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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."

Farm Bill—The 2018 Farm Bill discussion continues to heat-up as the number of issues increases. Funding for the Crop insurance program will be a top priority to help support the farm safety net. The commodity program title will need policy changes to address issues related to cotton, wheat, and dairy. The Conservation Title may face budget challenges, especially with policy makers like **Senator Thune** (R-SD) calling for raising the Conservation Reserve Program acreage cap from 24 million acres to 30 million acres. The additional 6 million acres are not in the Farm Bill's budget baseline, so funding would have to come from other programs in the Conservation Title. To lower the budget impact, Thune's proposal includes a 25 percent reduction in CRP rental payments in exchange for letting farmers graze (without restrictions related to the primary nesting period for wildlife) or allowing farmers to harvest hay from CRP land once every three years. The cost of Thune's CRP proposal has not been estimated (scored) by the Congressional Budget Office.

During a Farm Bill Summit hosted by Agri-Pulse, **Tina May**, director of sustainability for Land O'Lakes, said that one of the keys to reshaping the Conservation Title of the Farm Bill is "... to de-risk conservation for farmers, helping them to apply conservation practices that benefit both their profitability and the long-term health of their land and water."

2017 and 2018 Budgets—By April 28th, Congress will have taken action on fiscal year 2017 funding for the government, as the Continuing Resolution passed by Congress in December 2016 is scheduled to expire. The January 2017 hiring freeze imposed by the Trump Administration was lifted on April 12th, 2017. Hiring is limited by the funding levels in the President's 2018 budget proposal. The long and short is that filling vacancies will be difficult.

The **President's 2018 budget proposal** calls for a 21 percent cut in funding for USDA. The 2018 budget: "Reduces staffing in USDA's Service Center Agencies to streamline county office operations, reflect reduced Rural Development workload, and encourage private sector conservation planning." It remains to be seen how private sector conservation planning might be implemented. It should be noted that Congress may have a very different take on USDA funding as they develop the 2018 appropriations bills.

The President wants to fund the proposed border wall between Mexico and the US in the 2017 funding bill, but this could cause the bill to fail, with Democratic leaders opposed to using funds from other programs to fund the border wall. Consequently, there is a chance for a government shut down because of the impasse. As I write this, the White House appears to be softening their stance on funding the border wall in 2017.

Secretary of Agriculture—On April 25th, 2017, former Georgia governor **Sonny Perdue** was sworn in as the 31st Secretary of Agriculture. Perdue was the second to last cabinet level position to be approved by the Senate. Delays in Perdue's filing of financial information, time devoted to confirmation of **Neil Gorsuch** to the Supreme Court, and the Easter recess all contributed to the lateness of the nomination approval. Perdue was confirmed by the Senate on April 24th by a vote of 87 to 11. The 70 year-old Perdue will be the first Southerner since **Mike Espy** to hold the position. And since agricultural policy issues are often driven by regional differences rather than by political affiliation, it will be interesting to see if Perdue alters the course of USDA policy. Issues immediately facing the new Secretary include balancing **President Trump's** promises made during the campaign to roll back and renegotiate trade agreements and strengthen the border, with the importance of trade and immigrant labor in the agricultural sector. In addition, he will have to support the President's budget which calls for a 21 percent cut in USDA funding in 2018 while developing USDA policy positions regarding the rapidly approaching 2018 Farm Bill debates.

NRCS News—We should soon see names emerging to fill the political appointee positions at USDA, including the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment and the NRCS Chief. Recently, **Tony Kramer**, Deputy Chief for Programs retired, and **Jimmy Bramblett** has been placed in that position.

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Cecil Currin

Our financial pot is holding at a stable level! One could think of the ARCSE financial system as a large pot with a faucet coming in at the top and a spigot draining out at the bottom. As long as the faucet comes in as fast as the spigot drains the pot, the water level stays at a stable level. In our early years, membership was growing rapidly and our financial pot was rising to new heights every year until 2003. After 2003, we started draining the pot with declining membership levels and less revenue. About three years ago, we realized that our net worth was declining at a rate at which we would be flat broke in about 10 years. Our two biggest costs are the annual meeting and the newsletter. The board considered having the "annual meeting" only every other year to save money. **Arnold King** made a statement that continues to ring in my ear: "If we can't hold annual meetings, we might as well close up shop."

We recognized that our biggest asset, the newsletter, was also our biggest liability because of the cost of printing and distributing the newsletter in hard copy. We considered going to an all-electronic newsletter which would solve the financial crisis but would leave out a lot of people who enjoy the printed version. After canvassing our members, we learned that most of our members who choose the hard copy are willing to pay additional fees for the privilege. During this questioning process, ARCSE members were most generous in contributing funds to help with our financial distress, and in July of 2016 our net worth increased for the first time in 12 years.

At the Board meeting last summer, we decided to make an additional charge to members who choose to continue with the hard copy. The 2017 billing cycle has been a test of the new system. It makes the billing a bit more complicated for our Secretary/Treasurer, but has proven successful. Our net worth will increase again this year. By Jove, it appears that our financial pot has stabilized. The added fees paid for the hard copy will keep us balanced as we continue to convert to the electronic newsletter.

I offer my thanks to our generous members who contributed to our turnaround, to the Board of Directors for making the hard decisions, to members who converted to the electronic newsletter to reduce our cost and to those who enjoy the newsletter in hard copy and are willing to pay extra to receive it.

Sincerely, Cecil Currin

A BIT OF HISTORY

Douglas Helms, Historian

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Bennet in North Africa

The last issue of the newsletter featured sites **Walter Lowdermilk** visited on his 1938 trip to Europe and the Middle East. **Hugh Bennett** also longed to study land use and erosion conditions in the Old World, but the pressures of the job and then World War II prevented it. His speeches and writings featured examples from the literature to teach about the dangers of erosion. In September-October 1949, he and another SCS person, **Glenn Riddell**, did get to study soil erosion in the Old World. Landing in Paris, they travelled into Italy, Sicily, and then on to North Africa. In Algeria they visited Timgad, which was featured in the last newsletter.

Bennett also visited Carthage in Tunisia. Carthage's most famous resident had to be **Hannibal** (247 BCE to 183-181 BCE), the Carthaginian commander who ventured forth with his army into Europe. Elephants helped transport baggage over the Pyrenees and the Alps. In Carthage, Bennett noted the following in his diary:

"Went to Carthage and saw archaeological excavating, excavating portions of the city. These were covered with about 4, 5, or 6 feet of material that looked like erosional debris (water and wind). Went into the museum. Saw plenty of erosion on slopes of hills near old Carthage. At the church uncovered a concrete pavement at 2¾ meters. ...Some of the less rough hills are cultivated on up to the top, but generally hills are pretty well washed down to or near bedrock and very poor. Plenty of sheet erosion in the undulating portions of the valleys."

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 hardcopy of the newsletter must pay an additional fee of \$12.00 per year	

ARIZONA

Ken Cookson, ARCSE Representative

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Bill Fobair Report: Bill decided when he was in the 8th grade he would be a Soil and Water Conservationist. He grew up in rural Nebraska and worked for a local farmer spreading barnyard manure with a manure rake on sloping land that never should have been broken. The farmer received 25 cents for each rake full of manure, from the Agricultural Stabilization Office. Bill received 25 cents for his work from the farmer.

The USDA-Soil Conservation Service issued a contract to the United States Agency for International Development (AID) to develop a seed industry for Tunisia's small farmer livestock industry. Bill was one of seven members on a United States Agency for International Team assigned to work with an Italian with a doctor's degree in Horticulture, working for the city of Tunis. He owned a 2,500 hectare land grant near Tunis and had his farm manager and staff turn all of the farm's seed production over to my direction and assistant, **Ahmed BenSalah**. The first year he cleared over one million dollars. All of his production was sold to Grafopast, managed by **Jabur Ameur**, who continues to market all seed produced.

Dr. Bennett gave a keynote address to the Soil and Water Conservation Society in 1959 honoring the soil conservation movement of America. Dr. Bennett signed several copies of the card which confirms this action. We can also be thankful for our professional careers made possible by Hugh Hammond Bennett, Chief of the Soil Erosion Service and Soil Conservation Service for which agencies we worked. With very few exceptions, our work for the good cause of resources conservation was pleasant and rewarding.



Bill Fobair and Dr. Hugh Hammond Bennett

CALIFORNIA

Bill Ward, ARCSE Representative

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Greetings to all our fellow retirees across the Nation! In my last report I said it had been extremely wet here in California, and since then it's only continued to get even wetter! Northern California is going through one of its rainiest seasons on record, dating back to 1892. And what a snowpack we have as well with the snowpack at more than 160 percent of normal state-wide levels. As a result, California is facing the potential of serious flooding as snowmelt runs into streams and reservoirs already swollen with winter rains.

So in light of this extremely high rainfall and heavy snow pack, where do we stand with our tremendously challenging situation with the Oroville dam and its spillways? Since my last report, the amount of effort and work completed to provide emergency stabilization work on both spillways is absolutely astounding! This includes restoring the Hyatt Power plant as a viable outlet to release water from the Oroville dam. The plan is for work to be done this summer to be ready for next season's storms. Everything about this emergency, the enormous scope of the damage and recovery work to be done in an extremely short period of time, and the very high stakes, have made for design and construction challenges that are far beyond anything considered "normal," even for emergency work.

Working around the clock, large excavators working from the river banks as well as from barges have removed 1.6 million cubic yards of eroded material from the river. This allowed the restoration of the Hyatt Power Plant as a viable outlet for Oroville Dam reservoir with discharge capability up to about 13,000 cfs. This was especially critical because it allowed dam operators to temporarily close off the Primary Spillway's gates to be able to inspect the damaged spillway, assess its safety to operate later this year, and do some emergency work on it to improve its safety for this year's runoff. At this point (April 13), releases have begun again, and dam operators have confidence the spillway will be able to operate with a reasonable degree of safety and get us through the critical snow runoff period.

Oroville Dam Spillway Recovery Plan

While work on the ground has continued nonstop since the incident began, so also has planning and design for a recovery plan to ensure that by November 1st, 2017, a system will be in place that can safely accommodate heavy inflows from the Feather River Watershed through Lake Oroville next winter.

DWR is and will continue to work non-stop with its partner agencies to meet that objective. The complete recovery or replacement of both damaged spillway structures will be done in multiple phases due to the enormity of the project and the time limitations of the construction season. The magnitude of the challenge has been described as trying to do what would normally be a two or three-year major construction project in about six months! Here is a link to a broad overview of the plan in its current state: http://www.water.ca.gov/oroville-spillway/pdf/2017/a3186%20Oroville%20Spwy%20Recovery_v5.pdf

Oroville Dam Spillway Recovery Plan

The pace of everything about this project has been and will continue to be at warp speed. Following are a couple highlights from news briefs about the bidding and award of the contract.

DWR News Brief April 15, 2017: "The Department of Water Resources (DWR) opened bids submitted by three contractors to repair the Oroville spillway. The three bids ranged from a low of \$275,443,850 to a high of \$344,129,100. The bids are for work to implement DWR's Oroville spillway recovery plan so a system is in place by November 1, 2017 that can safely accommodate next winter's weather."

DWR News Brief April 17, 2017: "The Department of Water Resources (DWR) today awarded a contract to the low bidder, Kiewit Infrastructure West Co., for repair work on Oroville Dam's spillways for the bid price of \$275,443,850. The notice to proceed was given today for work to begin immediately to have the system operational by November 1, the traditional start of the winter rainy season. The complete recovery or replacement of the spillways will be done in multiple phases due to the enormity of the project and the time limitations of the construction season. DWR announced the bids Saturday and spent the weekend reviewing them."

The Notice to proceed was given the same day the spillway flows were turned back on with new releases of 35,000 cfs coming down the spillway the contractor is supposed to repair. Much of the work to be done at this time will be mobilization work, building access roads and importing material to be ready to start the repair work as soon as the flows can be turned back off. A big question is how much will the site conditions change during this period of spillway operation and how much additional work will be required because of this.

There is certainly a large body of Engineering Design and Construction expertise providing oversight for the recovery work. Both the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and California Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) must approve all designs and will oversee and approve construction. During the emergency response, DSOD, FERC and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) worked closely with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) as critical decisions were being made.

The California Department of Water Resources has provided frequent news briefings throughout the emergency to update the public on the emergency and recovery process. They have used videos taken from drones for assessment and planning purposes, as well as informing news media and the public. Here are two videos that do a great job of illustrating the scope of damage and ongoing work.

April 5, Primary Spillway, Scope of Damage, Debris Removal

<https://youtu.be/wtVjFw6Gclc>

April 10, Primary Spillway, Scope of damage, debris removal

<https://youtu.be/DklknMt5N1o>

Following are some photos going back to February 12th when the spillway gates were turned off to inspect the initial damage, through more recent times.



