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**Notes From the Potomac**

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# NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter for Retired SCS and NRCS Employees

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## NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

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

**Personal Finance**—The Federal Retiree COLA for 2018 was 2%, which was the first significant increase in several years. It appears that old man inflation is back in town, and with year-over-year inflation rates of 2.1%, 2.2%, and 2.4% in January, February, and March, retirees could perhaps see an even larger COLA in 2019. The Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance program Trustees Report *estimated* that the cost of living increase to be announced in October, 2018 for the 2019 calendar year will be about 3.1%. As you know, there is a lot going on with the economy so stay tuned.

President Trump has announced that current Federal workers will not see an increase in salaries next year. Consequently, for workers to see a pay raise in 2019, Congress would have to act to raise pay.

**2018 Appropriations**—On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, Congress avoided another episode of shutdown drama and quickly passed a \$1.3 trillion spending bill that largely ignored the Trump administration's recommendations. The bill will keep the Federal government open through September. The House voted 256 to 167 to approve the bill early in the afternoon on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, less than 24 hours after the 2,232-page spending plan had been released. The Senate voted 65 to 32 to approve the bill just after midnight on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Government funding was set to expire at the end of the day on Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Here are few of the highlights:

- One hidden gem in the Appropriations Act is a provision that eliminates the requirement that NRCS financial assistance program participants obtain a DUNS number, or to register in the System for Award Management (SAM). Many of us have felt that requiring conservation program participants to get a DUNS number and register in SAM was an unnecessary burden because program participants aren't "contractors" working for the government.
- In addition, this is the first time in a decade that funding for farm bill conservation programs has not been reduced by the Appropriations Committees. This resulted in significant increases in funding for the Farm Bill conservation programs.
- The Watershed Operations program received \$40 million in funding, and the Watershed Rehabilitation program received \$5 million in funding.
- Finally, the Conservation Operations and Technical Assistance program was funding at \$874 million, an increase of \$10 million over the 2017 funding level.

**Farm Bill**—Developing a Farm Bill has traditionally been largely a bipartisan effort characterized by regional battles, rather than political battles. However, that appears to be changing because of overall funding constraints for the Farm Bill and the decision by House Republican leadership to include a test of welfare reform in the Farm Bill. Some argue that a potential partisan impasse on the House Agriculture Committee is making it increasingly likely that Congress might not be able to pass a new farm bill this year, forcing lawmakers to eventually pass a short-term extension of the 2014 law. We shall see.

"It becomes more challenging every day" to enact a new bill, said former Ag Committee Chairman **Frank Lucas**, (R-OK). It took almost three years to pass the 2014 Farm bill. "Getting a farm bill this year after what has happened the last two weeks is going to be very difficult," said former Texas Congressman, **Charlie Stenholm**, who was the ranking Democrat on the committee during development of the 2002 farm bill. "It seems that the speaker or someone in leadership has made the decision that they are going to reform the welfare system in the farm bill," Stenholm said, referring to the expanded work requirements and tighter eligibility rules for SNAP recipients, that are included in the draft bill. House Speaker **Paul Ryan** has recently been pitching the farm bill as the showcase for the GOP approach to welfare reform.

**ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES**

An extension could introduce a number of uncertainties, including a lapse in funding for expiring programs, and would allow Democrats to have more say in the shape of the next farm bill, assuming they increase their House minority in the November elections or even take control of the chamber.

With all this in mind, House Agriculture Committee Chairman, **Mike Conaway** (R-TX), has promised to move forward with a bill, even without Democratic support. But history and the legislative calendar aren't on Conaway's side, especially with the committee deeply polarized over the bill's nutrition title and Democrats believing they have a good chance of taking control of the House.

To continue to move the farm bill forward, on April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the House Agriculture Committee passed the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018 on a party-line vote after Democrats criticized the legislation's nutrition program reforms. Chairman Conaway said he hopes to debate the bill on the House floor sometime in May after ensuring he has enough votes to pass it.

House Speaker **Paul Ryan**, who wants to use the bill to showcase his welfare reform ideas, welcomed the committee action saying, "Included in this farm bill are much-needed reforms that will strengthen America's workforce and help move people out of poverty."

In addition to overhauling the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the bill that was approved by the Ag Committee would enhance the Price Loss Coverage program for grain, oilseed and cotton producers; relax commodity program payment limits; fund a new vaccine bank for livestock producers; eliminate the Conservation Stewardship Program as a standalone program; and authorize new loans and grants for rural broadband expansion.

House Republicans are relying on elimination of the Conservation Stewardship Program and tightened eligibility rules and work requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to fund other priorities in the new farm bill because the Farm Bill had no new funding sources outside of its baseline funding. Note that more than 75 percent of the bill's spending goes toward SNAP and other nutrition programs.

Eliminating CSP would save \$12.6 billion over 10 years, of which \$7.7 billion over 10 years would go toward expanding the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. The Chairman indicated that, "We just think that EQIP is more efficient and a better use of the money." Another \$2.2 billion, over 10 years, was added to the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, and \$1.3 billion, again over 10 years, was added to the Regional Conservation Partnership Program. The remaining CSP baseline funding, nearly \$800 million, was moved from the conservation title to other areas of the bill. Existing CSP contracts would be allowed to continue until they expired.

In addition to folding the Conservation Stewardship Program into the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the bill increases the cap on the Conservation Reserve Program from 24 million acres to 29 million acres. The increase in CRP acreage, supported by Ranking Member **Collin Peterson** (D-MN), would be paid for by capping payments at 80% of county rental rates and reducing other assistance to CRP contract holders.

It goes without saying that the changes to conservation programs will have numerous critics (for example, the grain industry is strongly opposed to expanding CRP), but the big fight will be over the bill's nutrition title.

The House Republican leadership strategy appears to be to build support for the farm bill with hard-line conservatives, who have voted against the farm bill in prior iterations. There is a possibility that the bill could be brought to the floor the week of May 7<sup>th</sup>, but that will depend on whether or not the Republican leaders have secured enough votes. Democrats are expected to be united in opposition to the bill because of its food stamp reforms, so Republicans cannot afford to lose many votes among their own ranks. Ranking member Peterson has called the proposed SNAP reforms a "fool's errand" since they would be unacceptable to Senate negotiators.

Senate Agriculture Chairman **Pat Roberts** (R-KS), said he hopes to have a draft bill ready for his committee to act on in May but has not scheduled any action.

**Trade**—Partly as a concession to strong opposition from agricultural producers, President Trump signaled recently that he is interested in rejoining the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

A crisis is looming for the World Trade Organization's dispute resolution system as the Trump administration presses the international body for reforms, and the U.S. ag sector could be adversely affected.

The White House has a list of major changes it wants in how the WTO's appellate body operates, and appears to be using its authority to block new appellate judges as leverage to get those changes. So far, WTO leaders and representatives of other member countries have not been willing to make concessions, putting the organization's ability to resolve disputes in jeopardy.

The U.S. initiated two WTO disputes in late 2016 that are very important to the U.S. ag sector, and both are against China. These cases are widely considered to be certain wins for the U.S., but both would likely go to the WTO appeals body; but if there are not enough members to act on the appeal, action against China would be delayed.

**Wetlands**—When **Scott Pruitt** appeared last June before House appropriators, he said that "We will have a final rule that will provide a definition for 'waters of the United States' by the fourth quarter of this year, no later than the first quarter of next year..." However, EPA is still working with the Army Corps of Engineers to address hundreds of thousands of comments on the proposed repeal of the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule and is facing court challenges to the new rule, potentially delaying the effective date of the new WOTUS rule until February, 2020.

**People**—In early March, **Bill Northey** was finally sworn in by **Secretary Perdue** as undersecretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Service. Northey will oversee FSA, Risk Management, and NRCS.

Sen. Appropriations Chairman **Thad Cochran** (R-MS) who is also a member of the Agriculture Committee, resigned his seat on April 1<sup>st</sup>, citing poor health.

**Leonard Jordan** continues in his role as the acting NRCS chief.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Dana York**

### Spain, from Roman Aqueducts to Drones

I just returned from a two-week tour of Spain and Portugal, visiting towns and cathedrals, and driving across many types of agricultural lands. While the centuries-old buildings and towns were fascinating, I also got a chance to visit the Ministries of Agriculture and Forestry in both countries. From the northern regions to the south, Agriculture is a prominent industry. We saw many types of agriculture with grain, vegetable, olives, wine grapes, sugar beets, rice, artichokes, Valencia oranges for juice, bitter oranges for Marmalade, beef, pork, poultry, and fish being the leading industries.

Most of the areas are fairly arid with very rocky soils, so irrigation is a major part of providing water to orchards, vegetables, and fields. We saw the earliest efforts of providing water being from Roman Aqueducts built starting in 500 BC to terraced fields, with ditch irrigation and overhead irrigation being necessary to produce their crops. The air was fragrant with the smell of orange blossoms in about every town we visited. In Portugal I was lucky enough to meet the Minister of Agriculture who took me through a tour of an exhibit about their last 100 years of agriculture. They showed off the use of the latest technology of drones, robots, and computer-controlled monitoring of fields for irrigation. Especially interesting was the harvest of cork. Portugal produces 70% of the world's cork. While visiting towns in the north of Spain, they were getting freak snows; and in Bilbao while we were there, they received more rain in one day than they normally receive in a year! It was certainly the talk of the day since major flooding occurred. The discussion of climate change challenges was certainly a topic of many of the agriculture professionals I met.



**Roman Bridge Aqueducts. Water ran across top to a cistern in the town (note snow on cars).**

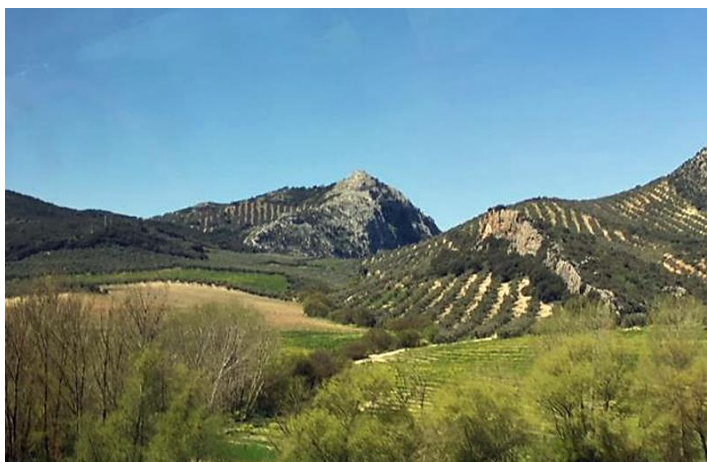


**Ministry of Agriculture, Madrid, Spain.**



**Early picture of Cork Harvest in Portugal**

I know that many retired employees travel, so please share and send pictures of what you found interesting with the rest of us in this newsletter. Following below is information about our next annual meeting the end of July at SWCS in Albuquerque NM. Mark your calendar now! We would love to see you there.



**Terraced field of olives, oranges and artichokes**



## ARCSE Annual Luncheon

The Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees will hold its annual luncheon in the Apache Room at the Albuquerque Convention Center.

Date: Monday July 30, 2018

Time: Social hour beginning at 11:00am; Lunch at 12pm

For those receiving the newsletter electronically, a reservation form will be sent separately. Watch for it. A copy of the reservation form is included with the printed copy of the newsletter. Reservations are due no later than **July 17, 2018**.

Attending the ARCSE luncheon does not require that you register for the Soil and Water Conservation Society International Annual Conference, but for those interested in doing so, registration and lodging information follow.

### **Culture, Climate, and Conservation**

SWCS 73<sup>rd</sup> International Annual Conference

Albuquerque Convention Center

July 29 - August 1, 2018

Albuquerque, New Mexico

### **Register by Mail:**

[https://www.swcs.org/static/media/cms/MailInRegistration\\_897190B5A03DE.pdf](https://www.swcs.org/static/media/cms/MailInRegistration_897190B5A03DE.pdf)

**Register Online:** <http://www.cvent.com/d/pgqjql/4W>

**Lodging:** The SWCS has negotiated a discounted conference rate of \$149 for single and double occupancy rooms. This block is available on a first-come, first-served basis, and the discounted rate is available through **July 5, 2018**. Room rates for reservations booked after July 5 are at the hotel's discretion and are based on availability.

Make your online reservation at the discounted rate by following the link and selecting "Attendee" in the dropdown menu: <http://aws.passkey.com/event/49280280/owner/4052/home>.

Hyatt Regency Albuquerque

330 Tijeras Avenue NW

Albuquerque, NM 87102

+1 505 842 1234

## A BIT OF HISTORY

**Douglas Helms, Historian**

Email: [douglas.helms@gmail.com](mailto:douglas.helms@gmail.com)

### **Marie Tharp: Plate Tectonics and Mapping the Ocean Floor**

BBC radio recently featured a program on **Marie Tharp** and her lifelong work on mapping the ocean floor. You can listen to that broadcast at the following link:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3cswskn>



Her map of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and other plate boundaries revolutionized the understanding of shifting plates in development of the earth's surface. The new paradigm was plate tectonics. Being a "drifter," believing in continental drift, had been *verboden* in geology. Now it was "in." I first heard about Marie Tharp from **Edward Landa** of the US Geological Survey. Ed organized a session at the Soil Science Society annual meeting in Houston, TX, and I made a presentation about the friendship of **Hugh Hammond Bennett** and Marie's father, **William Edgar Tharp**.

