jim's brother **David**. Jim and Betty have lived on a farm down in Van Buren County for a lot of years. They said that they have sold the farm and will be moving to their new home in Fairfield later this year.

DEADLINE FOR JULY/AUGUST 2021 NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS IS JUNE 25TH, 2021

Marty Adkins reports that they got their second COVID vaccine and are looking forward to seeing their out-of-town kids and grandkids soon. Marty and his son **Drew** are continuing their volunteer projects with their church and the Corps of Engineers. Drew has scanned and logged thousands of documentary photos from the construction of Lake Red Rock. Marty has provided input on a project that **Holly Giombi**, DC in Knoxville, did with the Corps staff on a Corps public education project focused on soil health and land management. One of their church projects is baking treats for folks stuck at home and for community workers. The photo shows Drew and an employee of the Marion County Public Health office delivering muffins to Public Health Department staff that were holding a vaccination clinic.



Drew Adkins and a Public Health Department employee delivering muffins to workers at a vaccination clinic.

Eldon and Jeannie Weber were married 63 years ago when Eldon was in Officer's Basic Training at Ft. Bliss in El Paso, TX. Eldon said they were surprised when their son, **Brian**, posted the following on Facebook: "Happy 63rd Anniversary, Mom and Dad (one day late)! I know I can speak for **Brad and Brent** when I say that we all love you both very much and we feel so fortunate and blessed to be able to call the two of you our parents! Enjoy your anniversary, and here is to many more!" Congratulations Eldon and Jeannie!

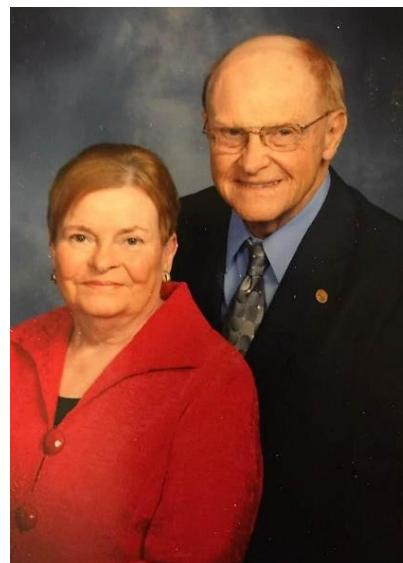
I grew up on a small dairy farm in southern Iowa. We separated the cream from the whole milk. The cream was sold, and the skim milk was mixed with some other ingredients to make slop for the hogs. When I was an eight- year-old kid, I thought it looked

like a pretty neat thing to get to milk cows. That was in the days before milking machines. I begged and begged my folks to let me try milking. Finally, they decided that it would be okay to let me try. They decided to let me learn on Nancy – yes, all the cows had names. She was very gentle and easy to milk. So, they found me an old three-legged stool, showed me how to hold the bucket, and the proper milking technique. It was fun! For the first couple of weeks anyway. It was then that I informed Mom and Dad that I was finished with my milking career. That approach didn't work. I never did figure out a way to get out of milking until we sold the farm before my junior year of high school. I normally wouldn't have taken up space with this story except for the following coincidence. A few weeks ago, I was talking with **Lyle Asell**. He grew up on a farm in southwest Iowa that had some dairy cows. They separated the cream from the milk and sold the cream. When he was nine years old, he talked his folks into letting him try milking. The rest of his story is pretty much a carbon copy of mine, except his folks didn't sell the farm. We had a good time talking about it as we could just about finish each other's sentences. I wouldn't be surprised if a few more of you had a similar experience!

During the past few months, we have welcomed a number of folks into our retiree community. They include **Suzanne Walden**, Program Assistant in Atlantic; **Judy Martinson**, Resource Conservationist in the State Office; **Tom Bottoms**, Soil Conservation Technician in Oakland; **Thomas Miller**, Biologist-Wetland Specialist in Anamosa; **Jacqueline Rogers**, Soil Conservationist in Mt. Pleasant; **Kim Broders**, Administrative Program Specialist in the State Office; and **Margaret Cope**, District Conservationist in Centerville.



Eldon and Jeannie Weber on their wedding day 63 years ago and now.



Eldon and Jeannie Weber today.

Recently we have been saddened by the passing of two retired Soil Conservation Technicians. **Ralph Braymen** worked in southwest Iowa for his entire career. **William Baugh** worked in the Ottumwa, Burlington, Wapello, and West Union Field Offices.

KANSAS

Deanne Lull, ARCSE Representative

Email: rlull2@cox.net

There's not much news to report from Kansas. The emphasis has been for everyone to receive the COVID-19 shots. **Ron** and I have received both shots. Ron breezed through with no discomfort, while on the other hand, I had a reaction to both and am glad they are over. The pandemic is still in the picture with the coronavirus variant being reported in one-fourth of Kansas counties. We are still under a mask mandate in Salina, so consequently we continue to be cautious when we are out and about.

Several of our retirees in Salina are members of NARFE. Our chapter is hosting the Kansas Annual Conference at the end of April, so we all have been terribly busy with preparations. It was a dilemma to determine how many to plan for, as over 100 have attended past conferences. We knew attendance would be much less this year, so we settled to plan for 50 to attend, and plans moved forward. Would you believe that final registrations have totaled 55!

We did have three new retirements. **Lynn E. Thurlow** retired on March 2nd, 2021. He worked as a Soil Conservationist with easements on the Resources Staff in the Kansas State Office in Salina. **Mark J. Religa** retired on March 27th, 2021, as a Soil Conservation Technician in the Newton office in the Wichita Management Unit. **Lee E. Copeland** retired on March 31st, 2021, after 34 year of service. He served as a District Conservationist in the Seneca office in the Hiawatha Management Unit.

One retiree passed away. **Kenneth Ray Baker** died on March 21st, 2021. He retired in 1995 as a soil conservation technician in the Jetmore Office, with 27 years of service. His wife, **Louise**, survives.

MID-ATLANTIC STATES

Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC

Ken Carter, ARCSE Representative

Email: duckheadone@gmail.com

The Mid-Atlantic Chapters of Virginia, Maryland and Delaware would like to welcome **Michael Sigrist** of Maryland into the ARSCE Community. Michael worked has on the Eastern Shore of Maryland as DC and RC&D Coordinator. Since retirement he has been involved in several other efforts promoting conservation on "the Shore."

The Virginia Chapter is saddened to learn of the death of former DC **David Lipps** of Gloucester County. See the In Memoriam section for details.

Many members reported having gotten fully vaccinated, while others are still waiting for their first or second shots.



Niles and Carolyn Glasgow (SC), Don and Jo Gohmert (LA), Art Holland (SC), and Blanche and John Peterson (VA).



John Peterson, Niles Glasgow, and Don Gohmert relaxing by the Hilton Head Island lagoon at Peterson's Condo.

From John Peterson: We had our annual SCS Friends Reunion at Hilton Head Island. We meet for lunch at HHI's Crazy Crab Restaurant every year about this time. It is always a great time to talk with old friends. We are all getting older—which is fortunate. Art Holland will be 90 on his next birthday.

MISSOURI

Dave Rastorfer, ARCSE Representative

Email: daverastorfer@aol.com, moarscse@aol.com

Steve Wooden: Just to let you know that I'm still alive and doing well. I'm still farming with my son and brother. We have about 60% of our corn planted and waiting for the fields to get dry enough to resume planting. We are still using cover crops on about half of our crop acres each year and still experimenting with different crops and rotations to increase that. I hope everything is going well for everyone. I enjoy hearing what others are doing.

We received word that retired Area Clerk, **Shirley Hutton** passed away March 29th, 2021. Here is the link to her obituary.

https://www.mccombsfuneralhome.com/obituary/Shirley-Hutton?fbclid=IwAR2u_zsoYEuy5ZcCvxbRsXhclfeQoNXwgKOvUaUUPGRloVBlad68ToFJ1Pk

From Byron Nolte: I should report that my wife **Ardith** died 11/30/2020. She lost her battle with cancer. I continue to live in Columbus, Ohio. Byron was an Area Engineer in the Springfield office before going to The Ohio State University to get a PhD and long career sometime in the mid 60s. He was my first supervisor and had a very positive influence on me all those many years ago.

This is a delayed notice, but I wanted to share with you that **Karla Lenger**'s sister, **Alvera Doerge**, passed away February 1st, 2021. Here is the link to her obituary.

<https://www.arnoldfh.com/obituary/alvera-doerge>

Expressions of Sympathy can be sent to:

Karla Lenger, 204 West Oaks Drive, Ashland, Missouri 65010

MONTANA

Dick Gooby, ARCSE Representative

Email: inca@3rivers.net

Montana Big Sky Report

Joyce Swartendruber Report: I'm busy volunteering at the Bozeman hospital during COVID vaccine clinics.

Scott Hoag Jr. Report: Since the COVID Pandemic started, **Scott and Nancy** have stayed close to home, going for groceries, etc. during senior hours. We did go out to eat once in a while. Now, with a large number of people having been vaccinated, things are loosening up, although Gallatin County Health still requires you to mask up.

Scott fell and broke his hip in December, which put a crimp in skiing. I guess I didn't miss much, particularly with the COVID restrictions in place. Old folks like me had a locker to store our gear—that was shut down and you had to boot up and carry your gear—not much fun. And then lodge use was restricted, as well. Haven't volunteered with Habitat for Humanity for over a year. I go for PT and get better every day—still a long haul. The lesson: When you are putting boots on, sit down.

Nancy has an article in Guideposts *God's Comforting Ways—True Stories and Reflections of Divine Assurance* titled "Embracing the Unexplainable." She also has a story in *Chicken Soup for the Soul Age is Just a Number* titled "There's a Girl in Here."