Initial Damage, February 12, 2017



Primary Spillway April 2017



Debris plug prior to removal operations



Debris Removal operations



Around the clock Debris Removal

Gated Spillway: Potential Remedial Measures for Upper Chute Area
Replace as much of the Upper Chute as possible by November 1, 2017 with modern, robust design. Anchor any remaining slabs and walls until replacement during next construction season.



Recovery plan design Concepts

That's all for this time around folks. Wishing you all the best from California!

IDAHO

Jim Cornwell, ARCSE Representative

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There is not a lot of activity to report for Idaho. Everyone seems relieved that winter seems to be on its way out, and now we are anticipating serious flooding from the above-average snowpack and warm wet weather in the forecast. The regular monthly meeting was held March 23rd. Those in attendance were **Dennis Froeming, Shelby Brownfield, Amos and Ruth Garrison, Sharon Norris, Gene and Bev Crisman, Paul Calverley, Darrell Gallup and his son, Rob Frederickson and John Kendrick**. I missed the meeting as we took a trip to the Four Corners area, visiting national parks and monuments. It was definitely warmer in New Mexico and Arizona where we visited friends and relatives.

ILLINOIS

Dale Benz, ARCSE Representative

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Ten retirees and spouses enjoyed lunch and visiting on April 6 in Champaign. Attending were Elsie Campbell, Wiley Scott, Frank Carroll, Dave Dalzell, Jim and Bonnie McQuilken, Dick Dickerson, Bob McLeese, and Dale and Nancy Benz. Jim and Bonnie McQuilken enjoyed 10 days in March with their daughter in Colorado. Dick Dickerson spent February in Florida.

It was evident that the lives of retirees is centered around grandchildren, doctors, and a little traveling. And we like it!

We are sorry to report the passing of Jim Rutherford in February. Jim retired as a Soil Conservation Technician in the Bloomington Field Office.

Our next gathering for lunch and visiting will be October 5.

IOWA

Mark Jensen, ARCSE Representative

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Early this year, I found out that **Norm Koester** was organizing a breakfast get-together for former Area 4 folks. He sent out an invitation to Area 4 "Retirees, Refugees, and Retreads." I asked him if it would be okay for me to show up. After checking my

credentials against the criteria, he decided it would be okay for me to attend. On March 15th, nine of us met at Henry's Diner in Crescent, north of Council Bluffs. Those attending were **Jeff Darling, Larry Hammitt, Bennie Floyd, Ron Petersen, Norm Koester, Greg Mathis, Marion Plumb, Dick Hall, and Mark Jensen**. It was a lot of fun re-connecting with these guys, telling stories, re-hashing the good old days, and catching up on family activities. In addition to that, we had a very good, and big, breakfasts!



Henry's Diner Breakfast Group: Jeff Darling, Larry Hammitt, Bennie Floyd, Ron Petersen, Norm Koester, Greg Mathis, Marion Plumb, and Dick Hall. [Editor's note: I assume that Mark Jensen took the picture.]

Roger and Donita Link spent three days in Branson, MO, during the first part of April celebrating their 45th wedding anniversary. They went to the play "Moses" at the Sight and Sound Theater and strongly recommend that you go see it if you get to Branson. Congratulations, Roger and Donita!

Dennis and Cheryl Pate spent three weeks in El Dorado Hills, CA, with **Todd and Kelly**, their son and daughter-in-law, and their two kids, **Mason and Avery**. Mason is four years old. Grandpa and Grandma got to help celebrate Avery's second birthday while they were there. While in California, they also visited **Jim and Colleen Schneider**.

Eldon Weber has told us about his involvement with the Pizz-a-Thon program in the past. He continues to put a lot of effort into this program for grade school kids. The program is sponsored by the Ames Breakfast Lions Club. On March 9th, 116 4th graders made up of 24 teams, who created 24 new pizzas, competed in the Echo Hill Pizz-A-Thon in the Marion Public School District. On April 21st, 80 4th graders from St. Ludmila School in Cedar Rapids competed in their Pizz-A-Thon competition. Eldon presented winners of that competition with tee shirts, medallions, and ribbons. The Pizz-A-Thon program fits well in the Lions International focus area of "impacting youth ethics in the environment." As teams trace the ingredients of their newly created pizzas back to the soil, they experiment in growing corn and soybeans in sand vs. topsoil to discover the importance of soil and water conservation. Eldon estimates that over 6,000 kids have participated in the program over its 20-year history. If you are interested in learning more about the program, you can go to the website www.pizz-a-thon.com.

Ann and I (Mark Jensen) recently got back home from our spring vacation to the southwest. Some of our favorite stops along the way included the Carlsbad Caverns, Saguaro National Park, the south rim of the Grand Canyon, Death Valley, Zion National Park, and Glen Canyon Dam. A couple of highlights included seeing several wild burros near the California-Nevada border and seeing a gila monster in the Saguaro National Park. The scenery was beautiful, a lot of desert flowers were in bloom, and the car got good mileage. It was a good trip!

Recently we have been saddened by the loss of several of our NRCS friends. **Raymond Currier**, one of our Senior Conservationists at age 98, passed away on February 21st. **Marland Mork**, a long-time Civil Engineering Technician in the Denison Engineering Office, passed away on March 19th. I had the privilege of working with Marland when I was a student trainee in the Denison Office. **Doris Ummel**, wife of **Don Ummel**, passed away on April 6th. Don was the State Administrative Officer when he retired. **Brad Harrison**, the District Conservationist in Adel, lost his battle with cancer on April 10th. Brad was the NRCS employee who came up with the NRCS mission statement, "Helping People Help the Land."

KANSAS

Deanne Lull, ARCSE Representative

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March roared into Kansas like a lion with two weeks of strong winds and wildfires in 21 counties in the western half of the state. The fires resulted in hundreds of thousands of acres burned, a large number of livestock lost, many evacuations, and a number of homes burned to the ground. We were especially saddened to learn that **Andy Phelps**, retired NRCS District Conservationist in the Russell Field Office, lost his home, a dog, and a horse in the fires near Wilson. Four other horses were treated for injuries. March then slipped out like a lamb giving much-needed rains over most of the state.

Two former Kansas employees who took national positions have recently retired. **Jon L. Ungerer**, who had served as the Kansas State Resource Conservationist, retired as the Lesser Prairie Chicken Coordinator in December 2016. This was a multi-state job, and he worked out of the Marysville, KS, Field Office. **Rhonda G. Sulsar**, who had served as the State Administrative Officer in the Kansas State Office in Salina retired from the National Office as the Branch Chief of Policy Practices and Standards on April 1st, 2017. She had been working out of the Kansas State Office prior to her retirement.

Curtis R. Janssen will be retiring the end of the month (April) with 33½ years of service. **Curtis** started his career in 1983 as an Agricultural Engineer in the Dodge City Area Office. He worked in a number of Kansas locations and retired as the State Conservation Engineer in the Kansas State Office in Salina.

Two retirees are on the move. **William and Dee Roth** (former State Soil Scientist) have moved from their long-time home in Lindsborg, KS, to the Eaglecrest Retirement Community, an assisted living facility in Salina, KS. **Harold and Becky Klaege** (former Kansas State Conservationist) are in the process of moving to Lincoln, NE, to be closer to their family.

One retiree has passed away. **Gerald "Bud" D. Norris** passed away on April 8th, 2017. For over 33 years he worked as an engineer retiring as a Civil Engineer in the Hutchinson Area Office in the early 1980s. His wife, **Marie**, preceded him death.

Shirley A. Gray, spouse of **Earl**, passed away March 11th, 2017. **Earl** retired as a Construction Inspector headquartered in Abilene and preceded her in death in 2012.

Plans are set for the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Kansas SCS/NRCS Retirees Association. The date is set for June 23rd at the Holiday Inn, 3145 S. Ninth Street, in Salina, KS.

KENTUCKY

Vacant, ARCSE Representative

Note: Billye Haslett is no longer the Representative for Kentucky, and a replacement is needed. But she has graciously submitted the following:



Retired Kentucky Soil Scientists and spouses met in March. Left to Right: Bob Eigel, Glenn Kelley, George Chalfant, Bill Craddock, Michael Mitchell, Fran Forsythe, Rudy Forsythe, Jim "Coyote Man" Haagen, Thelma Haagen, Tasos Karathanasis, and Don Henry.

Kentucky welcomes three new retirees who retired at the end of March or by April 3rd, 2017:

Glenn Abney, Area Resource Conservationist
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Paris, KY 40361
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Billy Finkbeiner, Supervisory Natural Resources Manager (SNRM)
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Coleman Gussler, State Engineer
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MASSACHUSETTS

Jim Wesoloski, ARCSE Representative

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Well, it's been a quiet few months for the Massachusetts retirees. Daffodils and forsythia are blooming like crazy, and we've already seen some days with temps in the 80s. Chocolate Easter bunnies are now half-price and will soon be 75% off. I've found that it really doesn't matter if the ears are broken when you buy them--they still serve the purpose.

We got news recently of the passing of **Darrell Gene Grice**, retired State Soil Scientist, who died in Houston, TX on March 18th, 2017 at the age of 86. Gene worked for SCS in Texas and Pennsylvania before coming to Massachusetts. He retired in 1987. Gene was a kid during one of the worst droughts Texas has ever seen. He remembered being interviewed by a newspaper reporter who asked what he thought of some rain that was falling. He told the guy that he had seen rain before that but hoped it wouldn't scare his four-year old sister who had never seen rain. **Gene and Liz Grice** were kind and gentle people who will be missed by all who knew them.

MISSOURI

Dave Rastorfer, ARCSE Representative

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Jack Schneider: Gardening and mowing are top priorities right now. We are taking a week and a half to go to Toronto to help out with a nine-month-old grandson while his parents are visiting Yellowstone. It takes four grandparents to watch a boy of that age.

Dennis Shirk: Good morning, folks. We could use some more rain in this location. We have a Trail Ride at Lesterville in a couple of weeks. The fall calves are weaned and back on grass. Nothing else major to report. See you down the trail.

Bob Harryman: Hello to everyone. We had a nice end-of-year vacation cruise on the Harmony of the Seas (a real big boat, 8,000 passengers.). Everyone who lives in Harrison County could vacation on this boat at the same time. But it did not seem crowded. Now (April 20th) I am getting ready to plant a big garden (30 tomato plants, sweet corn, potatoes, etc.) Ooh, on April 17th I found a batch of morels. Very tasty. My wife, **Doris** plays bridge with **Muriel Broce** (Bill's wife). She is amazing at about 93 yrs. old. Still drives and is very alert. I enjoy reading about everyone else's activities.

Ed Smith: Got home from our three months in FL on the 3rd of April and have been getting caught up on the yard work. Have the first round of golf in, now the fun begins. I have two eye surgeries coming up, and **Judith** has one, so May is pretty much taken up with that. This morning I have an appointment to check up on my pace maker which was put in on 11-31-16. We had a great winter in FL, but now it's back to the real world. Hope all my SCS friends have fared well the past several months.

Bill Pauls: **Kris** and I are just back home from The Prairie Fork Conservation Area Field Day today. I enjoyed seeing many of my ol' NRCS buddies (**Clayton and Kathy Lee, Odie Swanegan, Jerry Smith, John Turner, Doug Wallace, Dave Skaer, Kim Worth, Amber, Gary, Charlie Rahm, Ralph Tucker, Ross Braun, Dr. Randy Miles** and others) plus **Pat Jones and Jamie Coe** of Prairie Fork. Educated and entertained many central Missouri 4th and 5th graders about soils and other natural resources. This has been a great event for over nine years, and I'm proud of my role in getting it started. One other upcoming highlight, I hear **Menfro Man** will be making a one-time appearance at the STL Science Center this Saturday (actual Earth Day) after an almost a ten-year absence. Hope his tights still fit! We're also scheduled for marathon #94 in NH next month and #95 in Juneau, AK in the end of July. That will be #s 41 and 42 the second time around the states. Getting slower everyday and still enjoying the challenge. Love seeing this beautiful country during all our marathon travels. Also, we are gearing up for our 2nd full season here at the lake. We are enjoying every minute. Garden is started. Come visit!

Mike Blaine: I've been keeping busy mowing the yard, cutting brush, and planting the garden. Got it all caught up for the next week or so! We have had a really nice spring for working outside. My to-do list never seems to get shorter, though! Oh well, what else would I do with my time? I am hoping to clean out a couple of old ponds on the farm that have silted full over the years. That will probably be the biggest thing I get done on the farm this year. I hear they are finding a lot of mushrooms, but I haven't been over to look yet. I need to do that because I love to eat them. Hope all is well with everyone. Have a great summer!