As inspector of soil surveys in the South, Bennett oversaw some of Tharp's work. Both noticed changes in soil, especially soil erosion, due to farming practices. Understandably, both were on the American Soil Survey Association's Committee on Cultural Changes in Soil. Tharp substituted for Bennett on at least one soil erosion talk. Both wanted to use the soil survey to

improve agriculture. Bennett lobbied mightily with **Milton Whitney**, Chief of the Bureau of Soils, to allow Tharp the time to write materials promoting the use of the loess hills of Mississippi for cattle-raising. Erosion and the cotton boll weevil had knocked props from under the cotton economy there.

W. E. Tharp took young Marie along on his soil survey work, where she learned to understand the landscape and map on the plane table. She developed a love of mapping.



**Marie assisting her father surveying soil**

I took the introductory geology class and a historical geology class at the University of North Carolina in 1963-1964. I do not recall plate tectonics being mentioned, although I think we were told about the theory of continental drift as one of several theories. The teacher of the historical geology class, **Walter Wheeler**, was an authority on the rocks and fossils of the Triassic Basins of North Carolina, which were prime examples of plate tectonics at work. By the end of the decade he co-authored an article with graduate students **Anthony Randazzo** and **Win Swe**, who supplied the *raison d'être* for the Wadesboro basin plate tectonics. That, in a capsule, is the revolution that was wrought.

### 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*

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

**Ron Marlow, Secretary Treasurer**

#### New ARCSE Members

First Name	Last Name	State
Randy	Bennett	KS
Karen	Garner	TX
Steve	Garner	TX
Gene	Hardee	SC
William	Moore	ID
Richard	Swenson	MD
Alan	Walker	NC
Rodney	Woolard	NC

### ARCSE Complimentary membership

**Ron Marlow**

When you have retiree social functions or any other time that you see new retirees from NRCS, be sure to remind them that they are eligible for a one-year complimentary membership in ARCSE if they have not previously been a member. All that is required is that they submit a membership application. This one-year complimentary membership includes receiving the bimonthly electronic newsletter. Membership applications and the ARCSE brochure may be printed at <http://www.arcse.org/nFORMS.htm>.

## ARIZONA

**Ken Cookson, ARCSE Representative**

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

**Karl Klingelhofer Report.** Back to flying my 72-year old airplane again after two eye surgeries for glaucoma. I just fly locally and am also getting back into tennis. Visited family in California for Easter and have scheduled a trip to Cuba for June. Changing my email address to [krklingel@gmail.com](mailto:krklingel@gmail.com).

**REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS UP-TO-DATE BY CONTACTING THE SECRETARY/TREASURER**

## CALIFORNIA

**Bill Ward, ARCSE Representative**

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



*Our March 7, Retiree Luncheon Group, Lower left, clockwise, Jim Chapman, Harold Honeyfield, Bill Ward, Ron Schultz, Ed Schmidt, Marilyn and Ron Hoppes, Walt Sykes*

**Greetings from California!** It has been a frantic and hectic couple of months in Santa Barbara County, since my last report summarizing the devastating effects of the January 9<sup>th</sup> mud and debris flows in Montecito and surrounding areas of the County.

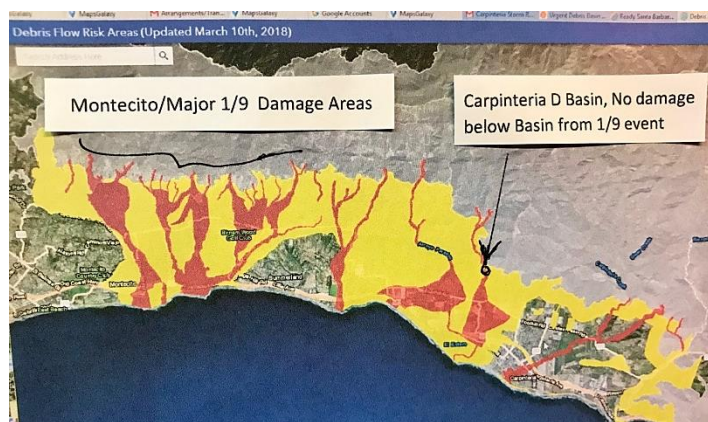
Following is a portion of Supplement No 3, to the original summary report "Events and Actions related to the 1/9 Disaster Event in Santa Barbara County" that was prepared 1/18/2018 by Retired NRCS Engineers **Bill Ward** and **Doug Toews**.

The County began developing risk maps and criteria needed to identify risk areas and plan for future evacuations. One key criteria was a rainfall intensity of 0.5 inches per hour or greater.

A risk area map was developed by the County, available to be viewed on line by all registered residents. The area downstream of Santa Monica is identified as a high risk area as it was filled during the 1/9 event and not fully restored.

The County issued mandatory evacuation orders on three different occasions in March, affecting around 30,000 residents.

The County's report referred to the Santa Monica Debris Basin as the "Massive" Debris Basin and rightly so compared to the other 10 basins. Santa Monica Debris basin has a storage capacity of about 150,000 CY almost 3 times the second largest of the 10 basins and about 2/3 of the storage of the other 10 basins combined. Other unique features:



*Risk map which shows the location of the debris basin and the area at risk downstream of the basin*



The Principal Spillway inlet system has three Reinforced Concrete inlet towers crest elevations at different heights.

The inlet towers and spillway through the embankment were initially plugged with mud, rocks and woody material. This resulted in soupy material with challenges in dewatering the site. Clearing debris from the lower tower inlet provided drainage for the basin.

Debris in the basin was nearly 50 feet thick, with layers of large boulders six to 12 feet in size, including large boulders deposited 1,000 feet upstream in the inlet channel.

Doug Toews documented progress in the following photos.



**2/23, Santa Monica D Basin, excavation of debris and boulder. Note two towers exposed and one still buried.**

Doug Toews participated in a meeting on site with NRCS staff and Santa Barbara County Staff, when they requested NRCS assistance to implement changes to the basin to expedite maintenance for the basin.

Santa Barbara County considered the proposed changes critical to provide downstream protection while the watershed healed over the next three to five years. Two most significant modifications proposed included raising Tower C to just above the crest of the emergency spillway, and constructing an access ramp to accelerate removal of material from the basin.

NRCS is in the early stages of preparing a Damage Survey Report to provide this assistance under EWP. Areas downstream from the Thomas Fire are at an elevated risk of more mud and debris flows for the next three to five years.

The repairs and modifications requested for Santa Monica Debris Basin are part of Santa Barbara County's plan to be vigilant and ready for the foreseeable future. \$20 million has been expended, with more work yet to be done.



**3/5, Dewatering after a storm.**



Santa Monica Debris Basin was constructed 40 years ago as part of the Carpinteria Valley Watershed Project, under PL-566. This project has been maintained and operated by the County all these years. The project's benefits and value were never more clearly demonstrated, than by the devastation that occurred in nearby Montecito on January 9.

While the Carpinteria WSP saved lives and prevented damages during the 1/9 disaster event, there was a dangerous period of time immediately after the event when the downstream residents were at extreme risk until the basin could be fully cleaned out and restored. The basin repairs and modifications, for which NRCS is now being asked to assist, will significantly improve the public safety, by shortening the time period required to clean out and restore the full function of the project.

Santa Monica Debris Basin has been hailed and recognized as a project that saved lives and prevented millions of dollars of damage from occurring in Carpinteria.

NRCS and Santa Barbara County have a huge success story to share on how Santa Monica Debris Basin saved Lives and prevented massive damage to downstream properties that would have occurred as a result of the January 9<sup>th</sup> disaster event. California however believes a final and complete success story needs to include successful implementation of measures now being evaluated to accelerate basin restoration work, critical to protect the downstream area now considered at a very high risk of Damage for the next 3 to 5 years.

**A Reconnection of fellow Engineering Retirees, College Roommates and Alumni.** My wife **Dana** and I had a chance to spend a nice day with an old friend of mine, a fellow NRCS Engineer retiree, **Marty Soffran** and his wife **Linda**. Marty and I go back a long time as we were college roommates at Humboldt State University in the early 1970s and fellow graduates from Humboldt's School of Engineering.

While I started my full time career with SCS in Ukiah in 1975 and spent my whole career in California, Marty started his career with SCS in Escondido in 1978 and spent significant time working in three different states, including California, Colorado and Kansas in a variety of engineering positions. Marty even came back to California a number of times to help us on EWP details. Marty retired from the NRCS in 2008.

Marty and his wife Linda currently reside in New Mexico. As part of an anniversary celebration for them, they came out to California and spent a couple days in the San Francisco Bay area to see the California Academy of Sciences exhibit and the San Francisco Bay Aquarium. Dana and I were able to join them for a wonderful day at the California Academy of Sciences, and here are a few pictures from our time together.



Lower Left clockwise, Dana and Bill Ward, Marty and Linda Soffran



Bill and Dana outside the Academy



The "guard" immediately inside the Academy

That's all this time around Folks, Best Wishes from California!

## IDAHO

**Jim Cornwell, ARCSE Representative**

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

We had a very good turnout for our March lunch meeting. I attribute that to yours truly sending out the wrong date in my email reminder. Received a lot of replies asking if that was the correct date, so I had to correct myself in a follow-up email. I might consider making the same mistake again in the future as it resulted in a good turnout.

Attendees for March were **Paul and Harriet Calverley**, who just completed a cruise to Hawaii and back (apparently it is quite cool out on the open ocean between Hawaii and the mainland); **Dennis Froeming**; **Jerry and Carol Larsen**, (Jerry is still using a cane while still recovering from a knee replacement but is doing quite well if he can just remember where he leaves his



cane); **Darrell Gallup** and his son **Darrell** (Darrell did some snowmobiling this winter, which speaks well for being 95); **Paul Malone**; **Shelby Brownfield**; **Gene and Bev Crisman**; **Mike and Judi Somerville**; **Terrel Stevenson**, who worked for SCS/NRCS, eventually retiring from the Bureau of Reclamation; **Rob Sampson**, continuing to work for several companies including his own; **Rob and Kate Fredericksen**; **Ken Beckman** (Ken advises securing your boat motor when stored in a public storage facility); **Phil Morrissey**; **Sharon Norris**; **Stan Hobson**; **Bill Moore**, still working with the RC&D which is growing quite successfully working with federal, state and local conservation partners; **Wayne Faude**; **Hall Swenson**; **Mitch Flanagan**, who is preparing for the Robie Creek half marathon, billed as the toughest half in the Pacific Northwest; and **Jim Cornwell**.

Our April lunch meeting was today, April 26<sup>th</sup>. Attendees were **Lynann Stewart**, who just returned from a trip to Arizona to bring her mother home for the summer; **Sue Darbin**, who just returned from wintering in St. George, UT; **Paul Calverley**, who has been doing some tree planting and will be doing more forestry work on some of his property in Oregon; **Keri Gibbs**, who brought her friend **Jan Troutner** to lunch, and she has been busy with the NARFE convention; **Shelby Brownfield**; **Stan Hobson**, who has just returned from a trip visiting relatives in Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas (where apparently the wind never stops blowing); **Paul Malone**; **Glen Logan**; **Amos Garrison**; **Phil Morrissey**; **Mike Liechty**, who worked for SCS until 1993 then moved to the Idaho Power Company, retiring from there; **Rob Fredericksen**; **Bill Moore**; and **Jim Cornwell**.

Between meetings, several of us had the opportunity to visit with **Mark Jensen** as he and **Ann** were on a trip to the Oregon coast. It is always great to renew acquaintances. Mark worked in the Idaho SO and the Area II office until 1988 when he moved to Iowa. You get to realize the scope of how things change when you have not seen someone for 30 years.

## ILLINOIS

**Dale Benz, ARCSE Representative**

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

Retirees in Illinois gathered on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 to enjoy lunch and visiting. Attending were **Ray Coombes**, **Lee and Nancy Bridgman**, **Andy Cerven**, **Elsie Campbell**, **Earl Voss**, **Judy and Salvadore Valezquez**, **Dick Dickerson**, **Jim and Cheryl Evans**, **Ben Mingo**, **Jim and Bonnie McQuilken**, **Dave Dalzell**, and **Dale Benz**.

**Jim and Cheryl Evans** are going to Seattle in June where their son, **Ben**, is in the Special Olympics. **Dick and Jan Dickerson** spent February in Florida. Dick enjoyed the Florida sun so much that he decided to build a sunroom on his new home in Champaign. He retired from his job working the gate at basketball games at the U of I. More time for the new sunroom!

**Salvadore Valezquez** had knee replacement in January and is getting along fine. **Lee and Nancy Bridgman** decided to stay in Illinois last winter rather than venturing to Arizona. Lee lucked out with little snow and decent weather.

**Andy Cerven** had his second knee replacement in February and is healing well. He is still doing physical therapy. **Earl Voss** gave up his winter cruise again this year to spend some time in the hospital in January. He had some surgery and is doing well.

**Bonnie McQuilken** retired from her hospital work in March. They take frequent trips by train to Colorado to visit with their daughter and family.

Our next retiree gathering will be October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in Champaign.