Scott and Nancy traveled to Bainbridge Island for Easter and their daughter's birthday. Had a good visit with family there and in Maple Valley. Visited her mother who is 101 years old.

Gooby Ranch Report: **Mary Ann** has so much work to do, calving 24-7, feeding cows, feeding horses and feeding me—that she doesn't have any time to trim the shrubbery, pick up the dead tree limbs and clean up the yard. She tried to hire someone to do it for her, but no one was interested.

Mary Ann has been saving her extra money to buy a new washing machine since her old one broke down six months ago, and she has to use a scrub board to wash the clothes. If Mary Ann could find someone to do the yard work, she would have to use that money to pay them.

I felt really sorry for her. I told her I would trim the shrubs and clean up the yard if she would pay me an hourly rate. Mary Ann said she would hire me and pay me \$12.00 per hour. I said no way—I'm worth at least \$15.00 per hour. We finally settled on \$14.00, but I only had to work when the TV was showing reruns of movies I've already seen. She finally agreed, and I spent quite a few hours cleaning the yard.

I was getting the yard cleaned up so fast. Mary Ann was really happy with me. She figured I would probably have to spend a couple months working between TV programs. What she didn't realize was that I've seen most of the programs about three times already.

When I got done, Mary Ann paid me and now I have enough to buy me a new fishing pole. She was so happy I got the job done she gave me a two-dollar bonus.

Maybe next year she will hire me again.

NEBRASKA

Norm Kempf, Jim Culver, ARCSE Representatives

Emails: nkempf@neb.rr.com, j4culver@aol.com



Nebraska Group Zoom screen photo of March 17th, 2021 meeting. Top Row L-R: Steve Stover, Harold Klaege, Norm Helzer, Jim Culver, and Claudia Stevenson. Second row L-R: Doug Christensen, Steve Scheinost, Marc Crouch, Ken Noonan, and Arnold Mendenhall. Third row L-R: Bill Hance, Gary Muckel, Roger Hammer, Thomas Reinsch, Craig Derickson. Fourth row L-R: Gus Dornbusch, Keith Sheets, Norm Kempf and Suzanne Harder.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson **Thomas Reinsch**. Nineteen members joined the Zoom meeting: **Steve Stover, Norm Helzer, Harold Klaege, Jim Culver, Claudia Stevenson, Norm Kempf, Doug Christensen, Steve Scheinost, Marc Crouch, Kenneth Noonan, Arnold Mendenhall, Bill Hance, Gary Muckel, Roger Hammer, Thomas Reinsch (Chairperson), Craig Derickson, Gus Dornbusch, Keith Sheets, and Jim Harder.**

Jim Culver announced that **Donna Dornbusch**, our current Secretary, recently fell and fractured her right shoulder. So **Norm Helzer**, a past Chairman, will take notes of our meeting with some assistance from the Vice-Chairman. **JoAnne Thiele** is sending Donna a get-well-card.

Jim also reported the March/April 2021 issue of the ARCSE Newsletter contained an excellent review of Paul Johnson's life. Paul was Chief of the Soil Conservation Service in 1994. He passed away February 15th, 2021 at the age of 79 in Decorah, Iowa.

Arlis Plummer reported that **Hoot (Gerald N.) Gibson**, passed away. He retired as Civil Engineer, Design and Construction, SCS State Office, Lincoln, NE. **Harold Klaege** mentioned that Hoot would stick a pipe into a dam and listen to the "sounds of soil." **Steve Scheinost** had been a rod man for him at Curtis, NE. A sympathy card may be sent to **Ellen Gibson** at 5801 Norman Road, Apt 245; Lincoln Ne 68512.

Gus Dornbush shared an article in the Midwest Magazine about **Chris Helzer**, Director of Science for The Nature Conservancy, Aurora, NE and his latest new book Hidden Prairie. Photographing Life in One Square Meter, 2020. This book contains many excellent photographs of amazing creatures of the prairies and was recently printed by the University of Iowa Press. Chris has made numerous outstanding presentations to civil groups and photographic presentations to other magazines such as Nebraska Land. Chris is the proud son of **Norm Helzer**.

Jim Harder reported that the Lincoln City Council was on TV about Salt Creek and the levy system and adding more upstream structures as a solution to flooding. **Harold Klaege** mentioned that after the 1953 floods, flood control was built in the early 1960s; and that less building of new homes and developments would also help reduce flooding.

Paul Bartlett turned 90 and has retired from working at Campbell's Nurseries. **Jim Culver** mentioned fishing in Canada with **Norm Kempf**.

Thomas Reinsch mentioned that the sump pumps of some nearby neighbors had been running continuously during the recent rains, but his sump pump had very little water in it. Thomas does a lot of early spring gardening. He had to replant his peas. The rye cover crop looks good.

Gary Muckel has had low water pressure issues at his house.

Marc Crouch, living in Leesburg, Florida, mentioned the open season on green lizards in the Everglades. Marc noted that when the local Florida Sandhill Cranes have babies, the pairs are territorial, while the "teenagers" are in groups. **Harold Klaege** noted that Kansas has an open hunting season on Sandhill Cranes. **Norm Kempf** noted that Sandhill Crane breast meat is really dark, tough, and needs lots of cooking.

Because of St. Patrick's Day there was some fun discussion about O'Neil, NE, the claimed Irish Capital of the state. Large Green Shamrocks are painted on the main streets, and parades are common along with other activities. **Craig Derickson** is from O'Neil, and **Ken Noonan**, **Roger Hammer**, **Steve Scheinost** and **Steve Stover** also had close ties to O'Neil during their professional careers.

A newspaper reported that 20+ prairie chickens were seen on a 90-acre CRP area with a designated artificial lek (leks are dancing grounds or booming grounds). **Norm Kempf**: A recent Nebraska Land article covered the development of an artificial lek.

There was some general discussion about the loss of Spencer Dam in north central NE. on the Niborara River in 2019. **Craig Derickson** noted that the NRD's, the Nebraska Game and Parks, and OPPD were reviewing future options.

This would have been the 11th year if **Steve Stover** had gone to the resort at Surprise, Arizona. He has two grandsons in Cincinnati and one in Houston; but he has a trip planned for May to see a daughter in Idaho (no road trips now in one and a half years).

Bill Hance. Life continues; not working in the prison (had COVID); wife cut her leg skin 3" long and ½' wide with her sharp fingernail, the skin was thinned from her use of Eliquis. Crouch with AFib has pacemaker or less invasive device near heart and is also on Eliquis. Hance mentioned blood clots in heart. Klaege mentioned a stint through wrist.

Most present on Zoom have had COVID shots. Reinsch asked about side effects:

Kempf: some soreness, but it went away. Sheets: 2nd shot was sore one week. **Hance**: had one shot then COVID infusion, now has to wait 90 days for 2nd shot. **Muckel**: feverish after 2nd shot, headache. **Crouch**: fever; wife had chills for 1-2 days.

Doug Christenson: after the first shot his shoulder hurt badly for 24 hours, but he still went to work.

Harold Klaege plans to fly to Arizona April 9th. He has a son south of Tucson. **Claudia Stevenson** plans going to Tucson area after her COVID shot, via camper for 3-4 weeks.

Jim Culver: Our retiree organization has been meeting for 50 years. Lots of historical documents. Some photographs of our club members attending meetings in the 2010s are currently on the ARCSE web site. Plans are to contact the ARCSE web master, **David Buland** to see options to post some of our club historical documents.

Gary Muckel recently participated in an ammunitions and gun show in St Louis and said that Canadians were not there, mostly because if they fly into St Louis and then return to Canada, they have to quarantine for 10 days in a nearby hotels in Canada--which is costly.

Marc Crouch, New Member of our Lincoln SCS/NRCS Retirees Club. Marc began his 39-year career as a soil scientist in CT in 1972. Mapped CT's last acre in 1980. Followed that with three years in Medina, OH as an Area Soil Scientist. Then one of nine soil scientists who completed the General Soil Map of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, spending three years in Riyadh. Returned to the states to Richmond, VA on the state staff as a soil correlator until the reorganization in 1995 when I joined the Raleigh, NC MLRA Office. During my time in Richmond, I also experienced TDYs in Kuwait (twice) and Indonesia. In 2005 we went to the National Soil Survey Center in Lincoln, NE where I served as the training coordinator for the Soil Survey Division until my retirement in Dec of 2011. We retired to Leesburg, FL (45 mi NW of Orlando) where we became caregivers for my wife **Marie**'s mother followed by my uncle. We are finally empty nesters. I golf, and then golf some more as well as being involved in St. James Episcopal Church, currently on the Vestry



Marc Crouch

Claudia Stevenson, New Member of our Lincoln SCS/NRCS Retirees Club. Claudia graduated from The Ohio State University in June 1984. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture with a double major of Agriculture Education and Animal Science. My plan was to teach vocational agriculture in a high school somewhere in Ohio. Instead of teaching I fell back on my college job of being a meat cutter. I did this for about three months deep into Dayton, Ohio. I did not like driving to the city everyday, so I looked for another career.

I worked for Dekalb Swine Breeders, a hog confinement operation that raised breeding stock. This was a very physically demanding job, and although the pay was good, I needed something different. I lived in Plains, Kansas for three years.

I did some odd jobs for about six months that included substitute teaching and high pressure washing of hog trucks.

I started with the Soil Conservation Service in mid-1987; considered a Farm Bill baby! I worked in Kansas, North Carolina, and Nebraska for a total of 33.8 years. While with SCS, the name changed in 1994 to Natural Resources Conservation Service. I retired at the end of January 2021. I learned a lot of water quality, nutrient management, soil health, wetland functions and the restoration of wetlands in southwest Nebraska. In North Carolina, I knew how to design a waste treatment lagoon. This is a deep earthen basin to hold the effluent from the hog farms. Now these are lined with thick plastic, then we used the clay in the soil to line the lagoons. In North Carolina, this was about 50% of my workload—lots of hog farms in NC. I also could design a grass/forb mixture for the preservation of prairies in Nebraska. Grass plantings were a big part of the job in Nebraska. Lots of wetland preservation and the uplands planted to the grass/forb mix for erosion control and wildlife value. Windbreaks, wetlands, waterways, and lots of conservation contracts written over the years.