Jess Epple: The Epples just recently returned from K.C., MO for Easter with our Missouri great-grand-children. We now have a total of eight: six in MO and two in the Nashville area! Our Daughter and Son-in-law, south of Nashville, purchased a small farm and recently built a new house, indicating they may settle down and enjoy spoiling their two grand-children. In March **Jess and Phyllis** went to K.C. to see the "Pompeii/Mt. Vesuvius" display at "Union Station." It should continue thru May. If you haven't already been, try to go before the exhibit leaves. We found it most interesting..... We recently attended our "Panhandle State University" Alumni banquet at Goodwell, OK and also visited Phyllis's sisters. Several weeks ago that region (800,000 acres) was ravaged by range fires and is slowly beginning to recover. In the Muskogee area it has started raining, and the grasses (and weeds) are growing. Jess, has already weed-sprayed several pastures and has over 250 acres left to finish. Thank goodness our timber/wildlife land doesn't have to be sprayed, too! Be well and visit in Indian country when you get an opportunity. Our Oklahoma State history is most unique!

**DEADLINE FOR THE JULY/AUGUST 2017 NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS IS
JUNE 25, 2017**



Jim Robinson, Jim Rickman and Hugh Curry

Hugh Curry: Thirty nine years ago, **Jim Robinson, Jim Rickman and Hugh Curry** were working for the Soil Conservation Service in Missouri. A few days ago the three of them, along with their wives, **Carol, Jere, and Sharon** and many others were cruising the waterways and canals of Belgium and the Netherlands. The picture below shows us in the dining room of the ship "M/S River Rhapsody." Tulip fields were in full bloom, dikes and pumps were keeping the area from flooding, historic villages and buildings were visited, and locations pertinent to World Wars I and II were featured.

Bob Ball: Our family photo gallery is growing rapidly in keeping with our 10-month old grandson, **Cooper**, who lives with his parents in sunny Orlando. We've spent enough time there in recent years that we qualify as local tour guides. Our daughter, **Laura**, works with Hilton as a senior event planner, and husband, **Chris**, is an engineer with Lockheed Martin. Although we have a second home at our farm in southeast Ohio, we may need to secure housing in a nice retirement community near Orlando. When we're not traveling to Florida, we are frequently at Spring Hill Woodlands, LLC managing our trees, grasses and wildlife. It sounds easy, but it's not! I spend a lot of time killing stuff: vines, invasives, weed trees and pasture weeds. We've been managing this operation from Missouri for a lot of years now, but we really enjoy sitting out on our deck at the farm listening to the owls in the evening with glasses of wine after the ticks and chiggers have been dealt with. Much of my time here in Columbia is devoted to supporting Walnut Council where I serve as the Missouri Chapter President. Of course, I am a member of the Ohio Chapter as well. Living in two states means we do everything twice! April 4/5th we co-sponsored the "Missouri Woodland Conference" held in Jefferson City which attracted 105 people from five states, looking for information on growing and managing their trees. Our forest resource partners in this state came through with excellent presentations, and the feedback has been very positive. I'm not sure I want to plan one of these events again, but I'm convinced these same landowners would return and probably bring their neighbors. **Lenore** and I will be taking a break from farming, public service and our family in July with a trip to Hawaii. We're counting on the new federal tax plan going into effect later this year, retroactive to January 1st, which might yield a large enough return to cover our travel costs!

We were saddened to hear of the death of **Carl Anderson**. Carl was an Assistant State Engineer in Missouri in the late 1960s and early 1970s. He retired as the National Irrigation Engineer and moved back to Columbia when he retired. Obituary at: http://www.columbiatribune.com/obituaries/carl-leo-anderson/article_66137318-24f7-11e7-b9d9-af9401646cfa.html

MONTANA

Dick Gooby, ARCSE Representative

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Montana Big Sky Report

Kathy and Gordon Decker Report: Winter routines are pretty much normal: complaining about the weather, snow, cold, etc.

We spent a week in March in Scottsdale, AZ with Kathy's sister and family, going to the San Francisco Giants spring training baseball games. It was warm and sunny, temperatures ranged from 88 to 98 deg. F. This was our third year and is always lots of fun, except returning to Montana's snow and cold.

We have several trips coming up: a Grandson college graduation from Montana Tech in Butte, MT in early May; a niece college graduation in California in May; and a Grand niece high school graduation in June in Las Vegas.

Then we have trips scheduled to the ranch in April to open things up and see if everything survived the winter: wells, water pipes, etc. Then in May to scout and control noxious weeds, then in June for our annual family ranch maintenance and repair week.

It's the time of year where we are trying to get the flower and vegetable gardens ready for the summer season, which is a slow process in between rain showers and snow storms.

Gooby Ranch Report: We live in an area where when we have to go to a town it takes a half hour to two hours to get to a store that has what we need. We spend a lot of time driving. **Mary Ann** prefers that I drive when we are making the longer trips. I like to ride along and look out the window to see the scenery, wildlife and cattle, etc. However, over the years when we go together I have always driven, except for a few times when I went to a sports bar while Mary Ann was getting the groceries. Whenever I did that, Mary Ann was the designated driver. All the other times I have to drive.

I've been trying to figure out how I can get Mary Ann to drive while I just ride along and look the country over. I decided I needed to look through all the Natural Resources Conservation Service Management level 4 material to see if I could come up with an acceptable solution to me having to drive all the time. After I read through all the material, I got out the easel and had a one-person staff meeting to see what ideas I could come up with. I spent a week going through all the steps in the Management level 4 creativity planning process to come up with an acceptable solution that Mary Ann would buy into. Mary Ann is such a good worker and team player I didn't want come up with any solutions that would tend to upset her. Finally I hit on the solution that would work. A while back when I had a checkup with my doctor, he said I should drink more liquids. In order to drink more liquids I hit on the idea of every time we have to go to a town before we leave, I'll have a beer and Mary Ann will drive since I need a designated driver. I haven't had to drive for over three months now. That trip to the doctor really paid off.



Joyce Swartzendruber Report: I received this late 1970s newspaper photo in the mail today from **Lyle Darbyshire's** daughter. Lyle's been gone about three years, but he and **Stan Simmons** were my first trainers in the Washington County Field Office.

Bruce Van Laere and Meleia Shelman and I all retired in the past two years. I've lost track of **Gene Renken**, but many will recognize him for his part in CAMPS and FOCS.

There is at least 175 years of conservation work represented by these co-workers.

NEVADA

Liz Warner, ARCSE Representative

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In early April, the Nevada NRCS retirees and friends met for lunch on the spur of the moment when we heard that former State Resource Conservationist **Jim Doughty** would be in town! **Larry Goodson**, drove over from California to see his former boss.



Pictured are Gloria Doughty and Gary Monroe (seated) and Mark Twyeffort, Cub Wolfe, Linda Peri, Steve Slusser, Jim Doughty and Liz Warner. Not pictured are Larry Goodson and Terri Shultz.

The Society for Range Management International Conference and Trade Show will be held in Sparks in January 2018. Check out the Facebook page "Society for Range Management Annual Meeting, 2018" and start making your plans to attend! <https://www.facebook.com/Society-for-Range-Management-Annual-Meeting-2018-218128695319395/>



NEW YORK

Nancy Lee, ARCSE Representative
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A motley collection of former State Office employees at their annual luncheon held at the Central City Bar and Grill in Cortland, NY on April 5th. From left: Paul Webb, Steve Machovec, Tony Esser, Gary Lamont, and Walt Grajko. The luncheon was rescheduled from the middle of March due to over two feet of snow throughout central New York.

The NY retirees' annual picnic will be at Dorchester Park, Whitney Point, NY on Wednesday, July 12th starting at 11am with luncheon about 12 noon. Please join us!

NORTH DAKOTA

Robert "Bob" Bird, ARCSE Representative
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The signs of spring: the grass turning green, the trees and shrubs budding out, the birds singing, and the snowbirds returning from warmer climates. We spent a couple months in Texas again this year, mostly in the Houston and Austin areas. We visited most of the Painted Churches of Texas with most of them in the Schulenberg, TX area, which is halfway between San Antonio and Houston. There was also one near Plantersville and one in Fredericksburg. Close to where we were staying in Montgomery, TX (near Houston) we tried to get a look at **Tiger Woods'** first golf course design, Bluejack National, but it is a very private golf course community that is only open to members. The locals say that a man named Blake built his own golf course and called it Blaketree National. After he died, his children tried running it for a while but weren't able to make it payoff so they sold it. The new owners brought Tiger Woods in to redesign an 18-hole championship course and a par three nine-hole course, and they are developing a housing complex around it. The bluebonnets this year were just gorgeous and everywhere. They are protected in Texas and you are not allowed to pick them or damage them. I had been saving golf score cards and dropped off a bagful at Larry Miles' house in Round Rock, TX for his collection. He has over 83,000 golf score cards from all over the world. We later played golf at Lago Vista Golf Course west of Austin.

While in the Austin area we had lunch with **Bill and Kelli Stokes** from Killeen, TX. Bill is still giving tennis lessons. Bill and I worked together in the St. Paul, MN State office and retired about the same time.

The North Dakota SCS/NRCS retirees will be having our annual Reunion Luncheon at the Bismarck Elks Lodge Room at 11:30 am on Thursday, September 14th, 2017. This is one week earlier than our usual so mark your calendars and save the date. See you in September.

OREGON

Don Stettler, ARCSE Representative

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April 26th, the day of the Oregon retiree's spring quarter lunch at The Old Spaghetti Factory in Clackamas, was the 146th day it has rained in the Portland area since October 1, 2016. Despite that, there are signs of spring, and there was a good turnout for the lunch.

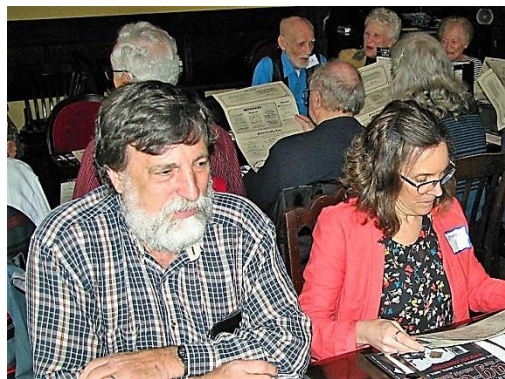
Attending were **Eldena VanderZanden, Jack Land, Dick and Kathy Sylvester, Thor Thorson, Lowell and Marian Kenedy, Clifton and Marva Deal, Kristi Yasumiish, Russ Hatz, Kay Denfeld, Bobbie Hart, Marcine Richmond, Anna Cerotsky, Lamont Robbins, Terry Mitchell, Roy Mann, Chad McGrath, Jon Lea, Beth Zetter, and yours truly, Don Stettler.**

Kay Denfeld is still enjoys playing with a Ukulele group in Scappoose. She recently traded her ten-year-old New VW Beetle for a Newer VW Beetle. **Marcine Richmond** has a trip planned to Nova Scotia. **Anna Cerotsky** is looking forward to visiting her daughter in California. **Bobbie Hart** recently called **Stan Hobson** because she couldn't dredge up a name of someone in the old WNTC. She said that Stan is doing well. **Jack Land's** pickup was stolen. The police found it about six blocks away. It had been stripped, including the engine. Jack's insurance company was very fair with the settlement. **Eldena VanderZanden** and her husband will be celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary with an Alaskan cruise.



Rain-swept walkway at The Old Spaghetti Factory with blooming azaleas.

Lamont Robbins is working on a list of honey-dos to support Karen's ministry. **Lowell and Marian Kenedy** are supporting their daughter who is now living in Tacoma. **Terry Mitchell** is waiting for drier weather so she can attack the weeds in her garden. **Dick and Kathy Sylvester** are staying close to home. Dick is staying busy with projects around the house. There always seems to be something. His latest project is to fix a non-working furnace. **Kristi Yasumiish** continues to enjoy retirement. **Kip** is planning to retire sometime in the near future. **Jon Lea** has been busy with his part in conducting the 85th Annual Western Snow Conference held earlier this month in Boise, ID.



Jon Lea and Kristi Yasumiish.



Thor Thorson and Chad McGrath.



Anna Cerotsky, Marcine Richmond, and Kay Denfeld.



Beth Zetter, Marva Deal, Clifton Deal, Lowell Kenedy, and Marian Kenedy.

Chad McGrath is staying close to home. His taxes are under audit, a first for him. **Thor Thorson** is still working for Home Depot. His son works for the Grammy Awards program in Los Angeles, CA. Thor and his wife were given tickets to attend. **Russ Hatz** keeps busy with travel associated with his AgCheck LLC business that provides verification services to USDA Organic Certification agencies for organic crops, and to farm-to-market enterprises for food safety certification.