## IOWA

**Mark Jensen, ARCSE Representative**

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**Rick Cordes** reports that several of the retirees in northeast Iowa meet every two months for coffee. They alternate between Manchester and Elkader. They have anywhere from five to 12 people present to share what is happening in their families and work activities. They also catch up on rumors that are floating around. The more regular attendees include **Jerry Muff**, **Jim Ranum**, **Dave Gibney**, **Ed Andrews**, **Keith Krause**, **Agnes Kenny**, **Jim Wolfe** and **Rick Cordes**. **Jim Brown**, **Julie Falcon**, **Roger Koster**, **Bob Vobora** and **Bob Joachim** have also attended. Jerry Muff serves as their social director.

Thanks to **Ted Oswald** for the following: “**Vicki** and I welcomed grandchild #5 in February, **Vivian Lee Hall**, daughter of our daughter and son-in-law from Portland, OR. Vicki spent five weeks there doing what she enjoys best, being a Grammie! She’ll be going back out for an extended time being Grammie Nanny again. Our son, **Nate**, started an Ag business in Hawaii when Monsanto, his former employer, closed his division on Molokai. I spent three weeks there in December and January working for him and enjoying family there. It was fun observing how the father-son relationship flipped, with him training me on how things were done! I’m still involved with NRCS doing contract work with Iowa County. It keeps me in touch, but it’s nice to give others the final responsibility.”

While on the subject of grandkids, thanks to **Dennis Hilger** of Independence, MO, for the following (Dennis was a DC in Pocahontas and Story Counties and the RC&D Coordinator in Creston). He reports that “he is a ‘first-time’ Grandfather!” His grandson, **John Aaron**, turned one year of age last October. Dennis’s daughter, **Megan**, reached into the family tree of both her parents and named John after her first cousin (on her mother’s side), recently retired U.S. Navy Captain **John A. Gearhart** (Assistant Chief Naval Research and Commanding Officer on-board the USS Annapolis, SSN 760); along with two uncles on her father’s side who rode during the Civil War in the 5<sup>th</sup> Iowa Volunteer Cavalry, **John Schwirtz** and **John A. Hilger** (both of Bellevue, IA); as well as another cousin in the family tree, Brigadier General **John A. Hilger**. General Hilger was one of two commanding officers of the WWII “Doolittle Raiders” and one of the 16 Raider pilots. In preparation for the April 18<sup>th</sup>, 1942 raid

on Tokyo and three other Japanese cities, General Hilger was responsible for teaching the pilots/co-pilots low level bombing (500'-1500'), and launching their B25B-bombers off the 400-ft air strip of the aircraft carrier USS Hornet, or in half the suggested minimum take-off distance of 800 feet for the twin engine bomber.

**Don Ummel** traveled to Wichita, KS, the weekend of March 17<sup>th</sup> for his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. He had one daughter, four siblings and many nieces and nephews attending. Those attending were from six states, as well as six locations in Kansas. His SCS career had taken him through three of the six states represented. Happy Birthday Don!

I had an enjoyable phone call from **John Chenoweth** the other day. He reports that he and **Carolyn** are doing well. John is an active 87 years old. They live in Arkansas near one of their three sons, **Andy**, who with wife, **Pam**, have five children. The older two are college girls. One went to Israel last summer and the other will go to New York City this June to play a bassoon with her college band in Carnegie Hall. John and Carolyn enjoy going with the younger ones to as many of their activities as they can. The other two Chenoweth sons have between them five children ages 21 through 30. Only one of the five grandkids is married, and there are no "greats" yet.

**Jim and Doris Ayen** were married in January. In February, they were honeymooning in Florida. Jim says they had perfect weather and a great time!



*Jim and Doris Ayen Honeymooning in Venice, Florida, in February.*



*Dennis Pate and his brother Jerry enjoying St. Patrick's Day*

**Dennis and Cheryl Pate** traveled to Charlotte, NC, and spent St. Patrick's Day with his brother and family. On the way home they stopped for a visit with **Herschel and Barb Read**. The Reads said to say "Hi" to the Iowa bunch.

Many of you will remember **Bill Welker** who was a biologist in the state office. Bill passed away several years ago. Recently, we were saddened to hear that his wife, **Karen**, passed away on March 26 (See In Memoriam).



## KANSAS

**Deanne Lull, ARCSE Representative**

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Someone please tell Mother Nature that it is spring. Here it is the middle of April and we are setting records for cold weather and still wearing our winter coats. Only in Kansas would one have 80-degree temperatures one day and two days later have the worst blizzard of the year. Salina was on the edge of the storm and only received an inch of snow.

**Dennis “Joe” Lemon**, former Assistant State Conservationist for Administration in the Kansas State Office, recently celebrated his 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday. **Duane Evans**, former Agricultural Economist on the Water Resources Planning Staff in the Kansas State Office, turned 80. Where do you find retirees? At doctor offices, of course. Accompanying my husband to two appointments one morning, I had the opportunity to visit with **Phyllis Wetter**, spouse of retiree **Lawrence Wetter**, former Civil Engineer in the Kansas State Office; **Dorothy Gerdes**, former Personnel Management Specialist in the Kansas State Office; and **Cleveland Watts**, former Soil Survey Regional Director headquartered at the Kansas State Office, who resides in Manhattan, KS. Two weeks later at our optometrist's office I had a short visit with **Brian Lang**, former Construction Engineer on the Engineering Staff in the Kansas State Office. **Karen Churchman**, former State Conservationist's Secretary, recently received a diagnosis of cirrhosis of the liver at the Mayo Clinic. Evaluations will be made at the KU Med Center in Kansas City to see if she can be considered for a liver transplant.

Kansas has four new retirees. **Emery F. Wiens** retired on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, as a Civil Engineer on the Technical Staff headquartered in Topeka. On March 5<sup>th</sup> he began working full time for the State of Kansas as an Environmental Specialist for the Bureau of Waste Management.

There were three retirements on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018. **Gaylyn L. Edwards** served as an Office Automation Assistant in the Wichita Field Office, **James P. Henry** retired as a Civil Engineering Technician on the Technical Staff in the Manhattan Area Office, and **Daniel E. Worcester** was a Soil Conservation Technician in the Hill City Field Office.

An e-mail was received from **Shelly Anderson**, **Kenneth Sallee's** daughter, informing us that both of her parents had recently passed away. **Kenneth** passed away on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018, after being diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer on December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017. **Betty**, his spouse, passed away on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018, five days before he did. They had been married 62 years (See In Memoriam).

The Kansas 2018 Annual Meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, at the Holiday Inn, 3145 S. Ninth Street, in Salina, Kansas.

## MAINE

**John Simon, ARCSE Representative**

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MARCH: Last Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> we had seven breakfast attendees, in spite of the threatening snow. Attending were **Art Taylor**, **Bruce and Karen**, **Charlie and Judy**, **Roger Ashe**, and **John Simon**.

At about 10:30am it started snowing and didn't stop 'till Wednesday after it dropped about 21 inches of wet heavy snow in the Bangor area. Last Thursday, the 8<sup>th</sup>, we had about 10 inches of wet and heavy snow. Enough already! The ski areas are ecstatic over the new snow and will stay open probably well into April. The ice on the Penobscot broke and is pretty well out from last weekend, thank goodness. The Kenduskeag is still iced-up in Bangor where I drive by daily.

Bruce indicated he was visited last week by 12 deer intent on trimming his local trees and shrubs. Charlie also has had visitors of six hungry deer who helped themselves to his shrubbery and ground cover.

Charlie has sent in his forms for enrollment as a “Senior Conservationist” to ARCSE as he turns 83 on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Welcome Charlie! Reminder— one does not have to be a member of ARCSE to become a senior conservationist! Please, if you are over 83, let me know and I will send you the form. The next bimonthly report of ARCSE should have a write up of Charlie's career.

Art, Roger, and John indicated that their heat-pump mini splits are working just fine. Art and John have installed vibration-isolation bolts on their outside units, with a drastic reduction in noise into the houses. I do not have a sound meter, so I cannot give you readings. But I know that I heard them before and now I don't! Roger is waiting for warm weather before he installs his vibration-isolation bolts.

We have a ton of snow on the ground, and the last several nights have seen temperatures in the single digits, so the melting is slow if at all. Hopefully by next month I can have a warmer report.

APRIL: Our retirees' breakfast on April 10<sup>th</sup> was a happy group (it was not snowing). In attendance were **Patty Wright**, **Chris Jones**, **Bruce Champeon** and **Karen Potvin**, **Judy and Charlie Boothby**, **Dana Nelson**, **Art Taylor**, **Mary Thompson**, and **John Simon**. This was the first visit by Patty to our group. It was fun reconnecting with her. Mary indicated that the wild blueberry market is stressed with low prices, so she recommends "eat more blueberries." Art indicated that his solar panel system is working fine. The sunny days get his solar output in the 8 kilowatt range which is real good.

**Chris Jones** indicated that he and his wife **Janet** made a trip to India in February of 2018 to visit relatives. He was kind enough to send these photos. Thanks Chris! They are of Kumbhalgarh Fortress, Rajasthan, India and the great wall of India. This wall is the second longest wall in the world, next to China's wall.

We are all looking forward to a let-up to the cool and rainy spells we have been having!



***Janet and Chris Jones on recent trip to India***



***Kumbhalgarh Fortress, Rajasthan, India***



***The great wall of India. Not a bad looking wall at all!***



## MASSACHUSETTS

**Jim Wesoloski, ARCSE Representative**

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Well, it's been a quiet few months for the Massachusetts retirees. After a few false starts, Spring has finally sprung. We had an inch of snow last week, but this week promises temperatures in the 60s most days. I'm thinking it might be safe to take my Spring bath pretty soon. I may wait for the daffodils to bloom so as to not rush things.

March 14<sup>th</sup> was Pi Day ( $3.14 = \pi$ ), so for the second year in a row retired state engineer **Carl Gustafson** tried to organize a Pi Day retiree breakfast, and for the second year in a row the event was postponed due to a snow storm. There was also some controversy over where the gala would take place (final decision was the Stables restaurant).



**Mass. Pi Day Breakfast. Left to right: Paul Benjamin, Ed Drake, Rudy Chlanda, Carl Gustafson, Darren Davis, Dave Nelson, Frank Wilda, and Cecil Currin.**

The event was held on March 16<sup>th</sup> which sorta is almost pi ( $3.16$ ). In addition to **Carl**, attendees included retired engineering tech. **Paul Benjamin**, retired conservation tech. **Ed Drake**, retired geologist **Rudy Chlanda**, retired contract specialist and draftsman **Frank Wilda**, retired state conservationist and state engineer **Cecil Currin**, retired assistant state engineer **Dave Nelson**, and current state engineer **Darren Davis**. We are unsure if Darren was entitled to or, indeed, received the senior discount. The matter may require further investigation.

The following was received from **Cecil Currin**: "The Currins traveled to Spain and England to experience Christmas and New Year's holidays in a special way. Cecil and Lou met son **Alan** and his family in Barcelona on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>. After touring wonders such as the Sagrada Familia and the Barcelona Cathedral, they flew to Sevilla and enjoyed more history and Christmas tradition. Christmas in Spain is much more about religion than it is about gift giving and commercialism.



**Cecil Currin, Granddaughters Carolyn and Anna, Lou Currin, Amy and Alan at the 1992 Olympic site. The stadium was built for the 1936 Olympics, which never happened.**



***The Masquita in Cordoba, where a Christian Cathedral rose up in the midst of a huge Mosque.***

A rented van took them to Arcos De La Frontera where they spent Christmas in a seven-room hotel on the edge of a mountaintop. They then drove to Granada through the Sierra Nevadas and saw a world of olive trees enroute. After returning the rental, they took the train to Cordoba and then to Madrid for New Year's Eve. On Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, Alan and family flew back to Washington, DC, and Lou and Cecil went to England for 10 days. They visited friends in Oxfordshire and Bedfordshire for a few days and then toured Dorset until Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>. This was a Christmas without a Christmas tree, but a most wonderful one."



***Lou and Cecil Currin, with the Sierra Nevadas in the background. Note the NRCS jacket. How old is it?***



***Second photo shows olive trees as far as one can see in Andalusia.***

And from our sad news department we note the passing on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 of **Audrey Dodge** at age 82, Audrey was the widow of the late **Chester H. Dodge, Jr.**, retired design engineer (See In Memoriam).



## MISSOURI

**Dave Rastorfer, ARCSE Representative**

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**Bill Pauls:** Spring in the Ozarks! Redbuds in full bloom, Dogwoods just beginning. The goldfinches on the bird feeders are truly gold now. Anyone remember the USDA-SCS brochure, "Welcome Birds to Your Home?" The Lake of the Ozarks is now filling up again after the winter draw-down. Getting ready for the first big event of the year, Memorial Day Weekend. More pleasure boats coming out and Kris even saw a jet ski the other day...Brrrr! Of course the fishing boats are pretty much out all winter as long as there isn't too much ice on the lake. What an interesting place to be. Hope all of the NRCS/SCS family is doing well.