One of my top five conservation projects was the Conservation Reserve Program sign-up #52 in 2019. I signed up 55 contracts (75% of the state projects), and half needed some type of restoration to remove the silt that filled up the playas. It was such a rewarding project to see these wetlands come alive. 2020 was rather a dry year, but we saw some progress. Another in the top five was working with hog farmers in North Carolina and creating the lagoons to hold the effluent. I was able to see the pipe go into the lagoon, and the effluent no longer was released into the stream nearby.

In my free time (which is a lot more now...) I like to paint with acrylics in detail brush paintings and other times it is a style of paint pouring with abstract designs. I teach the 2nd method at the Mid-Plains Community College a few times a year. I also play in the Methodist Church Sacred Sounds Handbell Choir. I just recently completed a solo piece. This was a long-time goal of mine and finally got that accomplished in March 2021.



Claudia Stevenson



Norm Helzer birding with the Nebraska Great Outdoor Audubon Society Bird count in northwestern Nebraska. Norm and his wife, Linda, counted 71 different birds on this outstanding field trip. Great Job!

NEW YORK

Nancy Lee, ARCSE Representative
Email: mlee0006@rochester.rr.com

Margaret "Sue" Myers, wife of **Bob Meyers**, 79 of Chittenango, passed away March 14th, 2021 at the Crouse Community Center following many years with Alzheimer's. Sue was born in Fayetteville, attended Immaculate Conception Church, Convent School and Graduated from Fayetteville High School. Sue is survived by husband, Bob, and son, **William (Allison)**. Memorials may be made to the *Alzheimer's Association, Central New York Chapter, 441 W. Kirkpatrick St., Syracuse NY 13204* or *St. Patrick's Church, Murray Drive, Chittenango, NY 13037*. For a full obituary see to *Zimmer FH Chittenango, NY*.

NORTH DAKOTA

Robert "Bob" Bird, State Representative
Email: Rajmbird@aol.com

I recently had a chance to visit with the former Area Clerk in the Grand Forks Area Office, Jacalyn Iverson, now Jacalyn Gibbens. I worked in the Area from 1972 to 1978 in Grand Forks and Grafton. When they reorganized the State from five areas to three, Jackie lost her job with the SCS and went to work for the FAA. She now lives in Las Vegas, NV and has a daughter there and a son in Iowa. In reviewing those days, most of the people I worked with have since died.

My boss in Grand Forks was the Area Engineer, Wilt Grady. He was close to retirement at that time, and his college degree was in electrical engineering. He knew all the area people plus district directors. We were driving near Northwood and passed the golf course, and he said they were having trouble with their irrigation system, and they had talked him into a consulting job to get it straightened out after he had turned them down many times. He said there was always somebody trying to get him to do small engineering jobs, and they would finally wear him down to help them out.

The Area Conservationist was Harold Jelleberg, and he was my boss when I was Project Engineer in Grafton. He was a NDSU Bison fan when he retired to Minnesota. Stuart Larson was the Soil Scientist, and he retired to Bismarck. Later Ole Kvittum took over as Area Engineer and later was the State Engineer in Nebraska. These people are all deceased now.

In Grafton, I had four inspectors—all deceased now. Elmer Bittner worked as inspector on the Turtle River Watershed dam construction near Larimore. He retired to Mesa, AZ, and recently passed away. Gerald Saltness worked as an inspector on watershed projects, primarily in Walsh County. He retired to Upper Cormorant Lake in Minnesota, and he and his wife have since passed away. Gene Andrews and Bob Vaudrin were primarily involved with surveying and are both gone now. Mel Askew worked out of the Cavalier office and worked as an inspector in Pembina, Cavalier, and some Walsh County projects. He has passed away, too.

We were kept very busy at the time with watershed work and a 10-million-dollar Emergency Watershed Protection project that was mostly in this area. I had a very experienced and capable staff and at the time said that this would probably be the best time of my career because of what we accomplished and how we enjoyed working together and spending time with each other after work. Even though I met a lot of great people and projects in later years in Illinois and Minnesota, it probably was the most enjoyable.

I hope everyone has gotten protected from COVID-19 and has survived the pandemic. We haven't made a decision on a Retiree Reunion for this year yet.

Elaine Kunz, 94, wife of **Walter Kunz**, died September 2nd, 2020 in New Salem, ND. Erwin Kobs, 91, husband of **Joan Kobs**, died September 13th, 2020 at Missouri Slope in Bismarck, ND. **Kenneth Rye**, 88, died March 10th, 2021 at Bethany Retirement Living-Memory Care in Fargo, ND. See the In Memoriam section for more details.

OKLAHOMA

Randy Freeland, ARCSE Representative

Email: randy.freeland@suddenlink.net

Wanting to be cautious a while longer, the Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees cancelled their meeting scheduled for April, hoping October is a much safer time for old timers to get together in person. Here are a few things going on with our membership as we continue to navigate the daily changes of COVID.

Barry Bolles said: I spent my first year of retirement building a house in Muskogee. Last place in the world I expected to wind up. The folks at church just wouldn't let us leave. I spent the next few years doing genealogy research on my family and published a book in 2014. Found a lot of kinfolk and history I did not know. I've spent a lot of time working with the church. I teach from time to time. Not a preacher by any means, but I have baptized around ten. I get to be the grounds keeper and maintenance man as well. I've done a few drainage projects in our neighborhood. I get a lot of calls about when and what to spray for lawn care.

On the downside, I had to have triple bypass surgery in 2011 and a couple of stents in 2013. Slowed me down a little. I finished building my 1967 GTO show car in 2013. Took "Best of Show" one time out of 116 cars. I am the neighborhood welder (no charge). I've built a couple of flatbeds on pickups for my son and grandson. I can find plenty to do, just not enough time. Think I'm going to have to slow down.

And after seeing an article in the local newspaper, **Mike Barrick** reported back to me: Thanks Randy but my brother Dan informed me about it. He graduated from Morrison two years after me and ended up the Vice-President of Morrison's Citizen's State Bank for 25 years. He now owns both of the Patriot Storage places in Stillwater.

Yes, I was picked the "Dreamboat" for the school annual, but I think they were dreaming! I was shy back then, and I didn't even know the girls were paying attention to me. It boosted my confidence a little bit and surprised all of them when I brought a Stillwater girl to the prom. They didn't know I had been dating her and that she was going to be my future wife. It is good to hear from you. It will be nice when we can meet together with our NRCS group again.

Our What-A-Burger group is meeting in person once again in Stillwater. We welcome any and all to join us about 8:15am on each Friday morning for the latest in solving the world's events. It is amazing the knowledge that is around the table and stories we tell about our careers in SCS/NRCS.

Recent deaths were reported. See the In Memoriam section of this newsletter and the ARCSE web site.

Bob Huneycutt, 87, retired State Administrative Officer, Stillwater, 1/9/2021, retired in 1989. **Payton Mumford**, Resource Conservationist, Sulphur FO, died in vehicle accident, 1/17/2021. Nephew of **Barry Bolles**. **Gene Bollinger**, 84, retired Asst. State Conservation Engineer, Stillwater, 1/22/2021, retired in 1990 from SCS after 32 yrs service & went to work for OCC Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation until 2009. **Lloyd Garrison**, 85, retired Construction Inspector, Marlow Watershed Construction Office also worked at the Davis WO. **Jack Bohl**, 87, retired District Conservationist, Frederick FO, 2/4/2021, retired in 1989 with 35 yrs service. **Minnie Carol Moebius**, 82, wife of Gordon Moebius, retired Soil Scientist at Duncan TSO, 12/19/2020. **Anthony (Tony) Lovelace**, 50, Soil Conservationist in Clinton & Alva, 12/13/2020. **Clifford (Bud) Rhodes**, 88, retired District Conservationist, Ardmore, 11/2/20

And we learned on November 23rd, 2020 that Oklahoma Conservation Commission (OCC) and Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts - Conservation Legend, **Hal Clark**, had passed away. Many of our SCS/NRCS Retirees will remember him and give thanks for having had the opportunity to know such a remarkable man. He was a long-time district director in Cimarron County as well as a Commissioner for OCC. He was easy to laugh with and loved to talk to folks about the rich panhandle history, his ranch and conservation. He will truly be missed.

Recent NRCS Retirees:

Greg Allen, 3/31/2021, DC, Cheyenne FO, 33 1/2 yrs service. **Laurie Bogle**, 3/31/2021, Range Conservationist, Cheyenne FO, 34 yrs service. **Freddy Trujillo**, 12/31/2020, Civil Engineer Technician, Tulsa FO, 40 yrs service. **Jerry Scott**, 12/31/2020, Civil Engineer Technician, Clinton TSO, 40 yrs service. **Larry McBride**, 12/31/2020, DC, Altus FO, 31 yrs service. **Lisel Worley**, 12/31/2020, Resource Conservationist, Tahlequah, 25 yrs service. **John David Jordan**, 11/7/2020, Civil Engineer Technician, Claremore TSO, 30+ yrs service. **Andy Inman**, 1/1/2021, Resource Conservationist, Stilwell FO, 42 yrs service. **Dwaine Gelnar**, 1/2/2021, State Appeals Specialist, Missouri, former Soil Scientist in Oklahoma, 41 yrs service. **Kevin Norton**, 5/3/2021, Associate Chief, Washington DC, formerly Assist. State Conservationist for Programs, State Office, Stillwater.