The Summer quarter lunch will be held July 26th at the Peppermill Restaurant in Aloha.



Dick Sylvester, Kathy Sylvester, Terry Mitchell, and Beth Zetter.

PENNSYLVANIA

Bill Bowers, ARCSE Representative

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Hope you enjoyed the relatively mild and snow-free weather while it lasted. The spring flowers were poking their heads out of the soil hoping for an early spring display of colors. Now they are under 19 inches of snow in the Harrisburg area!

Mark your calendar for September 17th and 18th, 2017 for our annual get together! The group of **Tim Murphy, Rosemarie Updegraff, Gary Smith** (welcome to the group, Gary), **Bill Bowers** and our spouses put our heads together and have planned our outing for the Horseshoe Curve and the Altoona area. We will have a special guest in **Rob Clauto**, DC in Blair County to talk about his experiences as a civilian for a year in Afghanistan to carry out the USDA mission there. There will be a Sunday evening meal opportunity in Altoona for those local and traveling overnight. This is a great time to catch up with friends and former coworkers. We will meet on Monday at Hoss's in Altoona and visit the Horseshoe Curve after lunch. Options after the Horseshoe Curve will be the Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site in Cresson (<http://www.nps.gov/alpo/index.htm>) and the Railroaders Memorial Museum at the PRR yard in Altoona (<http://www.railroadcity.com/>). Details and registration information will follow in the next edition of the Bugle.

Hope to see you in Altoona in September!

Dave Lorenz writes: "After a little over five years in Texas, **Paula** and I are back in Pennsylvania. The grand kids lived just too far away for visiting on a regular basis, so we sold out in Texas for a comfortable dwelling in State College near Lamont, that has room for our four grand-children to stay and play. We are slowly getting used to the longer cooler winter, and I have found that I have retained my snow blowing/shoveling skills."

Kathy and Wes Gordon continue to enjoy life on their farm in Western Maryland. In January they were in Annapolis, MD to receive the Century Farm designation from Maryland Governor **Larry Hogan** at a ceremony honoring 32 MD farm families. Two weeks later they were in State College, PA to attend the annual conference of the Pennsylvania Association of Sustainable Agriculture (PASA) where they are lifetime members. **Wes** continues to serve on the Board of the Allegany County (MD) Soil Conservation District.

John Akers writes: "In November I assisted the Capitol RC&D office with the Cover Crop Transect Survey. **Joel Myers** and I did Cambria and Blair Counties, and I did Bedford and Fulton Counties by myself. Each county had about 800+ to 1000+ points to drive by and see if there was a cover crop there and what kind it was. If not, then we identified the crop that was there or had been there. We took about two days to do each county. This is part of the data being gathered for the Chesapeake Bay study. It was interesting to see how many farmers are using cover crops and that only a couple of farms in each county did fall plowing. I think the conservation message is getting out to the farming community."

Ann and I did get to see our five great grandchildren after Christmas. We did miss our daughter **Janice** at Christmas. She spent the Christmas holiday in Japan with her husband, who is on a naval aircraft carrier that is based in Japan. Hope all had a nice holiday season and have enjoyed the 'warm February' weather."

Don McCandless says that 2016 was not a good year: **Shirley** suffered from kidney failure, was on dialysis, and had heart surgery. Don also lost his brother **Bob** to congestive heart failure. Don had cataracts removed from both eyes, and he is hoping to better count points on antlered deer this fall.

Bill and Mary Ann Bowers have done some traveling in the past few months, including a family vacation to Iceland over Thanksgiving week. The northern lights were spectacular, waterfalls beautiful, Reykjavik food interesting, geothermal power amazing, and the Blue Lagoon relaxing. A great place to visit! We spent the Christmas/New Year week in Hilton Head, SC with the grand-children and family enjoying the warmer weather and hitting the links with daughter **Emily** and grandson **Ben**. They both need to spot me strokes! In March we are making a southern US swing to visit daughter **Amy** in Texas and swing by FL to

see a couple of Pirate spring training games. The February thaw enabled Bill to get the fruit trees and brambles all pruned and ready for spring.

Rich Shockey was featured in a recent issue of the Stroud Water Research Center's newsletter. He was described as "one of Stroud Water Research Center's most effective partners helping to spread the word about how streamside forests protect and restore streams and rivers. During the last 25 years, he has helped organize over 40 workshops involving more than 1,600 conservation professionals." Stroud's research scientist **Bern Sweeney** said "Rich is the kind of guy that every scientist hopes comes into his or her life. He gets the science and how careful placement of its simplified details into the hands of conservationists can empower them to get best management practices on the ground sooner rather than later and at a meaningful scale." The full article can be found at: <http://www.stroudcenter.org/newsletters/2016/issue5/meet-rich-shockey.shtm>.



Ed Brzostek and Wayne Bogovich at Wallops Island NASA Space Center in Virginia.

Ed Brzostek sent a photo of himself and **Wayne Bogovich** at the Wallops Island NASA Space Center in Virginia. They also managed to enjoy some awesome fresh oysters on Assateague Island from an oyster farm located right behind the restaurant. Life is good!

Nevin and Judy Ulery decided to escape the "frigid" winter conditions in PA by visiting their daughter in Austin, TX during February. They spent a weekend in San Antonio and visited the zoo, the rodeo, and the River Walk. It was only 86 degrees both days while they were in San Antonio!

They also spent a week in Jasper in east central TX by the Sam Rayburn dam. The dam was built by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1965. Authorized purposes were flood control, hydroelectric power generation, and water conservation for municipal, industrial, agricultural and recreational uses. It has a flood control capacity of 1,145,000 acre-feet.

They also attended the 2nd Annual Mardi Gras celebration in Jasper, visited the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe Reservation, Mission Dolores in San Augustine which was built in 1721, and the Big Thicket Natural Preserve where they saw pitcher plants and sundews, but the orchids were not yet blooming. (*bummer*).

And perhaps the most interesting site that they visited was the Patricia Huffman Smith NASA Museum in Hemphill, TX. This museum is dedicated to the seven astronauts who died during the breakup of the shuttle Columbia on its landing descent to Kennedy Space Center on February 1st, 2003. The museum also memorializes the pilot and fire fighter from the Texas Forest Service who died when their helicopter crashed during a search and rescue mission.

Tim and Gina Murphy just returned from a small ship cruise on the Adriatic Sea, visiting Croatia, Montenegro and Bosnia-Herzegovina. We went a few days early to also visit Slovenia. All of these countries were parts of the former Yugoslavia, with distinct cultural differences. There are still scars (physical and emotional) from the 1990s war, but also a lot of historic treasures and natural beauty to enjoy.

Duane Pysher notes that the NARFE magazine projects that the 115th Congress could be tough on employees and retirees. He suggested we all contact our Congressional members to support employee and retiree benefits and pay. It appears that benefits, salaries, and annuities could be in jeopardy.

Bugle Editor's note: National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE, www.narfe.org) is the only organization that lobbies for and protects benefits for all active and retired federal employees. You can join on their website.

John Zaginaylo, Jr. reminisces: Every time an invitation comes to contribute to the Bugle I think of my days in the Washington County Project office, especially the other employees who were there during 1976-1978. In particular I would like to share and honor one of them, **John Sturni**. He passed away some time ago but left a legacy with many. John was a severely wounded World War II veteran who chose to work instead of taking disability. This gave him a unique perspective on life and work.



Old Bridge (Stari Most) in Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Bill Bowers, the project engineer at the time, assigned me to work with John my first summer of full time employment. It may have been to get experience or to back up John when the work got ahead of him. John was never one to worry about anything. He said each day of his life was a gift and nothing much rattled him. My favorite memory is when he would say it was time to get to work, "But before we do, I must sing a little song" and he would--mostly jingles or jokes.

At times when it was bad weather and the job was shut down, the contractor's superintendent by the name of "Zelly" would come into the construction trailer. Those two would trade jokes and stories back and forth for who knows how long. It was all one could do to get back to work.

There was the time John warmed his pizza in the soil test oven just before National and State office VIPs visited the site. He would forget to remove the concrete thermometer from the test sample, and the concrete would set up with it in it. Density testing was difficult for him because of his wounded and mangled hand.

When asked why he did not get a prosthesis, he would respond with "as long as my thumb works I can hold a can a beer," and that is all that mattered. One quote of his to remember: "God put us all on this earth with a given number of days to live. When you're fishing, those days do not count against you."

Hurshal Boyd, former Assistant State Conservationist for Pennsylvania, died on February 28th at the age of 96. Hursh was a native of Seneca, NM and had served in the Army Air Corp in WWII.

Verne Bathurst, who served a long stint in NHQ, passed away on December 26th, 2016. He began his SCS career in Kansas, and also worked in Maryland and Michigan before going to Washington. He served as State Conservationist in Arizona until retirement.

Mark Allen Rose, age 56 of La Plata, Maryland died February 21st. Mark was a Soil Conservationist for NRCS, working in Ohio, Oklahoma, Maryland, and Washington, DC for USDA.

"The thin layer of soil that forms a patchy covering over the continents controls our own existence and that of every other animal on the land." --Rachel Carson, author of "Silent Spring."

SOUTH CAROLINA

Grady Adkins, ARCSE Representative

Ellis Morrow, ARCSE Representative

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The spring meeting was held April 20th, 2017 at the Blue Fin Restaurant. Following an excellent seafood lunch, Mr. **Scott McDaniel**, Environmental Manager for Oceana Gold's Haile Gold Mine, kept the group awed as he described gold from its primordial formation process to its modern extraction with heavy equipment and chemicals. The restoration work which parallels the extraction process results in a net environmental improvement of the site. A site visit is anticipated when safety rules allow.

Jimmy Sanders recently became a Grandfather. Let the spoiling begin. **Dennis Bauknight** was appointed to the SC Forestry Board for Pickens County.

Allen Crowe celebrated his 74th birthday at the meeting and continues to follow his grandchildren and their soccer-playing. He still likes old cars and goes to car shows when he has a chance. **Ray Curl** advised that he had already mowed his yard and is doing some wood working. He plans to go to the Mennonites farm equipment sale in April.

Donald Dotson has a granddaughter who is a cheerleader, and they are going to high school sporting events. Donald is working part time for the county as a park attendant on a county park that is near the Natchez Trace Parkway just off Highway 96.



South Carolina Retirees Meeting April 20, 2017 at the Blue Fin Restaurant, Columbia, SC. Front Row, standing and seated: Dan Guy, Mary Thompson, Mackey Robinson, Laurley Nance, Linda McNeill. Back Row, standing: Larry Robinson, Scott McDaniel, (Speaker), Luke Nance, Grady Adkins, Bill Melven, Marcia Adkins, Hugh Caldwell, Byron Thompson, Ellis Morrow, Sylvia Williams, and James Williams. Attending but not pictured: Carolyn and Niles Glasgow.

TENNESSEE

Allen T. Crowe, ARCSE Representative

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The following was submitted by Dana York.

Nineteen retirees and one guest were present for the meeting held at Ryan's Restaurant, Lebanon, TN. Those present follow, with brief news.

Larry Blick advised that **Barb** was back attending college at MTU and taking Horse Science. They go to see the horses every day. A lot of us follow them on Face Book, and we see a side of Larry that most of us who worked with him never saw before.

Debbie Brasfield is a new proud grandmother and is thrilled. She is currently back working for the NRCS through the NOWCC/ACES program and doing volunteer work in her spare time.

Carol Chandler is working with the Master Gardener program. She has a grandson 19 months old and another due in three months. She is currently planning some extended travel later in the summer. She had planned to catch up on her reading after retirement but is too busy.

Jeanne Eastham continues to work with the NRCS and recently attended TACD. She has been helping her daughter who had surgery. She is also working in her garden. **Patty Lane** says she is a "professional chauffeur" for grandchildren for soccer and whatever else they need.

Laura Lee attended our meeting for the first time. She has six-year-old twin grandchildren living in Lebanon and spends some time there. She is glad to be retired.

Ardelle Langdon spent the Christmas season with family in Minnesota and is always glad to be back home out of the cold north country. She plans a summer trip later in the year. **Jim Lansford** spent the winter staying warm and busy but not rushed. He's been attending a lot of funerals and usually spends a few days a week taking care of grandchildren. Jim noted that **Lou Richards** was recovering from a broken knee cap.

Carter Harris, another new first time retiree says he is no longer a slave to the clock. Glad to become a member and plans to do some travel this summer. **Larry and Connie Hasty** are having grandkids getting married. They have 12 (not all getting married). They built a cabin on the farm and are spending a lot of time working there. Larry has been elected to the SCD Board.

Bobby Moore is still working part time and doing the flea market. They have two boys and four grandchildren: two boys and two girls. **Tom Pointer** was glad to be able to come to the meeting and liked the meeting place and food. Tom has been retired 34 years.