The Pauls' Family is thriving. Grandkids are just changing over from basketball season to baseball, soccer, lacrosse, and softball--exciting times. School is going well for them (smart kids, take after their grandmother). Daughter-in-law **Amy** changed jobs and is now an attorney for Commerce Bank in STL/KC (private jet trips involved--amazing). Daughter **Kelly** is doing some substitute teaching at the grandkids school. **Jeremy** (formerly an SCS intern, might be remembered in Columbia and Macon way back in the day), still an AT&T computer analyst; and son **Jeff** is now the PhD Research Director for the Vitae Foundation out of Jeff City. Very proud of the whole crew.

Still runnin', got three marathons in six days in May. Yeah, I'm still nuts, especially for a retired soil scientist, right? Usually we just fall in a hole we've dug somewhere. PS: Menfro Man said to say HI to everyone. He retired to the Caribbean and sends pictures of him and the super-hero girls every once in a while. God bless and keep you all close. Y'all come see us if you're down around Camdenton/Lake of the Ozarks.

**Alton Taylor:** We are in AZ for four weeks. No need for heat and you keep an eye out for shade. First cutting of alfalfa is coming off, and cotton planting is next. We saw corn up to a good stand in TX last week before we left. This was 20 miles south of Red River in north TX.

**Ed Smith:** Not much new going on at the Smiths. We got home from FL on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April, just in time to help finish out the winter in MO. Look forward to seeing the grass turn green and the temperatures get into the 60s or above.

**Gena Michalson:** We have been on late-night foal watch this spring and now have two fine bay colts, with one more to go. One is a thoroughbred, and the other is a warmblood jumping horse. These night vigils are a lot easier when you don't have to go to work the next day. A three-year old colt we bred and sold was recently named North American Champion of Geldings and Stallions at a Dutch Warmblood inspection. We were really proud of that. We visited the two grandsons in Houston, TX in January. One was new in December and the other is two. It's fun to see the youngsters. I'm still doing my genealogy. I have now proven direct descent from 12 Revolutionary War patriots, with several more to prove. I'm also trying to prove direct descent for membership in the Jamestown Society and the Colonial Dames.

**Bob Harryman:** Hello to all the retirees! I will have been retired 18 years soon. Have done many things and enjoyed operating on my own schedule. One of my favorite activities is vegetable gardening. I've been surprised to learn there are better ways and better tools than we used on the farm in old McDonald County Missouri. I've learned about scuffle hoes, shallow cultivation, and mulches to reduce weed problems. I've learned about two gpm battery-operated pumps to move water for my garden. Well, I suppose you all found out those things long ago or decided it was just easier to let someone else grow the vegetables. Some are surprised that an 81-year-old man is on the tech-team to help prepare for Sunday church services, but it helps keep my mind active. **Doris** and I are doing well. Just have minor "tune-ups" now and then to keep plugging along. And I do mean "plugging along." It takes more rest and more hunting for things than it used to. I always enjoy hearing about you all. Some I see on Facebook. Happy Trails to you! Mine are on the streets on Bethany to keep my muscles and bones operating.

**Fred Young:** 2018, endless winter. Since early March, I've taken three short trips. I went to Lancaster, PA to visit my son, and got caught by the tail of a Nor'easter. *Snow!* A couple weeks later I visited my daughter, son-in-law and grand-daughter in Oregon, and it *snowed*. Flying back through Denver, *snow*. Arrive in Columbia, *snow*. April 12<sup>th</sup> we flew to Louisiana, where it is summer and the trees have actual leaves. As we were flying back in to the Columbia airport on April 15<sup>th</sup>, the pilot announced the weather on the ground as "light *snow*." What!? As I write this on April 19<sup>th</sup>, it is bright and sunny here in Columbia: Daffodils, bloodroot, Dutchman's breeches, trout lilies. I am suspicious. I've seen this before and will not be fooled again. It could still snow.

**Jimbo Sturm:** I injured a finger on my right hand, ruptured a tendon. I have to wear a splint for seven weeks--two done and five to go. Otherwise, I'm busy attending meetings of the Wright Memorial Hospital Community Advisory Board, Mercer County Senior Center Board, Princeton Chamber of Commerce, to name a few. I will be heading to the Windy City during the month of July.

**Norm Klopfenstein:** **Norm Klopfenstein and Tom Deberry** just returned from an April 12-22 exotic game species hunt in Southwest Texas near Sonora. They were both fortunate to harvest an Addax and Scimitar-Horned Oryx, all trophy class. These animals are large bodied spiral-horned antelope that are native to North African desert country. The only place in the world where these animals can still be hunted is in a very limited area in Texas. In addition, during their 2,000 mile round trip adventure, they had lots of time to solve most of the world's problems, at least one or two.

**Hugh Curry:** While in AZ this past winter, several NRCS retirees got together for lunch. Those attending were **Hugh and Sharon Curry, Steve and Licia Black, Don Paulus, Steve and Jan Stover and John and Rose Lowery**.



**Standing:** Hugh Curry, Licia Black, Sharon Curry, Steve Black, Don Paulus, and Steve Stover. **Seated:** John Lowery, Rose Lowery, and Janice Stover.

## MONTANA

**Dick Gooby, ARCSE Representative**

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### Montana Big Sky Report

**Joyce Swartzendruber report:** After near record snowfall in Montana I'm ready for some sun. **Jim** and I will follow the (likely) floodwaters down the Missouri and reunite with old friends and family again at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival in May. Hope to see you there. I'm still on Facebook, but boycotting Starbucks.

**Gooby Ranch Report:** We are busy calving. **Mary Ann** checks the cows every two hours 24-7 to see that everything is okay. In the meantime, she does all her other chores. The other day the TV programs were so bad that I checked the cows a couple times. Mary Ann was proud of me for helping her out.

A couple weeks ago we had a cow that couldn't have her calf. She tried and tried but no luck. We got the calf puller and Mary Ann pulled the calf. He was pretty lethargic, the ground was covered with snow, and it was 12 degrees out. In no time the calf was shivering, and even though Mary Ann wiped the calf down with a couple of towels, he was still wet, and the cold was really getting to him.

Mary Ann got her wheel barrow, and we hauled the calf to the house so we could warm it up. We had to put the calf in the living room since that's the only place in the house with a rug, so the calf wouldn't slip and fall down, in case he tried to get up.

Mary Ann got the cow into the barn, milked her and fed the calf. She had more milk than the calf could drink, so I was able to have a glass of colostrum milk for supper. The next day I had so much energy I made two "to-do" work lists for Mary Ann.

We have two dogs and a couple cats that spend a lot of time in the house. They buddied up to the calf, and Mary Ann spent a lot of time petting and talking to the calf. After a few hours the calf got up and went right over to Mary Ann for more pets. Wherever Mary Ann goes in the house, the calf goes with her.

After a couple days the weather warmed up enough so we could put the calf out with its mother. The only way the calf would stay near its mother was if Mary Ann stayed with them. Mary Ann had to leave the calf and cow to do other chores, and in no time the calf had crawled under the fence and ran over so he could be close to Mary Ann. The calf follows her around like her dogs do. When Mary Ann went back to the house, the dog, I mean calf, went with her. So now we have another house pet.

## NEBRASKA

**Norman and Sylvia Kempf, ARCSE Reps.**

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Seventeen members were present at the March 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, including **Paul Bartlett, Val Bohaty, Joe Calder, Chris Chapman, Jim Culver, Gus and Donna Dornbusch, Bill Hance, Norm Helzer, Harold Klaege, Gary Muckel, Steve Scheniost, Bob Engel, Norman Kempf, Don Williamson, Louie Buller, and JoAnne Thiele.**

Norm Helzer, chairman opened our April meeting. Sixteen members were present at the April meeting, including **Paul Bartlett, Louie Buller, Joe Calder, Jim Carr, Chris Chapman, Jim Culver, Gus and Donna Dornbusch, Bill Hance, Norm Helzer, Gary Muckel, Steve Scheniost, Kieth Sheets, Steve Stover, Russ Schultz, and JoAnne Thiele.** Minutes were recorded by **Donna Dornbusch.**

Our guest speaker for the April breakfast was **Craig Derickson**, Nebraska State Conservationist, who gave us an update on the current operations of the NRCS. There has been a hiring freeze since President Trump was inaugurated, and Nebraska has lost about 40 staff members. NRCS is currently waiting for the announcement of the new Chief of NRCS. There will probably be more changes in the future. Craig also gave us an update on the progress of the new Office on Innovation Campus for

NRCS. There were a number of questions on NRCS and its operations from our members.



**Bob Pollack**, a retired soil scientist, died on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018. A number of retirees were at his funeral. **Sue Alby**, daughter of Gene Alby, also passed away.

**Steve Stover and Keith Sheets and wives** are all back from their winter stays in Arizona.

**Norm and Linda Helzer** participated in a March migrating ducks, waterfowl, and rapture bird count in western Nebraska. They reported seeing 90 different species on their trip. They made a second trip in April to see more birds in northwestern Nebraska.

**Russ Shultz** visited a granddaughter attending college in California and another granddaughter attending college in Virginia. **Jim Culver** visited his sister in Florida.

**Harold Klaege** is preparing tax reports as a volunteer at Gere Library.

## NEW YORK

**Nancy Lee, ARCSE Representative**

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**Paul Dodd writes:** Rose is still recovering from the stroke she suffered in late September. Since it was a Lacunar stroke, the "clot buster" was not an option, and recovery has been slow. She was in a rehab facility for two months, has had in-home therapy for three months, and has now graduated to outpatient therapy. Her main objective now is learning to walk. Fortunately, her memory is intact, her sense of humor has returned, and I wheeled her into church on Easter for the first time since the stroke. Support of family and friends has been great.

**Terri Odekirk**, former NRCS State Human Resources Officer, retired on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 with a total of over 42 years of government service, having retired as a Colonel in the US Army prior to coming to NRCS. A retirement luncheon was held at the Syracuse State Office on March 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Nancy Lee** and family welcomed a third grandson, **Jonah William**, to the family on February 28<sup>th</sup>. **Jonah** is welcomed by brothers, **Carter and Nolan**, to the family of **Andy and Mary Lee**.

## NORTH CAROLINA

**Jim Canterbury, ARCSE**

**Representative**

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Eleven retirees and guests from the Raleigh area met at the Farmers Market Restaurant in Raleigh for breakfast on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. This event takes place several times each year. Attending the breakfast were **Jim Canterbury**, **Albert Coffey**, **Dr. Maurice Cooke**, **Tommy Cutts**, **Dick Fowler**, **Dick Gallo**, **Coy Garrett**, **John Garrett**, **Mildred Garrett**, **Ed Helme**, **Hubert Hawkins**, **Harold Lile**, and **Rex Tracy**.



*North Carolina Retirees meet for breakfast*

## OHIO

**Jon Gerken, ARCSE Representative**

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From **Bob Parkinson**: Greetings Fellow Retirees and Genealogy Buffs! No doubt at least some of you have ventured for the first time into your family's history on **FamilySearch** since my article in the ARCSE July/August 2017 issue, and it's likely you're very glad you did!

FamilySearch free web site: <https://www.familysearch.org/>.

Not only is genealogy fun and fascinating, but it's mental exercise keeping your mind sharp while giving you food for thought--virtual meat you can really sink your teeth into!

In fact, a friend who logged onto his [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org/) account for the first time in January has made many new discoveries telling me: "I never thought genealogy would be so much fun!" and "That is worth talking about!" and "That really blows me away!" Lucky him, he hit one of many genealogy jackpots on **FamilySearch** where much of his family tree, starting with his grandparents, had already been mapped out by others going back **many** generations, even back to the old country!

Unlike him, I'm building my family tree myself, adopting the scientific method, first learned as a fledgling soil surveyor from my first SCS boss and mentor **Joe Steiger**, that uses deductive and inductive reasoning as well as fuzzy logic where needed. The 3,724 marriage, birth, baptism, census, military, cemetery and newspaper files that I've accumulated to date on my paternal

side take me from 4<sup>th</sup> great grandparents in Colonial Philadelphia to those in 17<sup>th</sup>, century Yorkshire England, hitting those dreaded genealogical dead ends known as "brick walls" all along the way. So my family tree is nowhere near as extensive as my friend's, but it's certainly a far better documented work in progress.

Baptizat.	1636.	1636.	
Alma f. Willem Sigfried / now in			15 <sup>th</sup> May
Edulda f. John Dyson & Quarnoy			29 <sup>th</sup>
Gracia f. Arthur Bradford Liffy			29 <sup>th</sup>
b. Gertrudis f. Rupert Garway Baudy & Sara Amly			29 <sup>th</sup>
Thomas f. Thomas Crosland de hight			5 <sup>th</sup> Juny
Sara f. Jacobi Bockhamley de highfield			5 <sup>th</sup>
Susanna f. Anthonij Thorupen de Dijkhouw			5 <sup>th</sup>
Elizabetha f. Alexandri Firth de Huddiff			7 <sup>th</sup>
Willem f. John Shaw de de Huddiff			12 <sup>th</sup>
Sara f. Georgij Lijft de breadly gate			19 <sup>th</sup>

1636 Baptismal Record for 7<sup>th</sup> Great Grandfather, Thomas Crosland.

Efforts to break those brick walls down has led me to paid subscriptions to [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com), the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, Fold3, FindMyPast, and [Newspapers.com](https://www.newspapers.com) where many more digital discoveries no doubt await.

And there are many other free web sites to use. For example, [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) may be available on some public library computers, and remote access to *HeritageQuest* and *Fold3* (historical military records) may be available on your home computer via your public library membership. These web sites may also offer free trial versions.