A couple of newsletters ago we told you of an effort to digitize old conservation photos so they would be preserved for posterity. Here is an update from **Larry Caldwell** about that process. It is taken, with permission, from an Oklahoma Conservation Commission Newsletter "The Ripple Effect."

The Oklahoma Conservation Historical Society (OCHS) is partnering with the Oklahoma History Society (OHS) to digitize old black and white photos. To date, OHS has delivered about 12,000 photos that were in the NRCS state office. During the past 18 months, OHS has been digitizing these photos and merging them with the metadata that is on the backs of the photos. OHS has recently posted 3,709 of these photos to their public website "Gateway to Oklahoma History" in the "Oklahoma Conservation History Collection". These photos involve images from 8 decades in 75 Oklahoma counties. OHS will be posting an additional 2,500 photos soon. They are processing the remaining 6,000 photos that will be posted later.

Check out their conservation history collection on their website at:

<https://gateway.okhistory.org/explore/partners/OKCHS/>

Note that you can search this collection using the search bar in the lower left of the webpage. For example, if you enter "Custer County" and press the magnifying glass, 69 images will pop up. Some include SCS Chief **Dr. Hugh Hammond Bennett** talking to a youth group in Clinton in 1941 (the image shown here). You can be as specific as you want. For example, if you enter "Wildhorse Watershed", you will see 16 images. Any of the images can be downloaded.

To get started with your search, enter "5,000th Great Plains Contract of Oklahoma" and you will see a photo of the Beaver County Conservation District Board signing the 5,000th GP contract in 1971.

OCHS is in the process of working with selected conservation districts to gather 15,000 additional old photos so that they can be added to the OHS website collection. If you have questions on the specifics of protocols for selecting and collecting the photos, please contact **Larry Caldwell** (larry.caldwell@usda.gov) or Ben Pollard (benpollard64@gmail.com).

Members are reminded to look at the information presented on the website www.joepad.com If you happen to miss our meetings, the website provides pictures, list of attendees, etc.

This newsletter is a little "lean" on personal information from our members/retirees. Sure would appreciate anything you could offer for the next one. Thanks! Randy Freeland

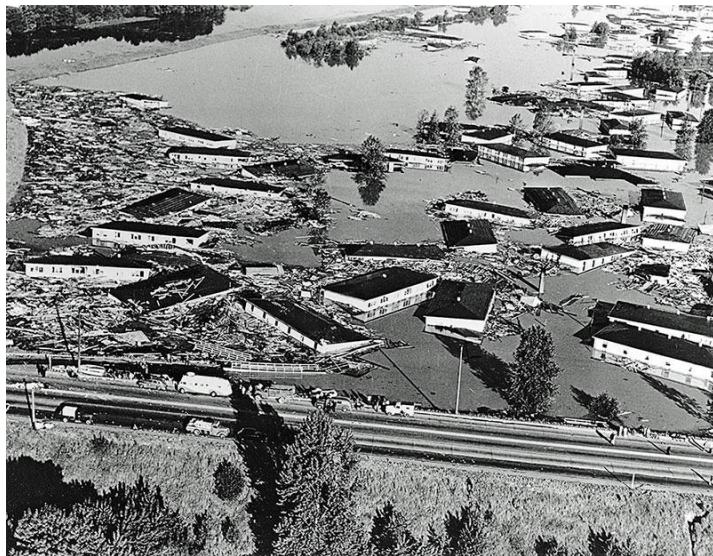
The Next meeting is scheduled for Friday, **October, 22, 2021** at Golden Corral Restaurant in Oklahoma City. No reservations are needed, and we welcome out of state guests as well.

OREGON

Don Stettler, ARCSE Representative

Email: don.stettler@comcast.net

I was recently reminded of the devastating Vanport flood that occurred on Memorial Day in 1948. Of course, I was just a child then, but I do remember hearing about it along with rumors of how awful it was from a neighbor who had stopped by my parents' farm.



Vanport flood destroyed property.



Vanport flood took its toll on human lives, too.

Vanport was a city of 40,000 people that had been hastily constructed to house workers at the World War II Kaiser Shipyards in Portland and Vancouver, WA. It was located on the floodplain of the Columbia River north of the Portland city limits. Now Delta Park and the Portland International Raceway occupy what was once the site of the City of Vanport.

The flood occurred when the Columbia River, at fifteen feet above the floodplain in which Vanport was located, undermined a railroad embankment that served as a dike, starting a flood that would destroy Vanport. There was little warning, and many had to flee their homes with just the clothes they were wearing. By nightfall, fifteen had lost their lives and 17,500 were homeless. Damaging flooding also occurred at other locations along the Columbia River.

Reminding me of this event was a book I was given, The Voices of Vanport, Radio and the Flood of '48 by **Dan Howard**. The focus of the book is on communications, both commercial and amateur radio, and first responders. Toward the end of the book, happenings at this high stage of the Columbia River at Sauvie Island are discussed. Sauvie Island is the largest island along the Columbia River, at 26,000 acres, and one of the largest river islands in the United States. If my memory serves me, in 1948 Sauvie Island was a Soil Conservation District in itself, and the SCS had an office on the island.

The Work Unit Conservationist (WUC), as they were then called, was **Tom G. Davis**. He was one of the two legendary men known as Mustangers who held the WUC position without a college degree. The book contains two quotes attributed to Tom.

"At the schoolhouse we find a yard full of tents, as the U.S. Army had sent 50 men from Fort Vancouver to help save the big dike, which was still under the management of the U.S. Corps of Engineers. The Army used the school for its mess hall and they also had cots set up in the school. My sister went over to the school to borrow a large kettle. She knocked on the front door but was escorted to a rear door as there were men roaming through the hall in their birthday suits." Tom G Davis

"The Omar Spencer Farm near the dike was sand and this area was used for sandbags. I had a dragline operating on ditch work and I moved it to the sand area. A loading chute was constructed, and sand was put in the hopper by dragline and the sandbags filled. The Army Corps of Engineers took over direction and did a fine job." Tom G Davis

Pete Patterson, (1933-2011), was raised on Sauvie Island. At retirement Pete was the director of the SCS Water Quality Branch in NHQ. He was quoted in the book with the following:

"The flood fight started in mid-April with casual dike walkers and lasted until late June. Many of the island kids with horses rode the dike during the early part of the flood looking for problems.

As the water continued to rise, the operation became a small war, complete with:

- *A Command Center-The Sauvie Island Soil Conservation Office*
- *Supply Dumps - trucks, bulldozers, sacks, generators, lights made with dishpan reflectors, radios, shovels, and more sacks*
- *Evacuations - families and livestock from the low ground*
- *Special Operations - Omar Spencer's sand quarry and the Little Surgeon Lake willow logging operation"*

PENNSYLVANIA

Bill Bowers, ARCSE Representative

Email: wbowers@comcast.net

For all of you apiarists out there, Carl DuPolt sent the following: The "Benevolent Bee" podcast:

<https://www.urbanfarm.org/2017/09/02/282-stephanie-elson-bruneau/>

TEXAS NORTH

Arnold King, ARCSE Representative

Email: arnolddking@hotmail.com

Arnold King report for North Texas

The vaccination process is working well, so far, in Texas. The Governor allowed opening all businesses, with mask requirements at the option of management. Most businesses require masks and social distancing. Very few people refuse to wear masks, but some do. One of our main concerns is the illegal migration from Mexico and Central America. Many of those folks are testing positive, and the whole thing is out of control.

Willeene and I are enjoying high school rodeos. Our grandson, **Greyson**, pulled his shoulder out of socket last rodeo and is in physical therapy with the possibility of surgery. He qualified for the North Texas High School Association finals, but not sure he will be able to participate because of his injury. Knowing him, he will ride unless the doctor says he can't.

Next week we are heading for Destin, Florida for our annual reunion with high school friends. Due to the pandemic, we weren't able to have it last spring, so we are excited about it this year. We started having the reunion 15 years ago following my retirement.

The hottest bass lake in Texas has lured me there twice during the past month. I fish with a high school friend who is at the pro-level and enters most tournaments. He sometimes takes me along on the pre-fishing part of the contest that takes place a week prior to the official date of the tournament. Lots of fun.

It is now time for our age group to start accumulating great grandchildren. **Don Newman's wife, Berniece** has her first great grandson, **Ryland**. **Rhett and Sharon Johnson** have their first great granddaughter, **Ella Kay**.

Jim and Jere Rickman have had plans cancelled twice for a cruise to Norway. However, they are leaving next week on a two-week road trip to Montana and Wyoming with their daughter and son-in-law. Their grandson lives in Montana, so in addition to visiting him, they plan to do all the tourist sights, such as Yellowstone, the Black Hills, and Mt. Rushmore.



Arnold King loves bass fishing and caught two 7 lb. bass on Lake Ivey near San Angelo. Arnold fishes with a very dear high school friend who has been trying to teach him how to catch bass for 25 years.

WASHINGTON

Ken Kaul, ARCSE Representative

Email: kenkaul@icloud.com

Drought, wind, fires and COVID are keeping everyone home and trying to do the right thing. The snowpack in the mountains is above normal, but at the lower elevations there is a great need for moisture.

We keep hoping that we will be able to get back to some kind of normal, whatever that is.

Stefan Fechter reports: We got back to Spokane about two weeks ago. The yard is waking up, so we're getting our exercise.

On April 24th **Ken and Tina Kaul** welcomed their second great-grandchild, **Mateo Jay Mancini**, 7 lbs 1 oz, 20 inches long. Mother and baby are doing well.

WEST VIRGINIA

Peg Reese, ARCSE Representative

Email: pegreesewv@gmail.com

Ronald Gilkeson, retired Assistant State Conservationist, lost his beloved wife **Velda** on March 5th. You can read more about her life in the In Memoriam section of this newsletter.