Ann Sue Wattenbarger has been retired 15 months and a first-time attendee. She stays busy with house and yard work. More recently vehicle maintenance has taken a lot of time. **James Sims** spent several days in West Tennessee cleaning up trees blown down on and around his home place. He spent a few days bass fishing near Jacksonville, FL. He and the crew who have fished at Reelfoot Lake for many years are planning a few days on Kentucky Lake in April. He continues to work with the NRCS in the ACES program.

Debbie advised that **Mike Hart and Kevin Davis** recently retired. It was also noted Kevin Davis is working with NRCS through the ACES program.

Next meeting is scheduled for June 15th, 2017 in the Dickson Area. Arrangements are still being made. There is also a meeting scheduled for October 19th, 2017, tentatively in Cookeville, and December 14th, 2017 in Lebanon.

Bobby Tidwell let us know that he is taking care of his dad and unable to attend the meetings this year. **Naomi Hamilton-Johnson** would love to see everyone but seems that something is always going on. I am asking for the prayers of everyone. **George** has been very sick and during that process his kidneys failed. However, my granddaughter (**Misa Hamilton**) has been fighting brain cancer since November 2016. We need everyone to pray for a miracle for her. She is only four years old, and the doctors have said they had done all they can. Thanks.

Jack and Anna Chidester could not attend because they are on a church group trip to Fall Creek Falls. Jack is feeling better.

TEXAS NORTH

Arnold King, ARCSE Representative

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Seventeen members attended the February 17th meeting. Those attending were **Earl Blakley, Dennis Gaster, Bernie and Maxine Owen, Joyce Petty, Anita Plummer, Dennis Erinakes, Don Newman, Doug Seibel, Billy Don and Elaine Davis, Morris Lobrecht, Dave and Barb Stockbridge, Clyde Goodman, Mark Boysen, and Tom Hodges.**

On February 15th, **Bernie Owen** headed a panel discussion for employees at the Fort Worth NRCS Federal Center. The title was "Retired Federal Employees Forum - If I knew then what I know now!" Other panel members included NRCS retirees **Clyde Goodman, Julius Lyons, Dennis Gaster, Sue Brooks, Floyd Gray,** and National Weather Service retiree **Ben Weiger.** Approximately 60 employees attended, with another 20 listening in on the phone. The discussion was well received, and of course we all emphasized the importance of joining the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE).



Bernie Owen gave a very informative presentation on Federal Income Tax for 2016 at the February meeting.



Yummy muffins by Marie Garsjo at the February 17th meeting.

Green Bean Thanksgiving Casserole Muffins, from the Ritz Company via Facebook

- 1.5 sleeve Ritz crackers + grind up the other half for topping
- 1.5 cup French fried onions
- ½ can Cream of Mushroom Soup
- Pulse in food processor; spread into muffin tins as crust—makes 12, 3-inch muffins (11 really)
- 2 cups green beans
- ¾ cup cheddar cheese, grated
- 1 cup French fried onions
- ½ cup milk
- ½ can Cream of Mushroom Soup
- Mix well by hand, spoon into lined muffin tins
- Sprinkle the extra crackers crumbs on the top (I put grated cheese too)
- Bake at 350o for 20 minutes, and you might have to broil it for a minute to get the top brown.

News from **Dave Drennan** February 24, 2017: This is to let you know that I was taken by ambulance and hospitalized in ICU, Huguley Hospital on Feb 13th. I had passed out and had a bleeding colon ulcer. Other things showed up later, like pneumonia from being intubated and some injuries from the fall. I was in the ICU five days and the Progressive Care Unit five days. I'm at home now and glad to be here. However, I have a debt of gratitude I owe to the doctors and nurses and all the support staff at Huguley. They're the best! They changed up some things that will take some effort on my part, but will be well worth it--quality of life issues we seniors have to deal with. Well, that's the Reader's Digest version. Things are looking up! I've got an angel (**Jean**) with Drill Sergeant stripes here at home to care for me. She's really the best! Hope to see you and the bunch soon.

Larry Butler wrote on March 2nd, 2017: I retired exactly 10 years ago from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service AND **Dorlene** retires TOMORROW! We sold our house in Weatherford, TX, and we purchased a house and 10 acres in far northcentral Arkansas (beautiful) in Mountain Home, AR. We are a happy couple and excited about our new life "on the ridge!"

Twelve members attended the March 17th meeting. Those attending were **Earl Blakley, Dennis Gaster, Bernie and Maxine Owen, Mary Mattison, Anita Plummer, Dennis Erinakes, Don Kapalka, Bernelle Baxley, Billy Don and Elaine Davis, and Dave Drennan.**

Sue Brooks is thoroughly enjoying spending time with her grandsons, ages 10, 7, 6, and 2+ in Southlake, TX. She volunteers at her church and is also mentoring a child in reading at a school.



Don and Nita Holley are very proud of their grandson, Kevin Holley, who recently became an Eagle Scout.

Bernie Owen is busy during this tax season helping many folks prepare their taxes. He will be participating in a National Active and Retired Federal Employee (NARFE) recruiting effort at the Federal Center on May 15th. **Dave Buland** enjoyed the February 15th Retirees Forum which led him to do further research. He thought the information on the Thrift Savings Plan was helpful. He said the forum was especially important since his human resource contact is in Alabama! We miss the on-site help from **Michelle Lewis** who is now retired.

Dave Drennan has had some health issues that just kind of piled up on him. His balance and strength are not back to where they once were, but we are glad to hear that he is able to watch his 10-year-old grandson play baseball. His older grandson has found out that refereeing soccer games pays handsomely.

Don Kapalka reported that his wife fell and shattered her humerus. She underwent surgery and had a ball and socket reversal procedure. The heart medicine that she was taking caused her to faint and then fall. Then Don fell and hurt his shoulder. But if that was not enough to deal with, he got the flu, tried to tough it out, and then spent three weeks in the hospital to the tune of \$135,000. Thank the Lord for health insurance! On a happier note, he sold his pride and joy, a 1986 Chevrolet pickup for \$4,000! And even better than that, his second grandchild is coming in August.

Mary Mattinson's son has left his job as a computer specialist at Cook Children's Hospital to work for another firm. His new position requires a lot of travel with generous per diem, and he said it is more like a vacation than a job.

Maxine Owen reported the following on **Betty Sisson** April 15th: It was reported in February that Betty had been hospitalized following an episode with a rapid heartbeat. She was admitted to the hospital pulmonary unit and later transferred to a rehabilitation center to recover from the flu. A couple of weeks later Betty moved to a home owned by her niece, **Michelle Cyrus**, as it is a single-story compared to Betty's two story home. Michelle and her husband, **Bill**, have been visiting Betty every day and staying with her often. They have made certain she has everything she needs, and a few friends have visited. Betty has been slowly recovering until she fell about April 12th. Her niece called the EMT's, and they checked her over, but Betty refused to go to the hospital this time. She is pretty uncomfortable now but will probably welcome calls and possibly visitors in a few days. Her telephone number is 817-923-1792. She is still receiving mail at her own address: 4437 Bellaire Drive S., Fort Worth, TX 76109. She would enjoy hearing from you.

Dennis Erinakes is another casualty in the falling down category. His two dogs really did not mean to do it. He forgave them and said he was taking them bird hunting in Nebraska. **Dennis** is still working with the Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District. He also brought a book to the meeting called "The Lost Ways," which has a lot of information on how the people lived and survived in the old days, and how we might benefit in using that knowledge today.

Anita Plummer is enjoying a nice visit over the Easter weekend from her daughter **Penny** and her family. They arrived earlier this week from North Carolina.

Dennis Gaster enjoys traveling the 53 miles to see his grandchildren, but is not too happy having to pay some pretty steep tolls--\$10.68 round trip to McKinney. However, he doesn't have to dodge any potholes like he finds on the Interstates! We need to keep an eye on Congress and the budget. One proposal would have the government reduce the amount it contributes to our health insurance premiums. What if they decide to pay only 50% of the premium? **Dennis** would have to pay an additional \$337.00 per month! Ouch! Oh wait, maybe a cost of living allowance will cover it--yeah, right!

Scouts from Arlington Boy Scout Troop 68 worked on merit badge requirements for Rifle Shooting and Shotgun Shooting on March 25th. **Dennis Gaster's son Donald** received his Eagle Rank in 1992, and Dennis has been a part of this firearms training since 1986.



.22 Caliber rifle shooting



12 and 20 gauge shotgun shooting

VIRGINIA

Kenneth Carter, ARCSE Representative

Email: duckheadone@gmail.com

Virginia has been saddened by the loss of three long time conservationists in the state. Within a week, Soil Conservation Technicians **Overton "T" Hopkins** and **Jack Warren** both passed away. "T" worked primarily from the Charlottesville Office and Jack from the Louisa sub-office under the direction of the DC in Charlottesville. Jack Warren was well known in the state for his bird dogs and his pursuit of the elusive bobwhite quail.

Also on April 13th, 2017 **Fred B. Givens** passed away. Fred had an increasing career, to say the least. He worked for many years on the Watershed Design team as an engineer in Richmond. He also served as the state's first Shoreline Erosion Engineer and developed a strong program of landowner assistance that was later managed by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. Fred was then able to return to his home county and serve as the District Conservationist for Giles, Bland and Pulaski Counties. Never one to sit still, Fred served a number of Inter-Personnel Agreements (IPA) with the state agency to develop the basis of a Chesapeake Bay state cost share program, surface mine BMP manual, and developed the first state efforts in nutrient management planning for waste application.

We also welcome to ranks of retirement **John Dille**, District Conservationist in Tappahannock, VA and **Gene Crabtree**, Area Resource Conservationist in Smithfield VA.

Wade Biddix and his wife, **Joanne**, recently vacationed to Phoenix, AZ. Wade verifies that it is true what you hear about the "dry heat." It was 80-90 degrees+ during the day, but it didn't feel quite that hot when compared to the humid temperatures in the east.

While in Phoenix, they took in a baseball game between the Diamondbacks and Indians. This is the 20th MLB park for Wade and Joanne. They hope to visit all 30 of the parks in the next few years. They played golf four times at some wonderful courses: Seville, Gainey Ranch, Painted Mountain and Anthem. They also did some hiking in the U.S. National State and national parks. The cacti were abundant, and the flowers were in bloom due to a fairly wet period in the western states. The clear, blue skies and vistas were breathtaking – you could see for miles.

They were fortunate to catch up with some other retired NRCS employees who live in the Phoenix area. They had drinks and dinner with **Warren and Barbara Lee**, who are the typical "snowbirds" with a home in Mesa, AZ and also one near Fredericksburg, VA. Warren is the former director of the Watersheds and Wetlands Division at NHQ. They had lunch with **Steve and Lecia Black**. Steve is the former Deputy State Conservationist in Virginia and State Conservationist in Colorado. They also had lunch with **Maribeth Pettigrew**, a former Administrative Assistant in the Richmond State Office. It was great catching up with these friends and former co-workers.





www.arcse.org

WASHINGTON, DC, NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

John Peterson, ARCSE Representative

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John and Blanche Peterson will attend the South STC and Friends annual get-together in Circleville, OH May 7-11. This annual meeting will be hosted by past SCS Chief **Bill Richards**, assisted by **Rich and Jude Duesterhaus**. This is an annual get-together that the SE STC's and Friends have conducted for years, and it is a wonderful time to get together with old friends--SE STC's or not. We will have a golf outing on Tuesday, May 9th at Cooks Creek Golf Club Raintree South, with a practice round on Monday. **Bill Richards** has a swimming pool at his farm that people can use. We have a group dinner on Tuesday night, and people will just reminisce and tour at their leisure. We could have 40-50 attendees. I wonder if the SCS/NRCS retirees in other sections of the US do something similar? Circleville is known as the "Pumpkin Capital of the World." Should be a great time.

Peterson's have lived in the DC area since 1978, and had never taken one of the cruises on the Potomac River. One of their daughters who lives on Maine, **Shannon Dube**, and her family, husband **Jeremy**, children **Lilly and William**, came for Easter. They all took a trip on the cruise ship Odyssey, and had a great time. The grandchildren got to sit in the Captain's chair and imagine what it is like to pilot the ship. The food and sights were just great. Anyone coming to the Washington, DC area would enjoy this trip. Took **Peterson's** 36 years to finally take this trip in their own back yard.



Jeremy, Lilly, and Shannon Dube; Blanch and John Peterson; William Dube on cruise.



Art Holland, John Peterson, Niles Glasgow, and Don Gohmert at the Crazy Crab Restaurant, Hilton Head Island, SC, March 21, 2017.