In addition, the *USDI Bureau of Land Management General Land Office Records* web site contains official Federal Land Records including Federal Land Patents and Survey Plats and Field Notes. <https://glorerecords.blm.gov/default.aspx>.

The *National Digital Newspaper Program* of the Library of Congress includes a growing number of searchable digitized newspapers from 1789 to 1963.

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>

And Google Earth can be used to virtually amble down those streets your ancestors traveled back in the day.

<https://www.google.com/earth/>

So as summer approaches, when it's too hot to golf and the fish just aren't biting, why not go digging into your family's past? It's easy and fun. The web sites listed above are some good places to start. Who knows what virtual family jewels these and other web sites may hold for you, and where you and your ancestors will end up when you're on the road to find out. That road connects your family's fascinating past to your present and builds a bridge to your family's future.

## OREGON

**Don Stettler, ARCSE Representative**

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A holiday time tradition for some retired and still working members of the WNTSC's National Water Quality and Quantity Team, plus some others, is the annual "Staff Meeting" at the Rock Bottom Restaurant and Brewery. Attending this December's meeting were **Pat Willey, Gary Formanek, Harbans Lal, Paul Pedone, Lowell Kenedy, Jim Marron, Dan Moore, Joe Sahlfeld** and yours truly. The group could not agree on an agenda, so there was much catching up and reminiscing.

**Roy Fox** was honored for his service in the Seabees during WWII and in the reserves with a story published in the Albany Democrat Herald and the Corvallis Gazette Times. During WWII Roy was stationed in Guam.

The winter quarter retiree lunch is scheduled for January 24<sup>th</sup> at the Peppermill Restaurant in Aloha. Watch your email inbox for further details.









## PENNSYLVANIA

**Bill Bowers, ARSCE Representative**

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

and **Timothy Murphy, [vindemurph@verizon.net](mailto:vindemurph@verizon.net)**

The following came from **Carl DuPolt**: 2017 National Conference on Cover Crops and Soil Health (Videos, Soil and Water Conservation Society):

<https://www.swcs.org/events/past-events/past-specialty-conferences/2017-national-conference-on-cover-crops-and-soil-health-videos/>

## SOUTH CAROLINA

**Grady Adkins, ARSCE Representative**

Email:

[grady.adkins2@gmail.com](mailto:grady.adkins2@gmail.com)

South Carolina Retirees met April 19<sup>th</sup> at the SC State Farmers Market in Columbia. Following Dutch Treat lunch by Dupree @ THE MARKET, **Sally McKay**, Public Information and Marketing Specialist for South Carolina Department of Agriculture, enlightened the group on the many ways the SCDA programs and services affect the every-day life of South Carolinians.



**South Carolina Retirees. In Normal Left to Right Order. Front: Luke Nance, Laurely Nance, Marcia Adkins, James Williams, Mary Thompson, Carolyn Glasgow. Rear: Grady Adkins, Ellis Morrow, Walt Douglas, Ben Stuckey, Bill Melven, Byron Thompson, Niles Glasgow, Al McNeill, Linda McNeill, and Dan Guy.**

## TENNESSEE

**Allen Crowe, ARSCE Representative**

Email: [atctn60@hotmail.com](mailto:atctn60@hotmail.com)

*Dana York sent in the following minutes from a recent Tennessee Retirees' meeting.*

The SCS/NRCS Retirees of Tennessee met March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018, at Ryan's Restaurant in Lebanon, TN, with 19 members present.

Those attending were **Debbie Brasfield, Kevin Brown, Allen Crowe, Ray Curl, Gary Handley, Larry and Connie Hasty, Bill Headden, Patty Lane, Ardelle Langdon, Jim Lansford, Bobby and Brenda Moore, Darwin Newton, Tom Pointer, Vic Simpson, Ray and Sue Sims, and James Sims.**

Members not present but reported on included **Donald Dotson**, recovering from another knee surgery, **Lou Richards** attending a church function, **Terry Guppton** having surgery, **Jack and Anna Chidester**, with Jack recovering from surgery and **Marie Blackwell** with a death in the family.

The passing of **Tillman Lee and Doug Moyers** (former Area Conservationists) and **Harry Davis**, soil scientist were noted (See In Memoriam).

**Debbie Brasfield** continues with her volunteer work with her church and community projects and spending time with her 9-month-old granddaughter. **Kevin Brown**, recently retired State Conservationist is involved with the Master Gardener Program and is currently working for the Bredesen for Senate campaign. Kevin is a new member.

**Allen Crowe** has switched from following grandson's hockey team to his Rugby Team. Allen says he has not learned all the rules but knows it is a "rugged" sport. **Ray Curl** has been hibernating since his surgery but is back to wood-working and visiting the doctor. His latest adventure was to "Granville." **Gary Handley** is still driving a school bus and keeping busy with projects around the house. **Larry and Connie Hasty** are trying to live a "normal" retired life and keeping up with kids, grandkids and great great-grandkids. Larry is still experiencing some back problems.

**Billy Headden** is working around the farm and staying busy with some other projects. He noted that **Gail** has macular degeneration. He was visited this past summer by **Marc Safely** and his wife. They had an enjoyable visit. Billy said that his son's cancer is in remission. **Patty Lane** continues to volunteer with the Downs Syndrome group and is currently working with Special Olympics. **Ardelle Langdon** visited with family in Minnesota over the Christmas Holidays and has made some improvements around her home.



**Jim Lansford** has two grandchildren and spends a lot of time with them. He says that is possible since he has no farm, no garden and no health problems. **Bobby and Brenda Moore** have four grandchildren with widely varying interests, and they are involved in some of those interests. They try not to miss any doctor appointments and glad to be at the meeting, and its "great" to see everybody.

**Darwin Newton** has been teaching part time at WKU for 13 years and is currently teaching a soil judging class. He and **John Jenkins** continue doing consulting work. He is also involved in the local bank. He has seven grandchildren and is about to celebrate his 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. **Tom Pointer** is spending some time with his nieces and mowing the grass and is glad to be at the meeting.

**Ray and Sue Sims** continue their normal routine and recently made a trip to Kentucky. They both have lost family members that they were close to. Ray still goes to his coffee meetings in the morning and has already started mowing the grass. **Vic Simpson** has been hibernating this winter; makes trips to the grocery; does gardening and seedbeds; and mows the lawn. Spending time with grandkids and checking on his mother who is 92.

**James Sims** continues working with NRCS through the ACES Program. He caught an eight-pound 11 oz. largemouth bass while fishing in Florida in February and is already planning for a Kentucky Lake fishing trip with the NRCS group in the spring. He will be working the Davidson County Election Commission on Early Voting for the May election.

Mark your calendars for the next meeting on June 21<sup>st</sup> at Lorreta Lynn's Kitchen, Exit 143 (St Hwy 13), Hurricane Mills, TN. Other meetings scheduled: September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Cookeville, TN; and December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Lebanon, TN.

## TEXAS

**Arnold King, ARCSE Representative**

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

Seventeen members attended the February 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, including **Earl Blakley, Bernelle Baxley, Clyde Goodman, Dennis Erinakes, Dave Drennan, Dave and Barb Stockbridge, Anita Plummer, Bernie and Maxine Owen, Dennis Gaster, Arnold King, Douglas Seibel, Mark Boysen, Jim Rickman, Joyce Petty, and Dave Buland.**

**Bernie Owen** told some stories on his experiences with tax filers (No names). Some folks have some complicated tax issues. **Dave Buland** reminded members of the Annual Credit Union Meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup>. He mentioned that there have been no announcements on Undersecretary of Agriculture (Farm Production and Conservation), or Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

**Arnold and Willeene King** are making plans to attend the 25<sup>th</sup> annual SCS/NRCS retirees' reunion and then head to Florida for their annual trip with a high school friend who have been meeting at Destin for several years. Arnold and his high school fishing buddy recently returned from a six- day fishing trip to Falcon Lake where they caught a lot of black bass.

**Barb Stockbridge** has got her roses trimmed up. She reported that **Merl Glasscock** needs another hip replacement. **Jim Rickman** reported that a skunk got in the dog pen. He needs to make some repairs. **Barb Stockbridge** gave him a recipe for dog cleaning.

**Clyde Goodman** recently recovered from a two-week bout of the flu. Only time he got out of the house was to fill the bird feeder a couple of times. Luckily his wife avoided the flu, and he appreciates the help from some good neighbors. His daughter now serves on the board of the Salvation Army in Midland, TX.

**Dennis Erinakes** reported that his grandson **Ethan** has been promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant in the Army Corps of Engineers. **Ethan** plans to be married in September. **Dennis** had transmission trouble on his Ford Freestyle starting in November of last year. A new CVT transmission had to be shipped from Hawaii by boat. All of that resulted in finally getting his car repaired in February. He is still doing physical therapy for his leg. He recently bought a John Wayne commemorative rifle and he plans to shoot it!!!

In December, **Mark Boysen** worked on Hurricane Harvey relief east of Houston. He plans to go back again in March. **Dave Stockbridge** got his cap back thanks to **Earl Blakley**. (**Dave** tends to leave his caps in various locations from time to time). **Dave** reported that Rockport, TX will see 40-50% of its buildings torn down. New ones will have to meet a new building code. The ones built under the new code had minor damage. **Dave** has planted his potatoes, broccoli, etc., etc., etc.

**Maxine Owen** plans to go to Kansas in May to attend her great niece's wedding. **Bernie Owen** added that his nephew is the new mayor of Kinsley, TX. Back in 1937 or 1938 **Bernie's** dad was elected mayor there (Almost a dynasty!).

**Dave Drennan** recently returned from a Carnival Cruise out of Galveston to various locations, including Freeport and Nassau in the Bahamas. Dave's twin grandsons are eleven years old now and are quite the baseball players. Spring baseball is Dave's favorite sports event.

From **Willeene King: Edith Reeves**, wife of **Bobby Reeves**, passed away on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Services were March 9<sup>th</sup> in Bernice, LA. **Bobby's** address is: 160 Bob Reeves Lane, Bernice LA 71222 (See In Memoriam).

Eleven members attended the March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, including **Earl Blakley, Bernelle Baxley, Clyde Goodman, Dennis Erinakes, Anita Plummer, Dennis Gaster, Douglas Seibel, Joyce Petty, Dave Buland, and Elaine and Billy Don Davis.**

**Dave Buland** reminded everyone about the Annual Credit Union Meeting to be held on April 12<sup>th</sup>. He also mentioned that the Credit Union may increase the percentage paid on savings accounts. Dave's wife may retire in May from her position at Williamson-Dickie Mfg. Dickies, in business since 1922, was bought out by the VF Corporation. Dave said that the new USDA

Undersecretary for Farm Production and Conservation is **Bill Northey**, a fourth-generation farmer and the former Iowa Secretary of Agriculture.

The following group picture came from **Cheryl Simmons**.



*Many retirees met at the NRCS Federal Credit Union Annual Meeting in Crowley TX April 12, 2018.*

**Bernelle Baxley** reported that the critters are still active at her place, and the deer turned over her bird bath. **Earl Blakley** commented that 42 years ago he and his wife met **Bernelle** who was then the Credit Union Manager. **Elaine Davis** is still serving as the librarian for her church and is involved in the making of prayer shawls. **Joyce Petty** is on a 10-year pill treatment to keep cancer from returning.

**Dennis Erinakes** mentioned that he is going to Nebraska to bird hunt and to Oklahoma to run pheasants. His dog Rosie chewed up a calculator and an electric shaver. **Dave** serves as First Vice President on the board of directors of the Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District. **Dave** talked about private sector contractors, stream bank stabilization, and SCS history.

**Clyde Goodman** recently bought a power chair for his wife to help with her mobility. **Dennis Gaster** mentioned a recent email received from **Michael Bogard** with the subject being "Science at its best." He said it is one of the most interesting presentations he has seen in a long time. Take a look. It is worth your time!

## WASHINGTON, DC, NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

**John Peterson, ARCSE Representative**

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*John Peterson, Blanche Peterson, Carolyn Glasgow, Niles Glasgow, and Art Holland at Hudson's Seafood on Hilton Head Island, 03/20/18.*



**Blanche and John Peterson** went to spring training with the Washington Nationals again this year. They saw four games during the week of March 11<sup>th</sup> and also visited the area near Mar-a-Lago, which is always fun. The next week they spent at Hilton Head Island (HHI) with **Carolyn and Niles Glasgow**. **Jo and Don Gohmert**, who usually join them, could not this year. During this HHI week they also have a lunch day with **Art Holland**. Reminiscing with old friends is great fun. The **Petersons** will also be attending the South STC and Friends annual reunion this year in Columbia, SC April 30<sup>th</sup>–May 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Carolyn and Niles Glasgow** are hosting this year's reunion.