On a happier note, **Becky Strogen**'s daughter **Megan** is expecting a baby girl in early August.

WISCONSIN

James Enlow, ARCSE Representative

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We are starting to spring back to life here in Wisconsin. Our retirees are anxious to get together but are still being cautious. Our first retirees' luncheon is being planned for August 6th, 2021 at Antigo, WI. Most, if not all, retirees have had at least one vaccine shot by now.

Some groups are planning golf outings this summer and fall. Hopefully, the pandemic will subside, and we can get back to normal this year.

SENIOR CONSERVATIONISTS

Prepared by Marc Safley, Senior Conservationist Chronicler

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

Frank F. Reckendorf

Salem, OR

Donald R. "Don" Robertson

Lake Oswego, OR

SENIOR CONSERVATIONIST CHRONICLE

Senior Conservationist

Donald R. "Don" Robertson

Senior Conservationist **Don Robertson** was born February 2nd, 1927, on his family's farm near Hugo, Colorado. Hugo is a town located on the plains about 110 miles southeast of Denver. Don attended local schools and graduated in 1945. He was drafted in early 1945 and entered the U.S. Army right after graduation. Don served from 1945 until he was discharged in 1947. He then matriculated at Colorado State University in 1947 and graduated in 1951 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Range Management.

During his university years Don was employed by SCS as a student trainee during the summers of 1949 and 1950. Upon graduation he was sent to Simla, CO, as a soil conservationist. Don worked in that Work Unit until 1953 when he was assigned to the Kiowa PL-566 Watershed Project (Kiowa, CO) as a soil conservationist. He worked in that project until 1956 when he was made District Conservationist at Trinidad, CO. Don worked there until 1961 when he accepted the position of Area Range Conservationist located at Glenwood Springs, CO. In 1967 Don was selected to be State Range Conservationist for New Mexico at Albuquerque. He addressed conservation needs there until 1970 when he was selected to be the State Resource Conservationist for SCS located at Salina, Kansas. He worked in that position until 1973 when he was made Assistant State Conservationist for SCS at Salina. In 1976, Don moved to Portland, OR, when he accepted the job of Regional Plant Materials Specialist for the 13-state West Region. In 1978 he was promoted to Assistant Director of the SCS West National Technical Center at Portland. Don's last position with SCS was Associate Director of the West National Technical Center, to which he was named in 1981. Don retired from SCS in early 1984.

Following retirement from Federal service, Don was a part-time instructor in the Landscape Department of Portland Community College, Portland, Oregon. He taught there from 1984 until 1994. Don reports that his activities since retirement include his family, genealogical research, golf, and landscape design. Don has served his church in many ways, including congregation officer positions.

Don married **Beth Rathbun Kiteley** in 1948; their marriage ended in 1976. He married **Charlene Joyce** in 1977; they were together until her passing in 2017. Don has two daughters, two sons, two stepdaughters, and one stepson. He has seven grandchildren and four step-grandchildren. He also is blessed with seven great-grandchildren and three step-great-grandchildren.

Don included a short letter with his completed questionnaire. In it he thanked ARCSE for encouraging Senior Conservationist candidates to come forward. He noted, "At age 94 it should be time, I guess." We sincerely appreciate Don's life and career and his willingness to share both.

OBITUARY INFORMATION

Paul Benedict, Membership Chair

When you receive word of someone passing, with little other information provided to you, obituaries can often be found by doing an advanced search using Google, using the full name of the deceased. If you do not have access to the web, Paul Benedict will be glad to do the search. PLEASE SEND DEATH NOTICES AND OBITUARY INFORMATION DIRECTLY TO PAUL AT solwarden@verizon.net. Always include the position or the spouse's position with SCS/NRCS.

Surname	Year	<i>In-Memoriam</i> (Note: These are recent notices. For a complete list, please see www.arcse.org)
Baker	2021	Kenneth Ray Baker (81) of Bazine, Kansas, passed away on March 21, 2021 at the Hays Medical Center in Hays, Kansas. He was born on December 15, 1939 in Ava, Missouri the son of Manferd and Nadine (Bell) Baker . He married Louise Schriock on June 4, 1961, in Bazine, Kansas. Kenneth was a conservation technician for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service for 27 years from 1968 to 1995. He began farming in 1986. He loved farming and especially working with farmers. He was a member of the Bazine City Council, Wet Walnut Watershed Board, and the Bazine Coop Board. He was a member of St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Bazine and Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Scott City. Survivors include his wife, Louise Baker of Bazine; 2 sons, Terry (Carolyn) Baker of Wichita, Kansas and Roger (Connie) Baker of Bazine; 5 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; and 1 great-great-grandchild. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Connie Ann Baker .
Baugh	2021	William M. Baugh (76) of Grandview, Missouri, passed away March 17, 2021 at his home. He was born in Goochland County, Virginia on November 27, 1944 to the union of Mack D. Baugh and Reacie Barrett Baugh . After graduating High School, William joined the United States Air Force. William married Marian Geneva Flowers on June 27, 1965 at Second Baptist Church in Ottumwa Iowa. William was a member of Friendship Baptist Church in Kansas City, Missouri, where he served as a Deacon and member of the church choir. He pursued a career with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service for 35 years, where he retired at the age of 55. He worked in Iowa field offices in Ottumwa, Burlington, Wapello, and West Union. In his free time, he loved to sing, to work in the yard and to put a smile on people's faces. William is survived by his wife Marian, son Gerald of Ottumwa, Iowa, daughter Geneva (Bernard) Harris of North Carolina and daughter Shannon of Grandview, Missouri, 5 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.
Braymen	2021	Ralph Melvin Braymen (84) of Shenandoah, Iowa, passed away March 6, 2021, at Nebraska Medicine in Omaha, Nebraska, after being life flighted from Shenandoah on March 3. Ralph suffered a devastating brain stem injury as the result of a fall on his tractor. He died as he lived, working outside on his beloved farm. Ralph was born February 3, 1937, in the family home in Morton Township in Page County, Iowa. His parents were the late Bert L. Braymen and Helen Winfrey Braymen . After high school Ralph served in the US Air Force as a Radio Relay Equipment Repairman. On a blind date while serving in the Air Force, Ralph met Judith Carolyn Miller of Glenn Dale, Maryland. They married two years later on January 2, 1960. Ralph and Judy farmed the 160-acre family farm. Ralph also had a 20-year career as a Soil Conservation Technician in southwest Iowa with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (now Natural Resources Conservation Service); Surviving Ralph are his wife, Judith; daughter Sybil Sasaki of Fayetteville, North Carolina; son Joel Braymen (Jo Ellen) of El Paso, Texas; daughter Gail Braymen (Don Weber) of Lometa, Texas; 4 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by one great-grandchild.
Doehring	2021	Norman D. Doehring (86) of Salina, Kansas passed away March 6, 2021 at home with his family by his side. Norman was born October 21, 1934 to Paul and Gladys Doehring at Hebron, Nebraska. He graduated from the University of Nebraska and served in the US Army. He married Leora L. Ritterling on September 6, 1959 and enjoyed 61 years of marriage. He retired in 1994 from the USDA-Soil Conservation Service where he worked as a soil conservationist, district conservationist, area conservationist and Deputy State Conservationist. Norm is survived by his wife Leora , and 2 sons; Kevin (Suzanne) Doehring of Liberty Missouri and Craig Doehring of Flower Mound, Texas, and four grandchildren: BreeAnne (Andy) Doehring , Brenna Doehring , Alex Doehring , and Josh Doehring .
Finch	2021	Honorary ARCSE Member Clarence Uberto Finch (95) of Fresno, California, passed away peacefully, after a short illness, at Nazareth House Fresno on February 9, 2021 surrounded by family. Clarence was born in Hanford, California on August 23, 1925 to Rose and Bert Finch . He joined the United States Army Air Corps during World War II, where he trained as a flight engineer on B-29 Bombers. His military career was cut short when he contracted tuberculosis and was hospitalized. He spent the next five years in and out of hospitals until his disease was finally in remission. Clarence attended Fresno State College, where he met and married his college sweetheart, Joyce Jones on August 16, 1952. He graduated in 1953 with a degree in agronomy. He then took a position with the United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service (SCS). He traveled the State of California as an area agronomist assisting farmers with soil erosion and water conservation problems for the next 38 years. After retirement in 1988, he embarked on a second career as an Earth Team volunteer with the SCS, which became the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and consulted on several