From **Carl Bouchard**: Each year, I state that it will be my last for spending the week photographing the Cherry Blossom Princesses during the Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington DC for the National Conference of State Societies but each year I return. Guess they must be pleased with my photographs as they keep asking me back but it is getting harder to follow 50+/- young ladies around Washington: I have to break out of my routine and get up by 6 am and keep going until 10 or 11 at night. This year, in spite of the cold spell we had in March which killed about 50% of the Yashino cherries, we still had beautiful blooms and they held on for the duration. Miss South Dakota **Samantha Olsen** won the spin of the wheel, while **Alauna Martinez** representing the US Virgin Islands was 1st Runner-up. The Sushi Chefs direct from Japan provided an excellent reception. Another high-light was **Ivanka Trump** joining us at the Japanese Ambassador's home with her two oldest children for **Ambassador Sasae's** reception. I also need to mention that Washington's **Monika Keller** was voted Miss Congeniality by the Princesses, but I understand that I was almost voted in but disqualified in the end. The link to over 6,000 pictures if someone wants to spend time is

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/152612425@N04/albums>.



US Queen Samatha Olsen and Japan Queen Yuki Shimono at the Parade on the Queen Float.



Japan Princess Tamako Okano lighting the 400 year old lantern on the Tidal Basin.



Janet and Carl Bouchard by the Tidal Basin, Washington, DC.



Dancers at the Russian Cultural Center.



Class picture by the Crystal City Park fountain.



Ivanka Trump with Princesses. Florida, partially hidden, was wearing one of Ivanka's designs.

WASHINGTON

Gerald Richard, ARCSE Representative

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Present at our March and/or April luncheons at the Timber Creek Grill and Buffet were **Jud Melton, Joe Carmack, Harry Riehle, Ralph Schmidt, Larry Edmonds, Carl Vennes and Ken Kaul**. **Joe Carmack** has left for the family farm in Tennessee to help with the spring farming and planting. **Ralph Schmidt and Larry Edmonds** continue to make big strides in recovering from their

heart procedures. In fact, Larry has been seen actively feeding his livestock. **Carl Vennes** continues to be active in cribbage meetings and contests. **Jud and Karen Melton** have been involved in a major renovation of their patio and boat dock, and it's looking good. **Phyllis Richard** continues to receive hospice and homecare. Our group was saddened to see **Larry Zehm** pass away. Larry quite often joined us at our luncheons, had an active conservation program on his land, and was a classmate and good friend of Jud Melton in their college days.

WEST VIRGINIA

Peg Reese, ARCSE Representative

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Freddie Fields, former District Conservationist in Parkersburg, passed away on March 28th, 2017. He is well known for his wood art, particularly his conservation pieces and West Virginia clocks. Freddie was a conservation district supervisor for 22 years and spent several years before and after as an associate supervisor. Read more in the Obituary section of this newsletter.

Jim Clevenger reports that "My neck continues to improve. The brace came off about two weeks ago, but still some difficulty getting around, not allowed to drive and not supposed to lift more weight than a quart of milk. With all of this beautiful spring weather it's exasperating not being able to get out much."

WISCONSIN

Jim Enlow, ARCSE Representative

Email: ljenlow@att.net

The Wisconsin retirees met for lunch on April 13th at Grizzly's Pub & Grill in Eau Claire, WI. **Vic Price** was the host. Those in attendance included **Vic and Mary Price, Louis and Kathy Barber, Steve Rake, Bob Uhrig, Dale and Rita Jakel, Olin and Jan Femreite, Larry and Geri Natzke, and Bob Henrich**. The attendance was down because it was right before Easter. During and after lunch the group enjoyed fellowship.

The next luncheon is scheduled for June 8 at Langford's Pub & Grill, Green Lake, WI. **Erv Lesczynski and Steve Prissel** will be the hosts.

WYOMING

Veronica Schadegg, ARCSE Representative

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Pictured are the attendees of the NRCS Retirees Get Together at the Don and Shirley Tranas home in Greybull on March 8, 2017. The event was organized by Don Tranas and Tom Gustafson.



WY Retirees. Kneeling: Don Gaddie, Geri Sullivan, Bob Lebruska, Ben Adams, and Jerry Forster. Standing: Glenn Mitchell, Frank Neal, Gary Buckingham, Larry Murphy, Paul Starkey, Phil Gonzales, Tom Gustafson, Jim Sutherland, and Don Tranas.

It was decided that there would be another get together held in Greybull next year on April 4th, 2018. Please mark this on your calendars if you are interested in attending. More information will follow.

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.*

Thomas C. G. Hodges Fort Worth, TX

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. 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)

- Anderson** **Carl Leo Anderson** (96) of Columbia, Missouri passed away on April 3, 2017. Carl, better known as "Leo" was born in Longton, Kansas. Leo was named Outstanding Young Farmer by the 4-H Club in 1939. Leo served in the U.S. Navy during WWII as a radioman on the USS Perkins, which was sunk and then the USS Bearss. When he returned from the war, he completed his college education at Kansas State University on the G.I. Bill. He began his career with the Soil Conservation Service in Kansas as a field irrigation engineer and retired as the National Irrigation Engineer in Washington, D.C. Leo was the published author of three irrigation manuals. He traveled to Turkey, Russia, and Pakistan to assist farmers with irrigation projects. Leo was a member of the Valley View Church of Christ. During his lifetime he preached and taught the gospel. Leo preached his last sermon when he was 91 years old. Those surviving Leo are daughters and spouse, **Joyce Mahan and Karla (Richard) McGough**; 10 grandchildren; and 20 great- grandchildren. Leo was preceded in death by his wife of 70 years, **Nina Grace Preston Anderson**, and his grandson, **Landon Dasher**.
- Baker** **Orlan J. Baker** (84) of Rogers, Arkansas passed away on January 5, 2012. He retired in 1990 as a Soil Conservation Technician with the Soil Conservation Service in Medicine Lodge, Kansas.
- Barefoot** Senior Conservationist **Stanley O. Barefoot** (92) of Raleigh, North Carolina passed away on April 19, 2017. Stanley retired December 31, 1984 as Planning Engineer on the Watershed/River Basin Planning staff, Raleigh, NC. He graduated from NC State University with Agricultural Engineering degree in 1949. He served in the US Navy 1949-1951. He began his career as the manager of the Rowan Farmers Co-Op, Salisbury, NC. In 1952 he was employed by the Southern Railway, Spencer, NC. Then he worked for the Trexler Tractor and Equipment Co., Salisbury, NC. In 1953 he started his career with the Soil Conservation Service as Area Engineer, Elizabeth City, NC. In 1956, Stanley accepted the Area Engineer position in Goldsboro, NC. In 1956 he became Construction Engineer in Rome, Georgia, and in 1960 he was the Planning Engineer on the Watershed Planning staff, Athens, Georgia. He returned to North Carolina in 1962 as Area Engineer in Goldsboro and then became Project Engineer for the Crabtree Creek Watershed project, and finally Planning Engineer on the Watershed/River Basin Planning staff. Stanley was the long-time treasurer of the SCS remembrance fund for North Carolina. Stanley was preceded in death by his wife, **Ann**. He is survived by three sons and three grandchildren.
- Boecking** Senior Conservationist and Honorary Member **Robert Harvey Boecking** (94) of Montrose, Colorado passed away on October 31, 2016. He attended college after high school before enlisting in the United States Army Air Force. He was selected for pilot training and served his country during World War II as a B-17 Bomber Pilot. Bob went back to school at the University of Nebraska where he graduated in January 1948 with a degree in Conservation in Natural Resources. He retired from the Soil Conservation Service in 1980 as the Resource Conservationist at the Midwest NTC in Lincoln, NE. He was married to **Betty**.
- Boyd** Honorary Member and Senior Conservationist **Hurshal E. Boyd** (96) of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania passed away on February 28, 2017 at Messiah Lifeways. He was born in Seneca, NM. He was a graduate of Kansas State University, where he received his Bachelor's Degree. He also served in the US Army Air Corps during World War II. He retired from the Soil Conservation Service in 1977 as an Assistant State Conservationist in Pennsylvania. Hurshal was preceded in death by his wife **Rosann Boyd** in 2011. He is survived by his sons, **Stephen M. Boyd** and **Robert W. Boyd**; daughters, **Deborah K. Boone** and **Danette M. Hoffman**; a grandson; three granddaughters; a great- grandson and two great- granddaughters. Hurshal was an avid golfer, dedicated family man, and a terrific socializer. Memorial contributions can be made to Compassionate Care Hospice 1513 Cedar Cliff Dr #100, Camp Hill, PA 17011.
- Britton** **Legion Owens Britton** (81) of Edenton, North Carolina passed away on January 12, 2017. Legion retired as the Administrative Assistant for the Edenton Area. She was the first woman in North Carolina to serve as the Director of the NC Federal Women's Program for NRCS. Mrs. Britton was born in Chowan County and lived there all her life. Following her retirement, she worked for several years at the Barker House. A member of Edenton Baptist Church, she also enjoyed membership in the Edenton Chapter #302, The Order of the Eastern Star where she had served as Worthy Matron, was active with the Edenton Historical Commission, and had served as President with the Business and Professional Women's Club. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, **Junius Frank Britton**; a daughter, **Janet Britton O'Donnell**; her grandson, **Patrick O'Donnell**. Surviving are her son, **Charles A. Britton** of Edenton; two granddaughters; and two great-granddaughters.
- Burkeen** Honorary Member and Senior Conservationist **James O. Burkeen** (92) of Paducah, Kentucky, passed away on May 29, 2016 at Ray & Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center in Paducah. He was a member of Reidland United Methodist Church and was a 1947 graduate of Murray State University with a bachelor's degree in agriculture. James was employed as a teacher in the Veterans on Farm Training Program in Trigg County and Fulton County and was employed by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service for 30 years serving as McCracken County District Conservationist for 26 years, retiring in 1988. He is survived by his

wife of 49 years, **Julia Arnett Burkeen**; a son, **James McKinley Burkeen** of Murrieta, California; two grandchildren, **Nicolas** and **Leila Burkeen** of Murrieta; and six nieces and four nephews. Expressions of sympathy may be made to Reelfoot Rural Ministries, 6923 Minnick Elbridge Rd., Obion, TN 38240 or Reidland United Methodist Church Helping Hands Fund, 5515 Reidland Rd., Paducah, KY 42003. Online condolences may be left at www.milnerandorr.com.