From **Carl Bouchard**: "Again this year I had the privilege of being the Photographer for the Cherry Blossom Festival Princess Program. In spite of the weather and early bloom forecast, it was right on time for the start of the festivities with the Japanese Lantern lighting on the Tidal Basin on April 8<sup>th</sup>. They were fading fast by the time of the parade on Saturday April 14<sup>th</sup>. This year, we had 57 Princesses representing most states and territories; and International Princesses representing Russia, Mexico, Lithuania, Bolivia, Panama; and twins representing Japan. Miss Russia, **Yaroslava Kuzina**, was voted Miss Congeniality, Miss South Dakota, **Sarah Schweitzer**, was First Runner-up and Miss Virginia, **Margaret O'Meara**, from Alexandria won the title of 2018 US Cherry Blossom Queen. Margaret will now go to Japan, courtesy of ANA airlines for a week in May for their festival. We were privileged to be invited to the White House this year for the first time in many years for a private tour. The other first was an evening in the Russian Embassy. Usually we only get to go to the Cultural Center. An observation was the comparison of the theaters in the White House and the Russian Embassy. This theater is more than four times the one in the White House and very plush. You can view my photos at

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/140757468@N07/albums.>"

Interesting thing happened when photographing Speaker Ryan. I got everybody lined up and he came in and slipped into position. Then his photographer popped up right in front of me. So I told them to get back in position so I could get my shot. So Ryan reluctantly got back in position as said I yield to the man in the bow-tie. First time I've told a Speaker of the house what to do.



*Cherry Blossom Princesses with Speaker Paul Ryan.*



*At the Japan American Internment Memorial.*





**Night view of our Capitol.**



**Jefferson memorial.**



**2017 queen, 2018 queen and 2018 Japan queen**



**Japanese Princesses (Twins) lighting lantern**



**Washington Monument**



**Carl Bouchard with Miss Maine and Maine's Junior Miss**





**Princesses at White House**

On a separate note, I was pleased to see **Jeff and Lois Loser** at our local NARFE chapter #1690, Coastal Sussex. They are now living in the area and came out to support me as the President of the local Chapter. I know there are other former SCS/NRCSers living in the area and hope that they start coming out during my two-year term to support me and help make this chapter as great as our agency was. Always happy to see old friends and colleagues.” Thanks again, **Carl**.

## WEST VIRGINIA

**Peg Reese, ARCSE Representative**

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

We are saddened to report three deaths affecting our WV NRCS family. **Eli Thomas Estlack**, retired State Administrative Officer at the Morgantown State Office, passed away on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018. **Leonard Jackson's** wife, **Birdie**, passed away on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018; and **Jared Nester's** father, **Roger**, died on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Read more about their lives in the In Memoriam section of this newsletter. Our sympathies to the families.

Congratulations to new retirees **Ed Hanson** from the McMechen office and **Bill Harris**, District Conservationist for the Princeton office.

**Judy Fairbanks** shared two photos of “sturdy wooden rails built by **Terry Fairbanks's** grandson, **Travis Hamrick**, perfectly matching their altar at Parsons St. John's Methodist Church! Terry would be bragging.



**Alan Staddon** shared the following: “Happy Spring? Another spring snow? Well, anyway, I just returned from Florida where **Lynn Shutts** and I spent a few days fishing with **Darrell Schreckengost**.

We caught a variety of fish, including Speckled Sea Trout, Ladyfish, Ocean Catfish, Black Sea Bass, Croaker, Grunts, Sheepshead, Snapper and Mackerel. We had a good time reminiscing and just enjoying our time together in the warm temperatures of Tampa, FL.”



## WISCONSIN

**James Enlow, ARCSE Representative**

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

The Wisconsin retirees met for lunch and fellowship on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at Grizzly's Wood Fired Grill, Eau Claire, WI. **Vic Price** was the gracious host. Those in attendance included **Ted Manning, Louie and Kathy Barber, Gene and Ann Nimmer, Steve Rake, Bob Uhrig, Rick Zirk, Larry and Geri Natzke, John Donnelon, Steve Munthe, Stan and Marlene Dingle, Judy Derricks, Roman and Bea Statz, Roger Dahl, Olin Fimreite and wife, Mike Shendel and wife, and Vic and Mary Price.** This was a great turnout for our second luncheon in 2018.

Everyone had a great time and enjoyed the food and fellowship. Our next luncheon is scheduled for June 14<sup>th</sup> at Langford's Pub and Grill located on the Lawsonia Golf Course, Green Lake, WI.

## WYOMING

**Veronica Schadegg, ARCSE Representative**

**Email:** [schadegg2@bresnan.net](mailto:schadegg2@bresnan.net)

The Wyoming NRCS retirees get together was held April 4<sup>th</sup> at the home of Don Tranas in Greybull, WY. From Left to Right: **Frank Neal, Jim Sutherland, Paul Starkey, Larry Murphy, Tom Gustafson, Jerry Gladson, Jim Schwartz, Don Viktorin, Don Tranas, Mark Opitz, Phil Gonzales, Jerry Forster, Terry Everard, and Jerry Hattan.** Not pictured are **Don Gaddie and Geri Sullivan.** Tentative date for next year is May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in Buffalo, Wyoming.



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

Charles L. Boothby  
Gerald W. Root

Bangor, ME  
Bumpass, VA



## SENIOR CONSERVATIONIST CHRONICLE

by Marc Safley, Chronicler, Senior Conservationist

### Senior Conservationist

#### Gerald Root

**Gerald Root** was born October 18, 1934, in Drums (Luzerne County), Pennsylvania (about 50 miles northwest of Allentown). He was raised by his parents on his grandfather's farm. Gerald attended Pennsylvania State University. In need of funds he entered the SCS Student Trainee Program in the summer of 1956 in Schuylkill County Pennsylvania. Gerald graduated from the university in January of 1957. His degrees were in Agriculture Education and General Science. Following graduation he became a full time SCS employee as a soil conservationist. However, in September of 1957 he entered a 6-month obligation in the Pennsylvania National Guard. Upon returning from active duty in March 1958 he was transferred to Clarion County Pennsylvania as District Conservationist.

In 1960 Gerald was transferred to Dauphin County Pennsylvania as District Conservationist. The Dauphin County Conservation District had disbanded; however, Gerald was able to bring the District back. In 1965 he accepted a promotion to the Harrisburg State Office as an Assistant State Conservationist. In 1974 he was transferred to Madison, Wisconsin, as Assistant State Conservationist. He served in that position for three years before transferring with promotion to SCS National Headquarters as Deputy Director of the Conservation Division. Gerald retired in October of 1992 in Washington, D.C. after 36 years of Federal service. Over his career he received 12 certificates of Merit, 8 certificates of Appreciation and a Department of Agriculture Superior Service Award.

Gerald married **Marilyn Swank** in August of 1958. They have three daughters.

After his retirement Gerald and Marilyn moved from Woodbridge, Virginia, to Lake Anna (Virginia) where they had a second home. There they have enjoyed hunting and fishing and have become involved in many activities. Gerald served as financial chair for his church for 14 years, served as President of their Property Owners Association for 18 years, and maintained a 4 acre common area there. Additionally, Gerald helped the Lake Anna Civic Association become organized. He served as assistant director of a multi-county committee that developed a Special Lake Anna Plan for the 3 counties surrounding the Lake. In that effort he helped organize the Lake Anna Advisory Committee which represented the 3 counties around the Lake, and he worked to ensure that the counties used uniform regulations including soil and water regulations applicable to the Lake. Gerald also served as Treasurer of the Advisory Committee for 5 years. He served as President of the local NARFE chapter for 2 years. For the past 7 years he has served as treasurer for the Louisa County Habitat for Humanity. He also notes that he has spent a lot of time sawing and splitting wood with the United Methodist Men who deliver wood to poor people who need it for heat. Gerald is a grand example of a life full of service to others.

## OBITUARY INFORMATION

**Ron Marlow, Secretary-Treasurer**

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

### Surname

### *In Memoriam*

(Note: These are recent notices. For a complete list, please see [www.arcse.org](http://www.arcse.org))

**Bollman** **Carolyn "Jane" Bollman** (87) of Danville, Indiana, passed away February 20, 2018. She attended Purdue University and received a BA degree from Indiana University after her children were grown. She married **Robert "Bob" Bollman** in Lafayette on June 2, 1956. Bob, a member of ARCSE, retired as a Deputy State Conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service in 1986. They lived in Iowa for 10 years prior to moving to Danville in 1966. She was a dedicated member of Whitestone Christian Church, a 36-year member of the Riley Hospital Guild, of which she also served as a member of the board of directors. Jane was a past president of the Hendricks County Extension Homemakers and was a longtime member of the Modern Homemakers Extension Club. She loved children, sewing, baking cookies, and all of nature. Survivors include her husband of 61 years, **"Bob";** her children, **Patrick and Daniel Bollman** of Danville, **Thomas Bollman** of North Salem, **Mary (Gary) Houser** of Nobelsville; and ten grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Jane was preceded in death by two daughters, **Sally Ann** and **Susan Jane**.

**Bureau** Senior Conservationist **Marvin Frances Bureau** (92) passed away in his sleep April 23, 2018, at Brookdale Place of Wooster, Ohio after a brief period of declining physical health. He was married for 63 years to **Jeannine Bureau** (predeceased) and lived in Wooster since 1955. Marvin was born in the small, then bustling Ohio River town of Moscow. Marvin graduated in 1943, with a class of 11 from Moscow High School, and was immediately drafted into the Air Force, training as a radar technician. Through the years his family repeatedly heard the saying he noted while in training, "Cheer up! Everyone is of some value in this world — even if nothing other than to serve as a horrible example." As the war was winding down, his B29 group was disbanded and he entered Ohio State University on the GI Bill, graduating with a BS in agronomy in 1950. While working on his MS there in soil chemistry, he met Jeannine. They were married in 1951 and lived in Columbus while he finished his thesis (typed by Jeannine) and then moved to Mount Gilead to work for the Soil Conservation Service. He worked for the SCS for 32 years, completing the soil surveys for four counties. In 1980, he left federal service to work for the Health Department of Wayne County. Shortly thereafter, he entered private consulting for the health departments of several counties. Marvin finally retired in 2011, after 63 years of professional soils work. In later years, they traveled as a couple to Hawaii and Europe, repeatedly to Alaska, and by small motor home around the country. They were active members at Trinity United Church of Christ of Wooster since 1956. Surviving are his son **Jeffrey and wife, Linda (Hoffer)** of Wooster, and a son, **Todd and wife, Barbra (Belfield)** of

Hope, Alaska; a son-in-law, Robert Felty and wife, Kathy of Columbus; a granddaughter and three grandsons, Marvin was preceded in death by his dear wife, Jeannine, a daughter, Shauna, a brother and a sister. Online condolences may be left for the family at [www.mcintirebradthamsleek.com](http://www.mcintirebradthamsleek.com).