		experimental projects on the Westside of the San Joaquin Valley of California. After his second retirement, Joyce and Clarence traveled from Alaska to the eastern seaboard. They also enjoyed time working and relaxing on their mountain timber ranch and spending time with their children. Clarence was a member of the American Legion, The Knights of Columbus, and the Sigma Chi Fraternity. Clarence will be remembered as a man who lived his faith. His priorities God, family and career remained constant throughout his life. The family would like to thank the Sisters and the entire staff of Fresno Nazareth House for all their help and excellent care provided. Clarence was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 52 years, Joyce Finch . He is survived by his son Stephen Finch of Cambria, California, and his daughter Susan (Thurley) Heintz of Pinehurst California. A memorial service celebrating Clarence's life will be scheduled when gathering is permitted. Remembrances may be made to the Nazareth House, 2121 N First Street, Fresno, CA 93703.
Foutz	2021	Billy Lee Foutz (91) of Lenoir, North Carolina, passed away February 27, 2021, at Caldwell Hospice and Palliative Care in Hudson, North Carolina. Billy was born in Rowan County on February 5, 1930 to the late Roy Pressley and Lillian Honeycutt Foutz . Billy graduated from North Carolina State University Class of 1952 where he obtained a bachelor's degree in Agronomy. In 1952 Billy married Zelma Plaster . Billy was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army and served in the Korean War from 1952 to 1954 as a Second Lieutenant in the Quartermaster Corps. Upon his return from the war, he would go on to have a successful 30-plus year career with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. He served as the District Conservationist in Lenoir for many years. He was a devoted husband, father, papaw, and great-papaw. Billy was known to have a green thumb. He had a live-cut Christmas tree farm in Rowan County long before tree farms became popular. He kept a huge vegetable garden even into his retirement as well as a beautiful flower garden at his home in Lenoir. Billy also was strong in his faith and a member of St. Stephens Lutheran Church in Lenoir. Those left to cherish his memory include his wife of 68 years, Zelma Plaster Foutz ; his three sons, Richard (Denise), Tim (Karen), and Joe (Susan) ; four grandchildren, Alexandria Swerbinsky (Michael), James Foutz (Taylor Baxley), Rachel Foutz (Hunter Shore), and Ben Foutz ; and two great-grandsons, Henry and Sam Swerbinsky . Graveside Services with Military Honors were held on March 2, 2021 at Concordia Lutheran Church Cemetery in China Grove, North Carolina.
Garrison	2021	Wilmer Lloyd Garrison (85) of Duncan, Oklahoma passed away at his home on January 21, 2021. He was born September 8, 1935 in Lawton, Oklahoma to Wilmer P. and Mary A. (Peters) Garrison . Following high school, Lloyd proudly served in the United States Air Force from 1954 to 1958 when he was honorably discharged. He was a farmer at heart, although he worked as a dam inspector for the USDA-Soil Conservation office in Marlow. Lloyd also was a rental property manager. He loved being on his farm and attending cattle sales. Services with military honors were held January 27 at Whitt Funeral Home Chapel with Ron Stough , Eastside Church of Christ minister, officiating. He was preceded in death by his ex-wife, Jean Garrison . Lloyd is survived by his children: Donna Sue Foley of Newalla, Oklahoma; Vickie Morgan of Oklahoma City; James Ray Embree of Duncan; 1 grandchild; and 3 great-grandchildren.
George	2021	Life and Honorary ARCSE member Gerald "Jerry" George (93) of Oregon City, Oregon, passed away March 13, 2021. He was born in Canton, Oklahoma, to Clarence and Jessie (Goodman) George . He moved to Vale, Oregon in 1936 with his family. Jerry enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1946 and was stationed at Riverside, California and San Antonio, Texas until 1949. After he was honorably discharged from the military, he spent a year doing farm work and was recalled back to the military in 1951. He served in Japan and Korea for two years and was honorably discharged, in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. After returning from his service in 1954, he met his wife, Bonnie . They got married in 1955 and together they raised four children. Jerry continued his education, earning a bachelor's degree from Oregon State University in 1957 and began his career as a Civil Engineer with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. He and his family lived in numerous cities across the State of Oregon throughout his career. He retired in 1983. Jerry enjoyed traveling and spending time outdoors, fishing, hunting and camping. He also was a member of the VFW, American Legion, The Grange, National Rifle Association and many other organizations. Gerald is survived by his wife, Bonnie; children, Clarence, Jerry, Roy and Vija ; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
Gibson	2021	Gerald "Hoot" Naylor Gibson (87) of Lincoln, Nebraska, passed away on March 14, 2021. Gerald was born in Iowa. He attended Wesleyan College, Lincoln, Nebraska where he played on the football team and pitched for the baseball team. He worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS) Soil Mechanics Lab in Lincoln, Nebraska while working on his Engineering degree at the University of Nebraska Lincoln. Hoot was a Project Engineer for SCS for many years. Part of this time was spent as a project engineer in McCook, Nebraska. In the mid-80s he transferred to the Midwest National Technical Center. Then he transferred to the NRCS State Office as a Design Engineer. After retiring from NRCS, Hoot had a second career working for the State of Nebraska in the Natural Resources Department as an engineer. Hoot was a long-time member of the National Guard. A long-time Mason and Sesotris Shriner where he was a member of the Legion of Honor. He enjoyed woodworking, bridge, cross word puzzles and working on his yard. All the dogs in the neighborhood knew Hoot and Ellen and would stop by for water and treats. Hoot is survived by his wife Ellen , daughter, Leah (Joe) , a grandson Tim , and a great-granddaughter he was able to meet and hold before his death. Memorials suggested to the Sesotris Shrine Hospital Patient Transportation
Gillkeson	2021	Velda Jean Gilkeson (76) of Dayton, Virginia passed away March 5, 2021 at Bridgewater Retirement Community. Velda was the wife of ARCSE member and retired USDA-Soil Conservation Service Area Conservationist Ronald "Ron" Gilkinson . Velda was born July 5, 1944 at Franklin, West Virginia and was the daughter of the late Russell Propst and Verna Hammer Propst . On December 23, 1964, she married Ron, and the happy couple lived in Morgantown, West Virginia, where she worked at the West Virginia University Agriculture School while Ron completed college. Over the years, Ron's job took them many places in West Virginia, including Point Pleasant, Sistersville, Keyser, Princeton and Philippi, and Velda held part-time jobs in those locations. After Ron's retirement, they moved to the Shenandoah Valley in the fall of 1996, and Velda enjoyed working as a food demonstrator at Costco until failing health. She was incredibly talented at sewing, quilting, and baking, and had a special passion for oil painting, which she continued to enjoy until her death. She attended Victory Fellowship Church at Dayton, Virginia. In addition to her husband, survivors include one son, Darren Gilkeson (Carissa) of Dayton, Virginia; and one grandson Todd M. Gilkeson of Aurora, Colorado. A son, Lance Gilkeson (1977-1993) preceded her in death. A private graveside service and interment was held at Fairview Cemetery at Fort Seybert, WV with Pastor Jared Link officiating. Memorials may be made to Victory Fellowship Church, P. O. Box 326, Dayton, Virginia 22821; Church of the Nazarene, 1871 Boyers Road, Rockingham, Virginia 22801 or a charity of choice.
Henry	2021	Life ARCSE Member Donald S. Henry (90) of Winchester, Kentucky passed away March 25, 2021. He was born November 14, 1930 in Benham, Kentucky to Lewis C. and Effie (Smith) Henry . He was a US Navy Veteran that circled the globe