- Currier** Honorary Member and Senior Conservationist **Raymond Currier** (98) of the Eastern Star Masonic Home and formerly of rural Ogden, Iowa passed away on February 21, 2017 at the Eastern Star Home. He retired from the Soil Conservation Service in 1980 as a District Conservationist. He was born in Chariton, Iowa. Raymond graduated from Indianola High School in Indianola in 1935 and in 1940, received his Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy from Iowa State College. He met his future wife, Dixie Cooper, at a dance. They were married on September 14, 1941 in Ogden. Raymond farmed south of Ogden in Peoples Township. He was partial to Farmall Tractors. The couple enjoyed dancing, especially square dancing and ballroom dancing, camping, traveling, and for 30 years, spending the winters in southern Alabama. Raymond was a member of Community United Methodist Church, the Ogden Masons, Rhoades Lodge #303 A.F. & A.M., and the ZA-GA-ZIG Shrine. He was very good with his hands and could fix most anything. Raymond enjoyed making pigs out of pecan shells. He is preceded in death by his wife **Dixie**, in 2014, and son **Dr. Robert Currier**. Raymond is survived by his daughter, **Connie Rudy** of rural Ogden; three grandchildren; and seven great grandchildren.
- Ewing** **James W. "Jim" Ewing** (93) formerly of State Route 172, passed away peacefully on April 23, 2017 at the Courtyard at Lexington in Salem, Ohio. He was born in Gavers, Ohio. Jim was a farmer and had worked for the Soil Conservation Service in Columbiana County for 28 years until he retired. He was an 80-year member of the New Lebanon United Presbyterian Church; past president of the Lisbon Ruritan; member of the New Lisbon Lodge #65 F&AM; and was a former member of the Lisbon Grange. Jim also loved to play the fiddle and bass guitar and call square dances. His wife, **Doris Mae (Haynam) Ewing**, whom he married June 12, 1949, preceded him in death August 2, 2013. Jim is survived by his four sons, 10 grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren; and one great-great grandson. Memorial contributions may be made to the New Lebanon U.P. Church or the American Cancer Society. Friends may view Jim's memorial tribute page and send condolences online at www.eells-leggett-stauffer.com.
- Fields** **Freddie L. Fields** (85) of Parkersburg, West Virginia passed away on March 28, 2017 at his residence. He was born in Roane County, WV. Freddie worked for the Department of Agriculture as a Soil Conservationist. He enjoyed wood working, was a master craftsman, and also enjoyed working on cars. Freddie was a U.S. Navy Veteran. He is survived by his wife, **Alsie Fields**; his daughter, **Linda Fields** of Parkersburg; a son, **Paul Fields (Colleen)** of Morgantown, WV; two grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.
- Givens** **Fred (F.B.) Bell Givens, Jr.** (82) of Newport, Virginia passed away on April 13, 2017 at his home. Fred was born in Fredericksburg, VA. Fred received his B.S. degree from Virginia Tech and his M.S. from Penn State in Agriculture Engineering. While his first love was farming, he retired from the Soil Conservation Service after having served as a Watershed Design Engineer, Shoreline Erosion Engineer and a District Conservationist for three counties. Fred was widely known as "Mr. Pumpkin" after having the "Misty Mt. Pumpkin Festival" on his farm. After nine years of this festival, Fred and Rennie sold homemade ice cream at fairs and festivals making it with a "John Deer hit and miss engine." Fred loved his family, his church and people in general and was so proud of his grandchildren. He was preceded in death by an infant son, **Fred Bell Givens, III**. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, **Irene (Rennie) Semones Givens** of Newport, son **Joseph K. (Leslie) Givens** of Newport, one daughter **Amy Suzanne Givens (Frederick) Moler** of New Castle, and six grandchildren. Online condolences can be sent to the family at givensfuneralhome.com.
- Gray** **Shirley A. Gray** (81) passed away on March 11, 2017, in Abilene, Kansas. She was married to **Earl Gray** who retired from the Soil Conservation Service as a Construction Inspector headquartered in Abilene. He preceded her in death in 2012. Shirley had been employed for 26 years by The Citizens Bank in Abilene, retiring in 1997. She was also preceded in death by a daughter, **Sherry Wolfe-Eyer**. Shirley is survived by a son and three step-children. Online condolences may be left at <http://dannerfuneralhome.net/>.
- Grice** **Darrell Gene Grice** (86) passed away on March 18, 2017 in Houston, Texas. He was born in Robstown, Texas. Gene graduated from Texas Tech University in 1951 and joined the Air Force. While stationed in Columbia, South Carolina, he met the love of his life, **Elizabeth Ann Stevens**, and they were married on July 5, 1953, in Birmingham, Alabama. After his discharge from the Air Force, they moved to Hamlin, Texas, to farm and start a family. Gene started working for the Soil Conservation Service in 1957 in Littlefield, Texas. This job required many moves in Texas, Pennsylvania and finally Massachusetts, where he retired in 1987 as the State Soil Scientist. Gene and Liz spent their retirement years in Lufkin, Texas, where Gene was active in their church, volunteered in local schools and museums, and was a member of multiple Toastmasters groups. He is survived by daughters and son-in-law, **Martha and Bryan Steger** of Taos, New Mexico and **Carol and Jeff Castro** of Houston; son and daughter-in-law, **James and Joanna Grice** of LaGrange, Kentucky; son-in-law, **Travis Hardaway** of Round Top; and eight grandchildren. Gene was preceded in death by his wife **Elizabeth**, and daughters, **Mary Elizabeth Grice** and **Lea Ann Grice Hardaway**. Should you desire, memorial contributions may be made to The Alzheimer's Foundation, P. O. Box 96011, Washington, DC 20090-6011 (1-800-272-3900), or the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, 6931 Arlington Road, 2nd Floor, Bethesda, MD 20814 (1-800-344-4823).
- Griffin** **Robert "Bob" Keith Griffin** (89) passed away on Saturday, April 15, 2017, in Pocatello, ID. He was born in Pueblo, Colorado. As a member of the Greatest Generation, Bob, as well as most of the young men of his time, enlisted in the [United States Marine Corps](http://www.usmc.mil) in service of his country. The war was winding down, and he was honorably discharged in August of 1945. Bob took advantage of the GI bill benefit and graduated from Colorado State University with a bachelor's degree as well as a master's from the University of Southern California. During those years Bob was a father to three children: **Gary, Cheryl**, and **Elaine**. After receiving his master's degree, Bob accepted a position as a range conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service in Bismarck, ND, where he met and married **Merle Winko** and became a step-father to her two daughters, **Sharon** and **Sandy**. Bob and Merle were transferred to Salina, Kansas to be the Deputy State Conservationist and later promoted to the State Conservationist. Bob continued in that capacity until his untimely medical retirement in 1980. Bob received many honors during his eight years in Kansas. The one most notable was the Conservationist of the Year Governors Award. In 2011, Bob moved to Pocatello, ID, where he married a longtime friend, **Jerry Younkin** who also was recently

widowed. Bob was preceded in death by his wife, **Merle**. He is survived by his wife, **Jerry**, Pocatello; son, **Gary (Chris) Griffin**; daughters, **Cheri (Mike) Blaskovich** and **Elaine Griffin**; and three step-daughters and two step-sons. Bob was blessed as well with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In Bob's honor, donations can be made in his name to Encompass Hospice of Pocatello, ID. Condolences may be made at www.colonial-funeralhome.com

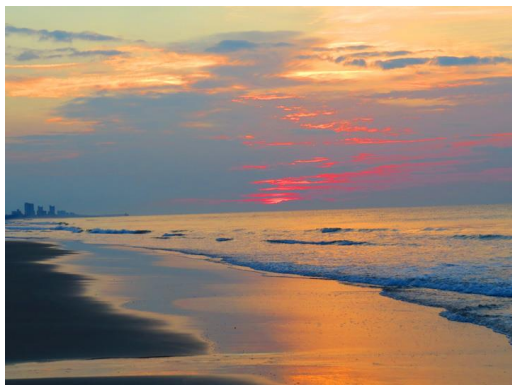
- Harrison** **Brad Lyle Harrison** (58) of Adel, Iowa, passed away on April 10, 2017. Brad was born in Des Moines. Brad graduated in 1981 from Iowa State University with a degree in agriculture. He was a member of the New Hope Evangelical Free Church of Adel. Brad was a district conservationist with the Natural Resource Conservation Service for 36 years. During his career, he promoted soil stewardship with landowners and farmers, developed a children's educational conservation program, and created the national motto for NRCS, "Helping People Help the Land." Brad was preceded in death by his father, Lyle Harrison. Brad is survived by his wife of 16 years, **Cindy Harrison**; mother, **Carol Harrison**; and children **Melissa (Rick) Strain**; **Matthew (fiancé Carissa) Harrison**; **Megan (Andrew) Ferin**; and **Connor Harrison**. He is also survived by his five grandchildren. The family suggests in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions be made to the Brad Harrison Memorial Fund. Online condolences may be left at mccalleyfuneralhome.com
- Hopkins** **Overton Wallace Hopkins** (85) of Louisa, Virginia passed away April 1, 2017 at his home. Overton was a lifelong farmer and retired as a technician from the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. He was preceded in death by his wife of 52 years **Ruby Perkins Hopkins**. Survivors include his son, **Larry Hopkins (Betty Jean)** of Louisa; daughters **Faye Stewart (David)** and **Vickie Southall (Al)** all of Louisa; six grandchildren; and a great-grandchild. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Macedonia United Methodist Church Building Fund 1124 Holland Creek Rd., Louisa, VA 23093. Online guest book at woodwardfuneral.com.
- Jongewaard** Honorary Member and Senior Conservationist **Russell V. Jongewaard** (98) of Little Falls, Minnesota passed away on February 25, 2017 at St. Otto's Care Center in Little Falls. Russell was born in Elk River, MN. He graduated from Monticello High School in 1935. In 1937 he served with the Civilian Conservation Corps on Orcas Island in Washington State. He was united in marriage to **Donna Kiebel** on Feb. 8th 1941 at Monticello, MN. Russ was a Navy veteran of World War II, having served 44 months with the 4th Seabee Battalion as a surveyor in the Aleutian Islands, Hawaii, Guam, and Okinawa. He was discharged from the Navy in October 1945. Russ graduated from the University Of Minnesota College Of Forestry in 1947 and took graduate studies in foreign agriculture at the U of M and St. Cloud State University. He cruised timber for the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board, and then spent his career with the USDA Soil Conservation Service, working in Olmsted, Benton, Stearns, and Morrison counties. In 1952 he was a surveyor with North Atlantic Constructors in Thule, Greenland. In 1958 he moved his family to Brazil and worked with the U.S. Agency for International Development for the Ministry of Agriculture in Minas Gerais state. The Jongewaards moved to Little Falls in the fall of 1960 where he helped start the Morrison County Soil and Water Conservation District. He worked as a soils advisor for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Bulgaria in 1973. In 1974 he retired from the USDA and took a position with the Near East Foundation in the Ministry of Agriculture in Swaziland. In 1977 he consulted with the World Bank on erosion control in Ethiopia. Russ worked in real estate in Little Falls with Century 21 for about 10 years. In 1986 he and Donna volunteered with Trans World Radio in Bussom, Holland, and with TWR again in Guam in 1990. Russ's wife Donna died on August 18th, 2001. On September 4th, 2004, he married **Kathryn (Katie) Tonder**. Together they enjoyed traveling, golf, Twins' games and visiting with family and friends. He was a life member of the Disabled American Veterans, a charter member of Little Falls Kiwanis Club, and a member of Little Falls Alliance Church. His hobbies were golf, photography, birding, traveling, and gardening. Russ is survived by his wife **Kathryn**, daughter **Martha**, sons **Steven (Candace)**, **Peter K.**, and **Joel (Jennifer)**, seven grandsons, seven great-grandchildren, Kathryn's children **Mike (Jody) Tonder**, **Dan (Elene) Tonder**, and **Julie (Bruce) Jarvi**, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife **Donna**, sister **Jean Thomas**, grandson **Reuben Jongewaard**, and grandson **Aaron Tonder**. www.shelleyfuneralchapels.com.
- Kosse** **Elmer E. Kosse** (94) Carrington, North Dakota, passed away on April 19, 2017 at Golden Acres Manor surrounded by his family. He farmed with his father, followed by 33 years with the Soil Conservation Service in Foster County, ND. He is survived by his wife **Gloria** of 71 years; children: **Diann Cardenas** of Cleburne, TX; **Linda (Terry) Gisvold** of Washburn, ND; **Keith (Dori)** of Fargo, ND; five grandchildren; six great-grandchildren and a sister **Gladys Koke**. He was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters and five brothers.
- Lindgren** Member **Gary Lindgren** (66) of Oskaloosa, Iowa passed away on July 28, 2014, at the MHP Emergency Room in Oskaloosa. He was born at Red Oak, Iowa He graduated from Iowa State University earning a degree in Agronomy in 1970. In 1967, Gary began his career as a soil scientist with the Soil Conservation Service. He retired in 2004 after 37 years of service. In 1970, he joined the United States Army Reserves, he retired with the rank of Staff Sargent in 2008. In 2003, Gary and **Linda** moved to Oskaloosa. Gary gave generously of his time and talents to many organizations in Oskaloosa and Mahaska County including: Share Iowa and Nelson Pioneer Farm where he was currently serving on the board of directors. He was a member of the Central Iowa Tractor Club, Red Rock Thrashers and the American Legion. He enjoyed antique farm machinery and collecting baseball cards, coins, and Lionel Trains. He delighted in spending time with his family. His family includes his wife of over 44 years, **Linda Lindgren** of Oskaloosa; two sons, **Chris (Heather) Lindgren** of Humboldt, Iowa and **Aaron Lindgren** of Oskaloosa; and three granddaughters.
- Lucas** **Paul E. Lucas** (85) of Brownsburg, Indiana passed away March 21, 2017. He was born in North Judson, Indiana. He graduated from Culver H.S. in 1950. He served in the US Army during the Korean War. Paul graduated from Purdue University in 1959 with a degree in Civil Engineering. He spent most of his career with USDA, Soil Conservation Service, retiring in 1988, with 30 years of government service. Paul is survived by his wife of 61 years, **Nancy (Dusek)**; also daughter, **Denise (Ken) Kindler**; sons, **Bryce (Kim) Lucas**, **Roger (Becky) Lucas**, and **Perry Lucas**; seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Memorial contributions can be made to Project Homeless, Inc. c/o St. Augustine Episcopal Church, 600 N. Washington St., Danville, IN 46122. Online guestbook at www.matthewsmortuary.com. Member **James L. Rutherford** (82) of McLean, Illinois passed away on February 14, 2017, at his home. He was born in Winchester, Ill. He was united in marriage with **Arlene Onalee Rahe**, on November 3, 1963. She survives. James is also survived by their children: **Greg (Rondy) Rutherford** and **Shane (Marlene) Rutherford**, both of McLean; and three grandchildren. James worked as a Conservation Technician for Soil Conservation Service in McLean County, retiring in 1991. He was a member of Ebenezer United Methodist Church. He received awards for 1984 Outstanding Conservationist of the Year, 2001 Illinois NRCS Lifetime Achievement, 35

years of service to McLean Co. NRCS (SCS), and 2011 Assoc. of Ill. SWCD's Employee Service Award for 20 years of service. Jim had served as Treasurer for Mt. Hope-Funks Grove Fire Department and as a coach for the McLean Little League. He was a member of the McLean Jaycees, Heyworth Masonic Lodge #251 (32nd Degree Mason) and the Greater Peoria Shrine Club. Memorials may be made to McLean County Soil & Water Conservation District Scholarship for Jim Rutherford, Mt. Hope-Funks Grove Fire & Rescue, or Ebenezer United Methodist Church.