- Burgett** **Danny Lee Burgett** (64) from Hayden, Idaho unexpectedly passed away on April 20, 2018. Danny was born in Ellensburg, WA. He attended Washington State where he not only met his wife Julia but also majored in Environmental Science and Forestry. Danny joined the Forestry Service and later transitioned to the SCS, USDA/NRCS. From there he moved up the ranks and retired as Operations-Manager of Oregon's USDA/NRCS in Portland after 34 years of government service. Danny is survived by his wife **Julia**, their two daughters **Corinne Van Heel (Mark)**, **Kayla Silva (Oz)**, three grandchildren, and three sisters. Danny was an avid outdoorsman and also a talented mechanic and a skilled wood worker. He was a man – or more appropriately a Superman - of many things. For more information or to send condolences or memories please email [DBurgettMemorial@gmail.com](mailto:DBurgettMemorial@gmail.com)
- Cohen** Honorary Member and Senior Conservationist **Herman Charles Cohen** passed away in his sleep on November 28, 2017 at an age of over 100. He had a distinguished career in soil and water conservation and natural resource planning before retiring from the Soil Conservation Service in 1979 as a Water Resources Specialist. He retired first to Orlando, Florida, and then to Sun City, Arizona. Herman was born in Los Angeles to Jewish immigrant parents from Eastern Europe. The primary language spoken around the home was Yiddish. He attended the College of Agriculture in Davis, California, then a part of the University of California, Berkeley. He graduated in 1940, becoming the first college graduate in his immediate family. While in college, Herman took up boxing, then an intercollegiate sport. Because of his great ability to knock his opponent out cold, he had the nickname "cold cockin' Cohen." After college, Herman worked on the Census of Agriculture for the U.S. Census Bureau in Washington, DC. But his career in agriculture was interrupted by World War II. He enlisted in the Navy in 1942, serving as a hospital corpsman (medic). He served during most of the war on the U.S.S. Baltimore, a heavy cruiser, in the Central Pacific and South Pacific Theaters. He suffered shrapnel wounds to his legs caused by an incorrectly timed fuse while on board. At one point, near the end of the war, the U.S.S. Baltimore narrowly averted a Kamikaze strike. Herman developed malaria during the war and had recurrent, but gradually diminishing, bouts with it after the war. When the war was over, Herman met and married **Evadna Fern "Sissy" nee Tull** and became a farmer with a small farm in San Mateo County, California. He also worked part time for the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS). At his wife's urging, he eventually went to work for the SCS full time. Herman considered himself Jewish. At the age of 98, Herman converted to Christianity, was baptized, and became a member of the Grace Bible Church. Herman's wife Sissy passed away in 2006 after over 60 years of marriage. Herman is survived by his sons **Michael P. Cohen** and **Jerry D. Cohen** (wife **Susan D. Cohen**), his step-daughter **Nell Morris**, a grandson, and a great grandson.
- Cranford** **Georgia Lee Cranford** (82) of Charlotte Hall, Maryland passed away on March 2, 2018 at her residence. She was diagnosed with an incurable lung disease several months ago. Georgia was born in Gallinger Hospital in Washington, DC. She and her loving husband, **Charles Cranford** lived a beautiful happy life until he passed away in 1994. At the age of 21, Georgia began her career with the USDA, retiring in 1986 as a Secretary with the Soil Conservation Service in Washington, DC after 29 years with the Federal Government. In addition to her parents and husband, Georgia was predeceased by two brothers. Georgia is survived by her daughter **Terry L.** and son-in-law **Gary W. Kitts**, and two sisters, as well as many nieces and nephews. Condolences to the family may be made at [www.brinsfieldfuneral.com](http://www.brinsfieldfuneral.com). In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Hospice of St. Mary's.
- Dodge** **Audrey M. Dodge** (82) of Southamptton, Massachusetts passed away on April 1, 2018 at Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton. She was born in Gardner. She graduated from Northampton High School in 1953 and from the former Children's Hospital School of Nursing in Boston. She married the late Chester H Dodge Jr. in 1956. Chester retired as the Soil Conservation Service State Design Engineer in 1988. They had made their home in Southamptton since 1963. Audrey is survived by children **Audrey Dodge Gaudette**, **Scott Dodge**, and **Stephen Dodge** and her grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to HUG-A-BEARS.
- Estlack** **Eli Thomas Estlack** (90) of Morgantown, Virginia passed away March 15, 2018, at Monongalia General Hospital. Thomas was born in Tyler County, West Virginia. He was educated in the Tyler County school system, Salem College and West Virginia University. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy. His first job was with Wetzel County School System as an instructor of veterans, 1949-50. He then went on to work for the USDA Soil Conservation Service in Nicholas and Kanawha Counties 1951-67. He finished his career in Morgantown at the Soil Conservation Service State Office as the State Administrative Officer 1970-1977. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, **Crystalee Trough Estlack**; his son, **Mark Estlack (Stephanie)** and daughter **Chris Estlack Riggs (Donald)**. He also survived by two grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and two sisters, and multiple nieces, nephews and grand-nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by one sister. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to American Heart Association, 162 Court Street, Charleston, WV 25301. Expressions of sympathy may be offered to the family at [www.furbeefuneralhome.com](http://www.furbeefuneralhome.com).
- Flowers** **James L. "Booster" Flowers** (97) of Bowling Green, Kentucky formerly of Morgantown, Kentucky passed away on July 10, 2013 at his residence. Booster retired from USDA Soil Conservation Service in 1980 as a Soil Conservation Technician. He was born in Butler County Kentucky and was the husband of the late **Glendolyah Peay Flowers**. He was a member of Salem Baptist Church, World War II Army Veteran serving five years, 66-year member of Cassia Lodge #272 F&AM, past bank director of Green River Deposit Bank, active member of Butler County Saddle Club, life time member of the VFW post 5837, retired farmer in the Logansport Community, and was a key in facilitating water and electric to the Logansport community. Booster was predeceased by two sisters and is survived by his companion **Loraine Snyder** of Bowling Green, KY and several nieces and nephews.
- Gerald** Life Member **Talbert R. Gerald** (82) of Athens, Georgia passed away on March 6, 2018 after a brief illness surrounded by his precious family. He was born in Loris, South Carolina. Talbert graduated from Loris High School in 1953 and was elected President of his senior class. He went onto Clemson University where he earned a BS degree in Agronomy and Soils and graduated on June 2, 1957. On the same date, he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army, Artillery Branch. He had a ten-year military career, active duty and reserve. Talbert attained the rank of Captain and was the commander of an Artillery Battery. He received an honorable discharge. Talbert's first job out of Clemson was Assistant County Agent of Florence County, South Carolina. After two years he accepted a position of Soil Scientist with the United States Department of



Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service. He went on to have a 44-year career in Soil Science. He served in several locations in South Carolina as a field Soil Scientist and Soil Survey Party Leader. A promotion in 1976 carried him to Fort Worth, Texas, to the South National Technical Center as Assistant Principal Soil Correlator. In 1981 Talbert moved to Athens, Georgia as State Soil Scientist, a position he retired from in 1996. He then established a Soils Consulting business for eight years, retiring for a second time in 2004. He was a member of the American Legion, the Fraternity of Alpha Zeta, and Green Acres Baptist Church where he served as a deacon for many years. Talbert and his wife **Beth** served as youth leaders, and he served on many committees at the church. While working in Florence, SC he met "the love of his life," **Mary Elizabeth "Beth" Tarte**. God blessed them with 57 years together and a great family. He is survived by his wife, three daughters and sons in law: **Marianne Elizabeth** and **Matt Boggs** of Colbert, GA, **Dena Elizabeth** and **Mark Hodge** of Canton, GA, and **Susan Elizabeth** and **Kendall Cook** of Monroe, GA; five granddaughters, one grandson, three great granddaughters, and one brother. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made of Green Acres Baptist Church flower fund 2085 Barnett Shoals Road, Athens, GA 30605 or to the American Cancer Society in his memory.

- Guthrie** Honorary Life Member and Senior Conservationist **James Elwood Guthrie** (94) of Blanch, North Carolina, passed away on March 20, 2018. Elwood retired in 1986 as Soil Conservation Technician in the Soil Conservation Service Yanceyville Field Office with over 26 years of service. He was a life-time resident of Caswell County. He was a member of First Baptist Church in Yanceyville, NC, where he served as past Deacon and former choir member. Elwood was a founding member of the Central Caswell Ruritan Club. Elwood is survived by three sons, **Kenneth Guthrie (Connie)**, **Mitchell Guthrie**, and **James Guthrie**; a daughter, **Linda Palmer (Marty)**, all of Blanch, N.C.; two sisters, two grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren, and a number of nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his wife of 68 years, **Emily** on March 13, 2013. Online condolences at [www.wrenn-yeatts.com](http://www.wrenn-yeatts.com).
- Haenisch** Honorary Life Member and Senior Conservationist **Charles Haenisch** (90) of Floydada, Texas passed away July 24, 2015. He was the first baby born in Rosebud, Texas in 1925. He attended the public schools in Rosebud and was a proud Class of '46 graduate of Texas A&M. He married **Emagene Sansom** in Goldthwaite, Texas, on November 9, 1946. She preceded him in death in 2012. After a 38-year career with the Soil Conservation Service that took them to Goldthwaite, Eden, Lubbock, Stephenville, Alice, and Harlingen, they retired to the family farm in Rochelle, Texas. In 1998 they moved to Floydada to be closer to family. Charles and Emagene became involved and were a vital part of every community in which they lived. Always active in a variety of areas, Charles was a scout master, an Eagle Scout, and was inducted into the Order of the Arrow with the Boy Scouts. He served on the board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas for many years. Charles served the churches where he lived as a Deacon and taught Sunday School until the age of 85. He was a member of the Lions Club for over 50 years. He was a 32nd degree Mason and belonged to the Order of the Eastern Star. Charles and Emagene both volunteered as readers with elementary school children. Charles is survived by his son **Barry Haenisch** and wife **Linda of Round Rock**, Texas, and daughter **Jo Lynn Dean** and husband, **Bill**, of Floydada. He was very proud of his four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to Floydada Senior Citizens. Online condolences may be made at [moore-rose.com](http://moore-rose.com).
- Heilman** **Rodney Lee Heilman** (87) of Versailles, Kentucky passed away on April 16, 2018 at the Episcopal Church Home, Louisville, Kentucky. He is a native of Henry County. He is preceded in death by his wife of 59 years, **Lola Heilman**. He is survived by his daughter, **Anne H. Veno (Tim)**; a granddaughter, and three great grandchildren and two brothers. Rodney attended Western Kentucky University and was a graduate of the University of Kentucky, where he obtained a degree in agriculture. He worked for Brown and Williamson Tobacco Company, as a dairy farmer with his brother Philip, and for 32 years was a soil conservationist with the USDA Soil Conservation Service until his retirement in 1990. He was a member of Westport Road Baptist Church and was an ordained Deacon and Sunday School teacher for most of his adult life. In addition, he served two years in the United States Army, was a 50-year member of the Campbellsburg Masonic Lodge, and an avid University of Kentucky basketball fan. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to The Episcopal Church Home or the donor's charity of choice.
- Hicks** Life Member and Senior Conservationist **Vernon M. Hicks** (89) of Temple, TX passed away March 25, 2018. He was born in Hico, TX, and he was a long time resident of Belton and Temple. Vernon served in the Army Air Corps after WWII as part of the Pacific Occupation Forces. He attended and graduated from Texas A&M University with a Wildlife Biologist degree. He had an exemplary career with USDA Soil Conservation Service. His career took him to Pennsylvania and Washington, DC. He was an avid hunter, fisherman, naturalist and worked as a consultant to reclaim mining fields in East Texas. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church for over 50 years. Vernon is survived by his wife of 20 years, **Juanita B. Hicks**, a daughter, **Dottie H. Stephens**, and a stepdaughter, **Karen Frost**. He has ten grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. Vernon is preceded in death by two daughters and a stepdaughter. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to The Dawson Class at First United Methodist Church in downtown Temple, Texas.
- Huff** Senior Conservationist **James Wesley Huff** (90) of Athens, Georgia passed away April 20, 2018, after living a full and rewarding life. He served with the U.S. Army near the end of WWII and was discharged in 1946. He lived the balance of his life in the Athens area. James was employed by the Loef Company as an equipment operator for many years before going to work for the USDA Soil Conservation Service. As a core drill operator, he performed soil investigations throughout Georgia, various sites on the East Coast and Puerto Rico. He enjoyed helping others and was an avid outdoorsman. He was a Christian of the Baptist denomination. He was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, **Mary Huff**. James is survived by his son, **Frank Huff (Andrea)**, sister **Minnie Turner** and many nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, please send donations in his memory to the Team Members Christmas Fund, Thrive at Athens, LTC.
- Jackson** **Roberta "Birdie" L. Jackson** (65) of Fairmont, West Virginia passed away on April 4, 2018 surrounded by her loving family. She was born in Buffalo, New York. She leaves behind her loving husband of 33 years, **Leonard Jackson** of Fairmont and daughter, **Lauren Jackson** of Morgantown. Leonard was a mail clerk in the NRCS Morgantown state office.
- Jones** Honorary Member and Senior Conservationist **Martha J. Jones** (98) of Kankakee, Illinois passed away January 11, 2018 at her home. She was born in Ashkum. She married **Kenneth L. Jones** on July 13, 1946 in Ashkum. He preceded her in death on April 11, 2008. Martha retired from the USDA Soil Conservation Service in 1977. She was a parishioner of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Kankakee, where she sang in the choir. Martha was an avid reader. She enjoyed bowling and watching the Chicago Cubs. Surviving are several nieces and nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews. In addition to her husband, she is preceded in death by one brother and two sisters. Memorials may be made to Hospice of Kankakee Valley or St. Patrick

Catholic Church.