		twice while serving. He began his career as a soil scientist for the USDA- Soil Conservation Service and retired as a plant materials specialist in 1989 while working in the Kentucky State Office. He is survived by his wife Marjorie Whitley , sons Darren M. and David N. Henry ; daughter Donna A. Long ; 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by the mother of his children, Doris Lee Collins Henry . Services were held March 29, 2021 at First Baptist Church, 32 E. Lexington Ave, Winchester at 1:30pm with Don Burkhead and Tony Stang officiating.
Hutton	2021	Shirley Jean Hutton (90) of Jackson, Missouri, passed away peacefully at her home surrounded by family on March 29, 2021. She was born April 4, 1930 in Chillicothe, Missouri the daughter of Clyde Glenwood and Margaret Mary Gall Finney . She married Dr. Walter William Hutton May 24, 1952 in Kirksville, Missouri. He passed away July 31, 2003. Shirley was a 1948 graduate of Linneus High School (class of eight people). She then attended Kirksville Teacher's College for three years. In 1951 she moved to St. Louis, Missouri, and worked for the FBI office. In 1952 she worked at the hospital in Moberly, Missouri while Walter interned; 1953 she and Walter moved to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada before moving to Keytesville, Missouri in 1955; She and Walter moved to Jackson in 1956 and in 1957 she went to work for Corp of Engineers while the flood wall in Cape was being built; In 1964 she started 25 year career with the USDA- Soil Conservation Service, retiring in 1989 as Area Clerk in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Shirley was a longtime member of First Presbyterian Church in Jackson. She is survived by her children; Michael (Linda) Finney of New Hope, Minnesota; Susie (Doug) Buttery of Granby, Colorado; Kathy (Breck Tucker) Finney of Hannibal, Missouri; Patrick (Dawn) Finney of Columbia, Missouri; Eric (Martha) Venable, Jessica (Darin) Teague ; and Isaac (Brook) Venable all of Jackson; nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. In addition to her husband Walter of 51 years, Shirley was preceded in death by three sons, William Kirt Hutton , Scott Glenwood Hutton , and Evan Lee Hutton .
Kobs	2020	Erwin Kobs (91), husband of Joan Kobs , died September 13, 2020 at Missouri Slope in Bismarck, ND. He was the father of USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service Mail Clerk Connie Kobs. Erv joined the North Dakota Highway Patrol in 1957 and worked as a state trooper and airplane pilot. His wife Joan passed away last year. Joan worked in the State Office in Bismarck. He is survived by daughter Connie Kobs , Bismarck, daughter Karen (Bill) Haas , Bismarck; two granddaughters and their husbands; two great-granddaughters; two sisters; two brothers, two brothers-in-law, 4 sisters-in-law and granddog Ancho who always shared a treat or two or more with Grandpa. He was preceded in death by his wife Joan; two sisters; five brothers-in-law; sister-in-law and mother-in-law and father-in-law.
Kunz		Walter Kunz (81) of New Salem, North Dakota passed away June 4, 2003, at a Bismarck hospital. Walter was born July 14, 1921, near Rosebud, North Dakota, the son of Kurt and Martha (Moebius) Kunz . His family later moved to a farm four miles north of New Salem. After graduating from New Salem High School, he joined the U.S. Army. Most of his four years of service were spent in Africa and Europe. He married Elaine Toepke on July 26, 1948, at the Peace Church in New Salem. He was a soil conservation technician with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in New Salem for 33 years. Retiring in 1979, he worked part time in Oliver County as a land use administrator and as a registered land surveyor. Walter was an active member of Zion Lutheran Church, the Lion Club and the American Legion. He also served as the clerk for the New Salem Park Board for over 20 years.
Kunz	2020	Elaine Kunz (94), wife of Walter Kunz , died September 2, 2020 in New Salem, ND. Walt Kunz worked in the New Salem Field Office as a Soil Conservation Technician. She is survived by a daughter Kerry Horton , Bismarck, ND; two sons Wayne (Dianne) Kunz , Whitewood, SD and Steve Kunz of Fairbanks, AK; and four grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Walt, son Kurt and son-in-law Bill Horton.
Licsko	2020	ARCSE Member Francis R. Licsko (85) of Fairview, Pennsylvania passed away on August 30, 2020 at Walnut Creek Health Care. He was born in Erie, Pennsylvania on October 17, 1934, the son of the late Peter and Mary Felege Licsko . He graduated from Pennsylvania State University (PSU) in June 1957 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Education. After graduating from PSU, Francis was employed with the USDA- Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in June 1957. He was drafted into the U.S. Army on September 1, 1957, after graduating from the U.S. Army Finance School at Ft. Benjamin Harrison in Indiana. He then served in the Comptroller's Office at the USA General Depot near Bussac, France, until his discharge on September 9, 1959. Upon his discharge from the military, Francis resumed his employment with the SCS, retiring on January 3, 1987, after a career involving the wise use of our nation's natural resources, including soil, water, woodland, and wildlife. He served in several positions in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Washington, DC. Following his retirement as a Management Analyst, he worked part time for Bob Ferrando Ford World as a parts delivery man for over 25 years. This job was something he genuinely enjoyed doing. He belonged to Holy Cross Catholic Church in Fairview, Pennsylvania. He was a member of the Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees, National Association of Retired Federal Employees, AARP, Natural Resource Defense Council, Sierra Club, Mothers Against Drunk Drivers, S.O.N.S. and the 3-CU Trout Association. He enjoyed fishing and hunting. He is survived by his wife, Joyce E. Swinarski Licsko of Fairview, Pennsylvania, whom he married on June 23, 1962, in Erie, Pennsylvania; two sons, Mark S. Licsko (Karen) of Crofton, Maryland, and Gary J. Licsko (Tracy) of Milford, Delaware; a daughter, Angela M. Bursler (Dave) of Bear, Delaware; four grandchildren, Kyle J. Moskowitz , Ian P. Shalk , Nicholas R. Licsko , and Grace K. Licsko . Memorials may be made to Alzheimer's Association in Francis' name: Greater PA. Chapter-Erie Office, 1600 Peninsula Dr., Suite 15, Erie, PA 16505 or to the S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie Fishing Club, PO Box 3605, Erie, PA 16508.
Lipps	2021	David Lee Lipps (93) of Gloucester, Virginia, passed away on February 21, 2021 in Gloucester. David was born January 26, 1928 in Aldie, Virginia, he was the 6th of 9 children born to Elbert Bullitt Lipps and Sue Mae Kirk . He obtained a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Education from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 1952. A Korean War Veteran, he served his country as a medic during the conflict. In 1964, David married Elizabeth Ford Johnson in Falls Church, Virginia. He worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, first in Loudoun County, Virginia for 10 years until he transferred to Gloucester County, Virginia in 1963. He remained in Gloucester for the remainder of his career, retiring in 1993. He was an avid gardener, famous in Gloucester County for planting of hundreds of thousands of daffodils and various other bulbs throughout the county, usually donated by Brent and Becky Heath. He was active in the Ruritan Club, Gloucester Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad, First Presbyterian Church (now Grace Covenant) in Gloucester and many other community activities. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Elizabeth Ford Lipps , of Gloucester and 2 sons, Stephen David Lipps of Washington, DC, and Dr. William Ford Lipps , of Richmond, Virginia.
McCarthy	2020	Carol Ann (Hall) McCarthy (84) of Columbia, Missouri passed away December 2, 2020. Carol was married to ARCSE Member John Robert McCarthy . John started work for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in 1960, retiring as the State Agronomist in 1996. Carol loved to fish and travel. Each year, she and John took four weeks travelling, two weeks in the

		Northern states in the summer and two weeks in the Southern states in the winter. Two of her favorite trips were to Hawaii, for their 35th wedding anniversary in 1993, and for their 40th anniversary in 1998. Carol has been a lifelong Catholic, attending Our Lady of Lourdes parish for 44 years.
Meyer	2021	Dorothy Ella Leta Meyer (97) of Plainfield, Indiana, passed away on April 2, 2021. She was born on January 6, 1924 to Henry and Anna (Wiebusch) Siemers in Otoe, Nebraska. After graduating from Otoe High School, she attended the Lincoln School of Commerce. She married Lorenz F. Meyer on April 14, 1943. Dorothy worked in the Accounting Department of the USDA-Soil Conservation Service Nebraska State Office from 1955 to 1989. She took pride in her work, earning many awards and promotions. She was an active member of First Lutheran Church Lincoln and enjoyed square dancing and round dancing with Lorenz. In 1994 she moved to Plainfield, Indiana to be near family. While living there she joined Plainfield United Methodist Church and the Women's Club. Dorothy was preceded in death by her husband Lorenz and her son David . She is survived by her daughters: Susan Meyer and Mary Ann Hamilton (Michael) ; and 3 grandchildren.
Moebius	2020	Minnie Carol Moebius (82) of Duncan, Oklahoma passed away on December 19, 2020, surrounded by her loving family at her home. She was born on November 19, 1938, to Edith Odetta (Robinson) and Clayton Leroy Rains, Sr. in Fairfax, Oklahoma. Minnie Carol was the wife of Gordon Eugene Moebius , who retired in 1994 as a soil scientist for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. They were married 61 years. She was a passionate Bible student and teacher. She was active at the Duncan Christian Center and worked as a volunteer to bring the first Christian station to local TV.
Myers	2021	Miriam Allen Myers (70) of Lexington, Kentucky passed away March 17, 2021. Miriam was the wife of ARCSE member Richard Myers , retired Assistant State Conservationist for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. She was the daughter of the late Roland and Edna (Grosse) Allen of Little Rock, Arkansas and born June 13, 1950. Most of her career was spent at Central Baptist Hospital and later she finished her career at Merrick Management. She was a member of Mt. Hebron Baptist Church in Lancaster, Kentucky.
Myers	2021	Margaret "Sue" Myers (79) of Chittenango, New York, passed away March 14, 2021 at the Crouse Community Center following many years with Alzheimer's. She was the wife of Bob Myers , retired Biologist for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. Sue was born in Fayetteville, New York. In the 1970's she and Bob had a beautiful family horse farm, raising Appaloosa horses and boarding horses for families around the area. Sue loved raising, prize winning Black Langshans chickens and for also raised bronze turkeys and peacocks too. Sue is survived by husband, Bob, and son, William (Allison) . Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Central New York Chapter, 441 W. Kirkpatrick St., Syracuse NY 13204 or St. Patrick's Church, Murray Drive, Chittenango, NY 13037.
Newman	2021	Senior Conservationist and ARCSE Member Allen Lee Newman (91) of Temple, Texas, passed away peacefully February 24, 2021 at Scott & White Hospital while holding the hand of his wife of almost 70 years, Maxine . Allen was born February 12, 1930 in Duncan, Oklahoma to John Wesley and Pearl Barber Newman . He went to Cameron College and Oklahoma A&M (now Oklahoma State University) earning a degree in Agronomy. After graduation, he served two years in the Army, rising to the rank of Master Sargent. He went to work for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in 1955, retiring in 1987. He was the assistant State Soil Scientist for 17 years. He married Cleta Maxine Pierce in Claud, Oklahoma on May 27, 1951 and moved to Temple in 1967. They joined Immanuel Baptist Church in 1967 where Allen taught Sunday School for over 50 years and was a deacon almost as long. At home, his garden and flowers were the envy of the neighborhood. He became a champion for the purple martin birds, wrote articles for the Purple Martin magazine, and many people called him for advice on the care of purple martins. Until his health declined, he was an active member of the Bell County Genealogical Society and the Sons of the Confederate Veterans because he treasured the history of his ancestors. His service to his Lord directed his life and the way he treated others. He was especially grateful to God for the blessings of his family. Allen is survived by his loving wife of 69 years, Maxine; sons, Max Newman (Traci) of Temple and Steven Newman (Terry) of Elgin, Texas; grandsons, Jarrod Newman (Lindsay) of Temple, Derek Newman (Dominique) of Woodway, Texas, Collin Mayo (Carissa) of Temple, Jason Mayo (Cassidy) of Temple, Colton Mayo of Temple, Luis Pesquera (Maeve) of Paso Robles, California, and Alex Pesquera (Sarah) of Los Angeles, California; eight great-grandsons, three great-granddaughters and two more great grandchildren expected within the next few months. Funeral services were held March 3, 2021 at Immanuel Baptist Church with Dr. Ron Milne officiating with burial at Hillcrest Cemetery.
Patterson	2021	David William Patterson (83) of Woodstock, Georgia (formerly of Elk Grove, California) passed away February 28, 2021 surrounded by his family, in his home in Woodstock. Dave was born in Linden, California, on January 22, 1938. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in biology at Humboldt State University in Arcata, California, and lived at that time by the beautiful Pacific Coast where he worked for room and board doing farm chores. A highlight of Dave's youth was the summer of 1957 when he worked the summer in Alaska for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a "stream guard," to ensure that the fishing boats weren't picking up salmon in their gill nets. After college, David served 5 years in the Navy as First Lieutenant and Gunnery Officer on a Tank Landing Ship, the USS Stone County LST 1141. While in the Navy he met his future wife in San Diego Sandra Jolissaint . They married in June of 1965 and lived all over California. After the Navy, Dave worked 24 years for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in California. After his years with the SCS he worked for 9 years with California Waterfowl Association, restoring and enhancing of wetlands. When David's professional career was over, he and Sandy moved to Woodstock, Georgia, where Dave enjoyed new friends and some years volunteering with Don Wells' beloved project, Mountain Stewards, https://mountainstewards.org/ . Dave is survived by his amazing wife Sandy Patterson ; daughter Diane Patterson and her partner Sheba Love ; son Dan Patterson and his wife Ashley Tone Patterson ; granddaughter Chloe Elizabeth Tone Patterson . A service to celebrate Dave's life was held at the Church of the Transfiguration in Woodstock, Georgia on April 8, 2021 followed by military honors at the Georgia National Cemetery on April 9. Donations in David's honor can be made to California Waterfowl Association: http://www.calwaterfowl.org/donate/ways-to-donate/
Paulk	2021	Herschel Leverne Paulk, Sr. (86) of Guyton, Georgia, passed away peacefully from an extended illness at his home with his family surrounding him on March 1, 2021. Herschel was a soil scientist with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service and retired after thirty-year service. During the 30-year career Herschel completed soil surveys on more than 1 million acres and authored several soil survey publications. After retirement Herschel remained active in the soil profession, his church and service to Effingham County. Herschel was past president of the National Society of Consulting Soil Scientists and member of the Soil Science Society of Georgia. He was an active member of his church, New Providence Baptist of Guyton,