- Maine** Member **Charles "Charlie" Maine** (90) of Queensbury, New York passed away on January 16, 2017. Charlie was born in Hamilton, NY. Upon graduation from Hamilton High School, he was drafted into the Army in 1945. After discharge he attended Morrisville State College and upon graduation he was employed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He later attended Michigan State University. Upon graduation from MSU he was employed as a soil scientist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Oneida County. He was transferred to Washington County and subsequently Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District. At this time he mapped the soils of Warren County and authored The Soil Survey of Warren County. He retired from SCS in 1983. He was an avid hunter and looked forward to hunting deer in the Catskills with friends and elk in Montana, Colorado and New Mexico. Charlie was a member of Christ Church United Methodist where he served as trustee and teller. He served on the Parks and Recreation Commission for the Town of Queensbury for 18 years. Charlie served as a board member for the Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District for 30 years and was a Greater Adirondack RC&D Representative for the district and brought to the RC&D The Venison Donation Coalition program, which makes tens of thousands of meals of venison available from hunters for food pantries across the state. Charlie is survived by **Beverly**, his wife of 63 years, a daughter, **Amanda** and her husband **Christian Mohr**, and two sisters as well as several nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, donations in loving memory of Charlie may be made to Christ Church United Methodist at 54 Bay Street, Glens Falls, NY, The Venison Donation Coalition, 3 East Pulteney Square, Bath, NY 14810. Condolences may be made through www.bakerfuneralhome.com.
- Mork** **Marland H. Mork** (85) of Denison, Iowa passed away on March 19, 2017. He was born at Manning, Iowa. He grew up on a farm near Irwin, Iowa, where he attended area schools and graduated from Irwin High School with the class of 1949. In high school, he was one of the best pitchers in the league, being a left-hander. He had to quit baseball, however, when his mother died and he was needed at home. He was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith and was currently a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Denison. Marland was drafted into the Army in May of 1952 and served his country for two years, receiving the National Defense Service Medal and Good Conduct Medal. He was employed by the Soil Conservation Service as a Civil Engineering Technician for forty-one years. He coached Little League and Senior League baseball for many years, including coaching his sons. His favorite hobby was woodworking, making many beautiful furniture pieces out of light oak for their home and for his sons' homes. Other hobbies included cruising in his Model A with a car club. Marland was preceded in death by son **Steve** in 1994; daughter-in-law **Tracy** in 2010. Survivors include: his wife, **Jeanie** of 65 years; two sons, **Dan (Donita)** and **Tom (special friend Kara)**; four grandchildren; and one great-grandson.
- Norris** **Gerald Duane "Bud" Norris** (91) of Hutchinson, Kansas passed away on April 8, 2017. He was born in Coats, Kansas. Bud graduated in 1943 from Coats High School and 1952 from Kansas State University, with a degree in agricultural engineering. For over 33 years he worked as an engineer for the USDA Soil Conservation Service. Bud enlisted in the United States Navy on October 16, 1943, and served until July 28, 1944. On July 10, 1944, he married **Marie E. "Merm" Cannon** in Pratt. She died March 7, 1999. Survivors include: sons, **Tom (Monica) Norris** of Iowa and **Steve Norris** of Coats; a grandson, three granddaughters, and a great-granddaughter. Memorials may be made to Hospice of Reno County or the Coats Cemetery Fund, in care of Elliott Mortuary, 1219 N. Main, Hutchinson, KS 67501.
- Patterson** Senior Conservationist **Benjamin Frederick "Fred" Fred Patterson** (93) of Dobson, North Carolina passed away on June 24, 2016. Fred retired from the Soil Conservation Service in 1988 as District Conservationist, Dobson Field Office. He was born in Alexander County, NC. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his wife of 58 years **Virginia Anne Broyhill Patterson**, three sisters and two brothers. Fred was a graduate of NC State University where he received a BA Degree in Agriculture. He was a member of Dobson First Baptist Church, the Dobson Lions Club and Army World War II veteran, US Army. Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, **Alan and Jan Patterson** of Taylors, SC, and **Mark and Marla Patterson** of Shelby, NC; five grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; two brothers and a sister-in-law.
- Reed** Member and Senior Conservationist **Darald "D.J." J. Reed** (86) of Frederick County, Virginia, passed away on July 5, 2016, in Winchester Medical Center. D.J. was born in Osceola, Iowa. He was a graduate Iowa State University, Class of 1953 earning a Bachelor of Science degree. Mr. Reed was employed at the Department of Agriculture as a Para-Legal and retired from the Soil Conservation Service as a Realty Specialist in 1987 with many years of service. He was a member of Eagle's Club Aerie #824, Moose Lodge #1283, Elks Lodge 867 as well as a member of Emmanuel United Methodist Church. His wife of 35 years, **Bettie Lee Reed** preceded him in death on June 9, 2014. Surviving are daughter, **Brenda S. Hileman-Howe** and her husband, **William** of Gerrardstown, West Virginia and son, **James D. Hileman** and his wife, **Pamela** of Warrenton, Virginia. Memorial contributions in memory of D.J. may be made to Emmanuel United Methodist Church, 2732 Martinsburg Pike, Stephenson, Virginia 22656-1712 or Eagle's Club Aerie #824, 700 Baker Lane, Winchester, Virginia 22601. Please view obituaries and tribute wall at www.ompsfuneralhome.com.
- Smith** Member **Peter Francis Smith**, Ph.D. (74) of Alexandria, Virginia, passed away February 23, 2017, peacefully at home surrounded by his family. He had multiple myeloma. Peter was born in New Brunswick, NJ. He received his BS and MS degrees in Agricultural Economics/Marketing from Rutgers University in 1964 and 1966 respectively, and his Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Pennsylvania State University in 1970. A life-long civil servant who first worked for USDA, Peter joined the newly formed Environmental Protection Agency in 1971, working on National Environmental Policy Act issues before returning to the Department of Agriculture in 1979. He worked with the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act and the National Resources Inventory analyzing long range land and water demands and their economic effect on the environment. He retired in 2005, last serving as a member of the Senior Executive Service, as Director of the Resource Economics and Social Sciences Division of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. In addition to his civil service, Peter was a lifelong educator. Peter taught marketing and economics at Southeastern University for 36 years as an Adjunct Professor. He also taught at the Florida Institute of Technology, Alexandria from 1989-1994. Peter was an avid golfer. Peter was also a long time member of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Alexandria. He was a member of the American Economic Association, the American Marketing Association and Delta Phi Fraternity, Epsilon Chapter. Peter loved to travel

and represented the US at numerous international meetings throughout the world. He is survived by **Patricia Bayly Smith**, his wife of 50 years, his children **Justin Smith** and **Courtney Smith**, and four grandchildren. Details on a celebration of Peter's life will be announced in the near future. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the T.C. Williams High School Crew Boosters, the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria, or the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

- Smith** **Wilton Uzzle Smith** (85) of Louisburg, North Carolina passed away on March 15, 2015. Wilton retired as District Conservationist in Louisburg, NC. He was employed by SCS/NRCS for 33 years. Wilton was a veteran of the Korean conflict. He served as a deacon, treasurer and an advisory board chairman of the Louisburg Baptist Church. He also served as president of the Louisburg Lions Club. Surviving are his wife, **Mary John Inscoe Smith**, a daughter **Marilyn S. Huey** of Roxboro, NC, a grandson, one granddaughter, two great-granddaughters and a brother.
- Ummel** **Doris Anita Ummel** (87) passed away on April 6, 2017, at the Village at Legacy Pointe in Waukee, Iowa. Doris was born in Phillipsburg, Kansas. She graduated from Stockton (Kansas) High School in 1948 and worked in the Rooks County Clerk's office in Stockton before moving to Centralia, Illinois, to work for Gulf Oil Company. Doris and **Don** (a member of ARCSE who retired from the SCS as the State Administrative Officer) lived in Kansas, Nebraska, and Vermont before moving to Des Moines in 1961. They were charter members of New Hope UMC, where Doris volunteered as a Sunday school teacher, the church wedding coordinator, and as a member of the board of trustees. She and Don also were active members of the Merry Mates couples fellowship club. Doris is survived by her husband of 64 years, **Don**, of Des Moines. Also surviving two daughters, **Debbie (Mark) Ediger**, of Washington, D.C., and **Dawn (John) Goodlove**, of Marion, Iowa; a son, **Denny (Robyn) of Urbandale**, Iowa; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to New Hope UMC, 4525 Beaver Ave., Des Moines, IA 50310; or St. Croix Hospice (attn: Jess Schweninger), 7200 Hudson Blvd., North Suite 230, Oakdale, MN 55128. Please note the contribution is in memory of Doris Ummel.
- Wallin** **Diana Wallin** (73) of Rainier, Oregon passed away on December 19, 2016 at Community Home Health and Hospice in Longview. She was the wife of ARCSE member **Don Wallin** who retired in 1995 as Head Design Section at the WNTC. Diana was born in Clatskanie, OR. She graduated from Rainier High School in 1961. She attended Oregon State University, Portland State University, and worked for Pacific NW Bell for several years. She was a member of Bethany Lutheran Church, Rainier Garden Club, and was a Master Gardener. Survivors include her husband of 49 years, Don; daughters, **Lisa** and **Kristina**; and granddaughter, **Lindsay**. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Bethany Lutheran Church, Community Home Health and Hospice, or the charity of your choice.
- Warren** **Jasper "Jack" Jefferson Warren, Jr.** (85) of Louisa, Virginia, passed away on March 16, 2017, at the Martha Jefferson Hospital, Charlottesville, Virginia after a lengthy illness. He is survived by his loving wife, **Susan Butler Warren**, with whom he shared happiness for 48 years. He is also survived by his brother and a sister. He is also survived by two nieces and three nephews and grand nephews. He was born in Amelia. Jack worked for the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS). He joined the U.S. Army in 1950, serving for three years. Jack went back to work with the Soil Conservation Service until his retirement in 1994. Jack's hobbies and interests included baseball, coaching little leagues in Louisa, quail hunting, judging and showing pedigree English Setters in field trials, and NASCAR racing. Visit woodwardfuneral.com for online guestbook.
- Watson** Member and Senior Conservationist **Bruce George Watson** (89) of North Fort Myers, Florida passed away March 8, 2017 in Tapa Cay, South Carolina. Bruce was born in Stoughton, Wisconsin. He grew up in Madison where he excelled as a Boy Scout and was a high hurdles state champion in High School. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Soil Science. He served in the Navy during World War II. Bruce worked for the Soil Conservation Service for many years ending his career April 1982 as the State Soil Scientist in Burlington, Vermont. Following his retirement Bruce and his wife **Burnette**, who predeceased him in 2013, split their time between a summer home on Lake Champlain in Vermont and a winter residence at Six Lakes Park in North Fort Myers, Florida. Bruce is survived by his children **Karen Madsen** (Utah), **Kay Watson** (Spain), **David Watson** (Tennessee), **Kristi Phillips** (South Carolina), eleven grandchildren, and eleven great grandchildren. A complete obituary may be viewed at <http://minorfh.com/tribute/details/147Bruce-Watson/obituary.html#tribute-start>.
- Young** Senior Conservationist **Edwin John "Swede" Young** (90) of Tellico Village, Tennessee passed away on February 22, 2017. Ed retired from the Soil Conservation Service in 1988 as State Forester on the State Resource Conservationist staff, Raleigh, NC. The fifth child born to Swedish immigrants, Ed grew up in Kenosha, WI. He was a WWII veteran having served in the Army Air Force. He earned a bachelor's degree in forestry from the University of Michigan in 1951. 1956, "shy Eddie Young" married his beloved **Ursula "Uschi" Vogel**. His 35-year forestry career took him to Wisconsin, Indiana, Virginia and North Carolina. After retirement he kept busy as a registered consulting forester for years, while also managing his own 25 acres. He established a Certified Tree Farm in Youngsville, NC. Swede Young will be deeply missed by his wife, **Ursula**; children, **Karin**, **Pete** and his wife, **Teresa**, and **Mark** and his fiancée, **Jan**; and seven grandchildren.



Summer sunrise, Myrtle Beach, SC



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