- Larson** **Donald (Don) Spencer Larson** of Rockwood, Idaho passed away on March 1, 2018, at Rockwood Care Center in Spokane. Don was a longtime resident of both Troy and Moscow before moving to Rockwood in 2013. Don was born in Grangeville, Idaho. He graduated from the University of Idaho with a degree in forestry. After graduation, Don served in the U.S. Air Force for over 20 years. He served in Vietnam and helped return POWs after the conflict was over. Don also earned the Distinguished Flying Cross. During his service, he was stationed in Alaska, where a mutual friend introduced him to **Phebe Brown**. They were married in August 1961. After retiring from the Air Force, Don worked for the Soil Conservation Service in St. Maries and Moscow as the Area Forester until he retired in 1993. He was a faithful RC&D Council volunteer for many years. Don was involved with the Gideons and Compassion International. He was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Moscow and then the Bovill Community Church. Don and Phebe enjoyed RVing and camping throughout their lives. Don is survived by a brother, **Richard Larson**, his three children, **Derick, Kirk and Melinda**, and four grandchildren. He was predeceased by his beloved wife, **Phebe**. Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at [shermancampbell.com](http://shermancampbell.com).
- Lee** **Tillman Earl Lee** (91) of Franklin, Tennessee, passed away January 3, 2018. Tillman was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Columbia and was a retired Area Conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service in Columbia. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Martha Ann Prince Lee**. Survived by: sons, **Mark (Sandra) Lee** of Franklin, TN, and **Eric (Kay) Lee** of Nashville, TN and five grandchildren.
- McClain** **Isaac Fleet McClain, Jr.** (97) of Anderson, South Carolina passed away peacefully on April 24, 2018 after a serious fall. He was born in Anderson County and graduated from Anderson Boys High School in 1939 and attended Clemson University until enlisting in the U.S. Army. As lifelong resident of the Centerville community, he helped organize Centerville Fire Department and the West Anderson Water Company. He was a lifelong farmer and cattleman, a substitute mail carrier for six years, and worked 18 years with the USDA Soil Conservation Service, retiring as a Soil Conservation Technician in 1983. He was a lifetime member of New Prospect Baptist Church, serving in many capacities. He served in WW II in the 94th Infantry Division in the European Theater and was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. He was a member of the Hudgens American Legion Post #14, a Mason, and a member of the SC Forestry Commission. He was twice married, first to the former **Alein McCoy**, who preceded him in death in 1981. His second wife, **Ruth Bruton**, died in 2011. He was preceded in death by one daughter, **Connie Fowler** and husband, **Billy**. He was also preceded in death by one sister, one brother, and two infant siblings. He is survived by three loving daughters, **Laura (Frank) Lipe** of Pisgah Forest, NC, **Becky Parris** of Isle of Palms, SC, and **Cynthia (Monte) Simpson** of Anderson, eight grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren. He is also survived by a step-daughter, **Karen Bruton**. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to New Prospect Baptist Church, 2503 Whitehall Road, Anderson, SC 29625.
- Moss** **Allen Russell Moss** (79) of Vici, Oklahoma passed away on April 17, 2018. He was born in rural Dewey County, OK and grew up on a farm. While in high school he loved playing baseball and basketball. He was a baseball pitcher for a Nebraska minor league team after high school. He graduated in 1960 from Oklahoma State University with a degree in Agriculture with range management option in the field of agronomy. Before graduation he was baptized into the General Assembly and Church of the First Born of Vici, OK. He worked with USDA-Soil Conservation Service which took them to 10 locations in Oklahoma during their first 10 years of marriage. While at Tahlequah, he started the Sun Down Hereford Ranch. He raised Hereford cattle all his life, which he thoroughly enjoyed. He resigned as an RC&D Coordinator in August of 1979 after 21 years of service and moved back home to Cestos, OK. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, **Eula Mae Moss** of Vici, OK, four children and eleven grandchildren, and eleven great grandchildren.
- Moyers** **Douglas Wilson Moyers** (96), a McMinnville, Tennessee resident and Claiborne County, TN native passed away on January 28, 2018 in NHC Healthcare of McMinnville following a brief illness. Doug was an avid reader and always kept up with the news and economy. He was a veteran of the United States Army and retired Area Conservationist with the USDA Soil Conservation. After retirement, he and his wife, Nettie, traveled to all 50 states. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by wife, Nettie Walling Moyers, a brother and a sister. Survivors include two nieces and great-nieces and nephews. Online condolences may be made at [www.highfuneralhome.com](http://www.highfuneralhome.com)
- Nelson** Member and Senior Conservationist **Robert John Nelson** (84) of Burnsville, North Carolina passed away on March 2, 2018. John retired in 1988 as the RC&D Coordinator for the Mountain Valleys RC&D Project after 40 years of service with Soil Conservation Service. He was born in Kernersville, NC. John was a graduate of NC State University and served in the US Army. He served as District Conservationist in several locations in North Carolina. Surviving are his wife of 53 years, **Mary Hensley Nelson**; daughter and son-in-law, **Lynn and Joey Lindsay** of Morganton; and a brother-in-law, **Douglas Hensley** of Burnsville. A memorial service was held at 11:00 AM Saturday, March 10, 2018 at Higgins Memorial United Methodist Church, of which he was a member.
- Oertel** Life Member and Senior Conservationist **Robert "Bob" Oertel** (100) of Lawrenceville, Georgia passed away on April 21, 2018. He was a life-long conservationist and worked for the Soil Conservation Service for 40 years, retiring in 1981 as an Assistant State Conservationist. After retirement, he wrote over 800 agricultural, environmental, and personal stories for various publications. An avid volunteer, he was a photographer for 40 Christian Youth Work Camps. He loved gardening, flowers, and fishing and was never idle. Bob is preceded in death by his wife, **Mae Oertel**; wife, **Jane Oertel**; son, **John Oertel** and daughter, **Julia Estella Scott**. He is survived by daughters and son-in-law, **Anne and David Hull**, Martinez; daughter and daughter-in-law, **Leila Oertel** and **Robin Heard**, Hohenwald, TN; and daughter and son-in-law, **Roberta and Barry Freeman**, Huntsville, AL; loving companion, **Issy Weaver**, Lawrenceville; brother **Leland Oertel**, Brighton, IL; three grandchildren; seven great grandchildren; and numerous family and friends. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Fairview Presbyterian Church. Please leave online condolences at [www.stewartfh.com](http://www.stewartfh.com).
- Patterson** Senior conservationist and life member **Esther Jane Patterson** (90) passed away on May 8, 2012 in Ellensburg, Washington. Esther retired from the Soil Conservation Service in 1991 as an area clerk.
- Perez** **Adolfo Perez Jr** (63) of Alice, Texas passed away March 26, 2018. He was born in Alice. After high school Adolfo joined the United States Army. During his time of service he was stationed overseas and traveled throughout Europe. After his military service he returned home to attend Texas A&M Kingsville where he graduated with a B.S. degree in Wildlife Management. He worked for the USDA-NRCS in various positions for 36 years, including state conservationist in Casper, Wyoming. He was an active member of his community serving in numerous organizations. Professionally he was involved with the National



Organization of Professional Hispanic Natural Resources Conservation Service Employee (NOPHNRCSE) serving as president 1997-1998. He was an avid hunter and fisherman. He loved the outdoors and after retirement returned home to Alice to his beloved ranch, and created a haven for his family to enjoy. Survivors include his Loving Companion **Jamie Nichols** of Alice, Texas, two sons **Adolfo (Abigale) Perez III** of San Antonio, Texas, **Raul Roberto (Jennifer) Perez** of Zapata, Texas, one daughter **Sonya (Brandon) Marshall** of North Stonington, Connecticut, the mother of his children **Belinda Perez** of Zapata, Texas and three sisters and eight grandchildren. The family will have a Celebration of Life in June at the Perez Ranch.

- Pollock** **Robert (Bob) S. Pollock** (92) was born in Ulysses, Nebraska and passed away in Lincoln, Nebraska on March 11, 2018. Bob was a Navy Veteran of WWII and served aboard the USS Bancroft in the South Pacific. He was a member of the America Legion, lifelong member of the VFW, and the Tin Can Sailor Association. He graduated from the University of Nebraska and worked as a Soil Scientist for the USDA Soil Conservation Service for 35 years. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, **Doris**; three children, **Debra Osher (Clark Goken)** of Lincoln, **Dr. Garry Pollock (Brenda)** of Lubbock, TX, and **Janis Medler** of Thousand Oaks, CA; seven grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by son-in-law **Stephen Medler** and three sisters. Memorial contributions may be made in care of family, "Thomas J. Peltin Destroyer Museum Grant Program – USS Bancroft (DD598) in memory of Robert Pollock" ([www.destroyers.org](http://www.destroyers.org)) or the American Diabetic Association.
- Price** **Hugh Dean Price** (82) of Casar, North Carolina passed away on March 18, 2018. Hugh retired in 1991 as the District Conservationist for the Concord Field Office. He was a graduate of Casar High School and he received his bachelor's degree from Clemson University. He served four years in the US Air Force (1959 to 1963), after which he was employed for 27 years with the USDA Soil Conservation Service in Cabarrus County. Hugh retired in 1991 to his farm in Casar, NC where he raised Black Angus beef cattle and hay. He was a devoted member of Mt Zion Baptist Church where he was a deacon and member of the board of directors. Hugh served on the Board of Directors for the Cleveland County Farm Bureau for many years and was a member of Casar Masonic Lodge #579 for over fifty years. Hugh was preceded in death by his a sister and a brother. Hugh Dean is survived by three children, **Barbara Price and Rom Still** of Winston-Salem; **Brian Price (Tammy)** of Wake Forest; and **Barry Price** of Casar; four grandchildren, two sisters, and numerous nieces and nephews. Memorials may be sent to Mt Zion Baptist Church, PO Box 326, Casar, NC 28020. Condolences may be made online at [www.stameytysingerfuneralhome.com](http://www.stameytysingerfuneralhome.com).
- Prissel** **Barbara A. Prissel** (71) of Ripon, Wisconsin passed away on March 28, 2018, at Copperleaf Village in Ripon. Barbara was born in Plum City, WI. She graduated with honors from Pepin High School in 1964 and Minneapolis Business College in 1966. Upon her graduation from business college, Barbara was employed as a legal secretary and paralegal for several law firms in Minnesota and Wisconsin. She became lead instructor for the Legal Administrative Professional Program on three campuses of Moraine Park Technical College. She was also a church organist/pianist for most of her life, starting when she was 12 years old. Barbara is survived by her loving husband, **Stephen Prissel** of 50 years; her two children, her four grandchildren, and her four siblings. Stephen retired as a District Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- Reeves** **Edith Jane (Flurry) Reeves** (87) of Bernice, Louisiana passed away on March 5, 2018 at her home. Edith was born in Claiborne Parish. She graduated from Summerfield High School in 1948 and after completing her nursing training in Arkansas, she returned to Louisiana to work. It was at Willis- Knighton Hospital that she met her husband to be, through a mutual friend. **Bob** was an Air Force sergeant who had planned to make it a career, however, they decided it would be in the best interest of their future family to leave the AF and continue his education. After Bob graduated with his engineering degree in 1958, they moved to several places with his jobs. After nearly 40 years with the Soil Conservation Service, they returned to Louisiana to retire. Edith is survived by her husband of sixty three years, **Bobby F. Reeves**; son **Robert Martin Reeves** of Houston; daughter, **Rini Michelle (Ronnie) Pennington** and two grandchildren. Online condolence messages may be sent to the family [www.kilpatrickfuneralhomes.com](http://www.kilpatrickfuneralhomes.com).
- Sallee** **Kenneth Sallee** (85) of Troy, Kansas passed away on January 13, 2018 at his home. Kenneth was born in Pawnee, Oklahoma. He was the fifth child of 13. After graduating from Oklahoma State University, he began working for the USDA Soil Conservation Service as a Soil Scientist. He mapped soils across the state of Kansas, a job he really loved. After retiring in 1988, he worked at Dillards department store in St. Joe, MO. Kenneth became a Christian as a young man. At the time of his death he was member of the Frederick Boulevard Baptist Church in St. Joseph, MO, and loved handing out Bibles as a Gideon. Over the years, he had served the Lord as a deacon, Sunday School teacher, youth worker, and Sunday School Superintendent, and never was afraid to pick up a hammer to build a church. He was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, **Betty**, two daughters: **Sandra and Cindy**, son, **Kenneth "Scott" Sallee**, a granddaughter, **Amy Christine Sallee**, two brothers and one sister. Survivors include his daughters, **Robin Smith (John) Drumright**, Oklahoma; and **Shelley Anderson** of Wathena, Kansas; three grandchildren, four great grandchildren, five sisters and four brothers. Memorials: Gideon's, Wathena & Troy Fire Departments or EMS.
- Sallee** **Betty (Lowery) Sallee** (82) of Troy, Kansas passed away on January 8, 2018 at her home. She grew up in Oklahoma and moved to Troy in 1973. Betty was a loving mother and wife. At her death she was a member of the Frederick Boulevard Baptist Church in St. Joseph, Missouri, Happy Homemakers of Doniphan County, Kansas and the Gideon's Auxiliary. She is survived by her husband of 62 years, **Kenneth Sallee** who retired as a soil scientist with the Soil Conservation Service, and many other family members (see Kenneth Sallee memoriam above).
- Shubert** **Glynn G. Shubert** (86) of Watson, Illinois, passed away on March 7, 2018, at Lakeland Rehabilitation & Health Care Center in Effingham with his loving wife by his side. Glynn retired as an engineering technician in the Effingham Area Office of the Soil Conservation Service. He was born in Lively Grove, Washington County, IL. He was united in marriage to **Lois Peterson**, and to this union three children were born: **Renee L., Richard G., and Jay Kevin**. He later married **Marjorie C. (Tubbs) Hildebrand** on November 21, 1971. Glynn had a passion for hunting turkey and deer and was a strong supporter for the preservation of the hunting sport. Glynn served at the national, state, and local level for the National Wild Turkey Federation Board of Directors. Throughout his life, he received several prestigious awards in the NWTF for his efforts and dedication. He enjoyed singing in choirs his entire life. Along with the NWTF, Glynn was a member of Centenary United Methodist Church, the NRA, and an over 50-year member of the Farm Bureau. Glynn is survived by his wife, **Marjorie Shubert** of Watson; three children, two step-children, eight grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Little Wabash Longbeards, Ballard Nature Center, Centenary United Methodist Church, and Elkton Cemetery Fund. Online condolences may be shared at [www.johnsonandsonsfh.com](http://www.johnsonandsonsfh.com).
- Welker** **Karen L. Welker** (75) passed away on March 26, 2018 at Edgewater in West Des Moines. Karen was preceded in death by her

husband of 37 years, **Bill** who retired as a biologist in the Des Moines State Office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Karen was born in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. She graduated from the University of Western Ontario-London and Toronto General Hospital School of Nursing. Karen worked as a nurse consultant for Blue Cross, and she also worked as the Director of Nursing at Medcenter. Karen enjoyed the Edgewater singers, going out to eat, traveling, and going for walks. Karen is survived by her twin brother, **Kenneth (Marsha) Reid**; a niece, and two nephews and many other great nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be directed to West Des Moines Christian Church or the John Stoddard Cancer Center.



*Some of the Cherry Blossom Princesses*



**DEADLINE FOR  
JULY/AUGUST NEWSLETTER  
CONTRIBUTIONS IS  
JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2018**