		where he served as a deacon and Sunday school teacher. He was a member of the Effingham County Industrial Authority and former chairman of the Effingham Hospital Authority. He is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Gail McCormick Paultk ; Children: Gena (Greg) Tyler of Hoschton, Georgia, Kimberly (Thomas) Healey of Newport, North Carolina, and Herschel "Schel" (Terri) Paultk, Jr. of Guyton, Georgia; 15 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren.
Roberts	2021	Donald Jordan Roberts (94) of Winfield, Kansas, passed away on April 17, 2021 at Wesley Medical Center in Wichita, Kansas. Donald was born June 25, 1926 in Winfield, the son of Forrest M. and Ethel (Jordan) Roberts . In September 1944, he entered the United States Army, serving at Ft. Hood, Ft. Ord, and the Philippines. At the end of World War II, he was stationed in Japan. Don married Millye Jones in November of 1950. The couple had three children and Millye preceded him in death. Don was united in marriage to Erma Handlin on August 7, 1976 at Tisdale United Methodist Church. Don enjoyed flying and received his Pilot's license on August 17, 1947. In 1948, he began working as a Soil Conservation Technician and in 1982, received an award from the US Department of Agriculture for his 36 years of service. Following his retirement, he served on the County Soil Conservation District Board for many years. In 1983, he was a tour host for Rural Route Tours International, traveling with his wife Erma to the farmlands in Western Europe. In 1985, they took a tour group to southern Europe. Don farmed ground east of Winfield most of his life. Survivors include his wife Erma Roberts of Winfield; his children, Becky Roberts of Dallas, Texas; Rex Roberts of Wyoming; Cindy Grimes of Arkansas City, Kansas; Linda Fraass (Ron) of Las Vegas, Nevada; Carol Parker (Lee) of Reston, Virginia; Roy Handlin (Lee) of Lubbock, Texas; seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren.
Rye	2021	Kenneth Rye (88) of Fargo, North Dakota (formerly of Hazen, North Dakota) passed away March 10, 2021 at Bethany Retirement Living-Memory Care in Fargo. Ken was born on November 21, 1932 in Grafton, North Dakota to Gladys (Storey) and F. Kenneth (F.K.) Rye . Ken served in the Navy from 1953 to 1957 and graduated from NDSU in December 1961. Ken worked for USDA-Soil Conservation Service as a Soil Conservationist from 1963-1979 and was District Conservationist in the Hazen Field Office. He transferred to US Department of Interior as a mine Inspector in Oklahoma from 1979 until his retirement in 1990. He is survived by his wife Esther of 65 years, his three children, Wayne (Geri) of Mahtomedi, Minnesota; Dawn (Leon) of Fargo, North Dakota; and Barb (Jeff) of Stillwater, Oklahoma; 8 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.
Scholer	2021	Burke Hinman Scholer (86) of San Tan Valley, Arizona (formerly of Burleigh, Idaho) passed away Msrch30, 2021, surrounded by loving family. Burke was born March 6, 1935 in Bothwell, Utah to Rudolph Emil Scholer Jr. & Ruby Hinman Scholer . With dreams of being a veterinarian, Burke attended Utah State Agricultural College in Logan, Utah for one year, then returned to Burley in 1954 and married Connie Rae Dolph in the Idaho Falls, Idaho Temple, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, April 15th of the same year. Burke joined the Armed Forces, serving in the U.S. Army. While in the Army his first two daughters, Linda and Kim were born. He was assigned to Construction Drafting School at Fort Belvoir, Virginia to be trained as a Construction Draftsman and later served in the 18th Engineering Brigade. In 1957 Burke and Connie returned to Burley, Idaho where he soon began his work with the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS). He worked for the SCS as an Engineering Technician until 1988. Burke and Connie welcomed three more children (Mark, Kayla, and Sandie) into their family. In 1965, they moved from Burley to Springdale, Idaho and he started farming. They were expecting their sixth child; Monette Scholer was stillborn on January 6, 1967. Complication of the stillbirth tragically brought about Connie's passing on January 14, 1967. Adjusting to this loss was only compounded a few weeks later, when on February 27, 1967 tragedy struck again, claiming Mark's short 9 1/2 year life. His mother moved to Burley to help Burke with his girls. Several months later, Burke met AnnJean Coltrin , and after a short courtship, they married in the Idaho Falls, Idaho Temple, July 1, 1967. To this union, three more daughters were born (Heidi, Jennifer and Angie) completing their family of seven girls. In 1988, Burke moved to Boise, Idaho after being recruited by the US Bureau of Reclamation. He retired from work with the Federal Government in 1991 and immediately began his next career with the State of Idaho Department of Water Resources. Burke retired from the Department of Water Resources, as a Hydrologist, in 2001. Following his retirement, he (and his wife) served a full-time mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Farm Management Company. Burke is survived by his wife AnnJean, 7 daughters, 26 grandchildren and 53 great-grandchildren.
Schrader	2020	Darwin Schrader (89) of San Antonio, Texas (formerly of Santa Anna, Texas) passed away November 15, 2020 at his residence in San Antonio with his family by his side. Darwin was born in Coleman County, Texas, on November 11, 1931. He served in the U. S. Navy aboard an aircraft carrier during the Korean Conflict 1950-1951, and was a graduate of Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas. Darwin's first wife Ruby Nell Jordan Schrader passed away in 1968. Ruby was the mother of two children, Sheila and Curtis . On April 22, 1969 Darwin married Patricia Ruth Thomas , who is the mother of his daughter Amy , in Sanderson, Texas. They have celebrated 51 years of marriage. Darwin began his career with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in 1954 in Marfa, Texas. He later held duty stations as a range conservationist in Sanderson, Texas, Hondo, Texas, and Big Lake, Texas, before becoming the district conservationist in Sterling City, Texas. He retired on May 15, 1989, after 35 years of service. Survivors include his wife Pat Schrader of San Antonio, Texas; two daughters Sheila (Robert) Abel of Bellville, Texas and Amy (Robert) Liddell of San Antonio, Texas, and one Son Curtis Schrader of Knox City, Texas; 6 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.
Wallace	2021	Barbara Livingstone Wallace (79) of Grand Rapids, Michigan, passed away March 11, 2021, in Grand Rapids after a valiant battle with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's disease). She was born in Edmore, Michigan and grew up in Big Rapids, Michigan. She earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Social Science from Michigan State University and attended graduate school for Public Administration at Central Michigan University. Barbara served as the Executive Director of the Mecosta County Chamber of Commerce, President of the General Federation of Women's Club Michigan (GFWC), National Co-Chairman GFWC/FBI Crime Prevention and Victim Assistance Program, Member of the Michigan Sesquicentennial Commission and was the Senior Public Relations Administrator for Amway. She then began a 15-year career with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at National Headquarters as a Social Scientist. She returned to Grand Rapids in her final position with the NRCS as National Community Conservation Specialist. Barb leaves behind her daughter Wendy , grandson Cody , brother John Donley , and dear friend Russ Hinkle . Barbara was preceded in death by husband James Wallace , on April 11, 2009.
Wilkes	2021	ARCSE Member Robert Lester Wilkes (91) of Athens, Georgia, passed away after a short illness on March 18, 2021. Bob was the youngest of three sons born to John Wilkes and Beulah Thompson Wilkes in Lyons, Georgia. He graduated from the University of Georgia in 1953. Also in 1953, Bob married Frances Reid of Vidalia, Georgia. After graduation, he

went home to work with his father and brother. He soon decided the farm was not his calling and started work with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS). During his career Bob soil surveyed almost 1 million acres and ended his career as a soil scientist in the Athens SCS State Office. Bob is remembered by those that knew and worked with him as man with passion for the soil profession, his love for the Georgia Bulldogs, but more as family man, mentor of young men and very good and kind man. His two favorite sites to map soils were the Chickamauga Battlefield and the two weeks he spent mapping Cumberland Island. Bob is predeceased by his wife, **Frances Reid Wilkes** and daughter **Judy Wilkes Mahoney**. He is survived by his daughter, **Kim Wilkes Reuning (Pete)** of Sandy Springs, Georgia, son-in-law **John Mahoney** of Lyons, Georgia; grandsons **John Reuning** and **Tom Reuning (Amanda)** of Atlanta, Georgia, **William Olmstead (Katie)** of Athens, Georgia, **Robert Olmstead** of Wilmington, North Carolina, and **John Mahoney** of Savannah, Georgia; and great grandchildren **Will Olmstead** and **Smith Olmstead** of Athens, Georgia.