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# NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter for Retired SCS and NRCS Employees

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## NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

**John Stierna**

**Congress**—The appropriation process continues on the Hill. The House Appropriations Committee has passed the FY2017 Agricultural Appropriations bill that provides \$855.3 million for conservation operations, about \$5 million less than the President's budget request. The bill capped the Environmental Quality Incentive Program at \$1,425 million, which is \$225 million less than mandated in the 2014 Farm Bill. House appropriators also rescinded \$98 million from FY 2016 EQIP funding. The bill capped the Conservation Stewardship Program at 8 million acres for FY 2017, rather than the 10 million new acres mandated in the Farm Bill. The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program was not capped, leaving it at \$500 million. The Agricultural Management Assistance funding was limited to \$5 million, half of the authorized amount.

The bill provided \$12 million in discretionary funding for the Watershed Rehabilitation Program, but limited carryover monies for rehab work to \$9 million, providing a total of \$21 million.

The full \$150 million for the FSA-administered conservation loan guarantee program was provided in the House bill. For assistance, producers and landowners must use loan proceeds to implement practices called for in an NRCS-approved conservation plan.

The House is not likely to act on the appropriation bill until late in the year, perhaps after the election, with agriculture rolled into a larger omnibus appropriation bill. The Senate will be working on their version of the bill in the days ahead, and then House and Senate appropriators will be able to have negotiations on what might be put forward for an omnibus bill later in the year.

**NRCS—Chief Weller** recently informed constituency groups that the final rule for the EQIP program will be released before April 30<sup>th</sup>, about the time this newsletter is distributed. He also indicated that the final rule for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program will be delayed until October.

NRCS is investing up to \$103 million in post-disaster recovery, and the rehabilitation of aging dams in 19 States. This effort is using \$93 million in Emergency Watershed Protection program funds and \$12 million in Watershed Rehabilitation Program funds. This initiative will help communities repair damage and make improvements to reduce future damage from natural disasters like hurricanes, fires, and floods.

**RCPP**—Pre-proposals are due on May 10<sup>th</sup> for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program. Through this program, qualified organizations are able to partner with NRCS to assist producers and landowners solve resource problems and thereby address priority resource concerns in identified areas. NRCS has provided two webinars to aid organizations planning to submit pre-proposals.

**Clean Water Rule**—This rule, also called the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule, continues to be highly controversial. EPA and the Corps of Engineers have been blocked from implementing the rule by court order. Recently, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals has retained jurisdiction of the case rather than allowing it to be moved to a Federal district court for consideration of challenges to the rule. A Senate proposal to block implementation of the rule, if it survives court challenges, failed by four votes. It is clear that this controversial rule will ultimately be decided in the courts.

**Reflections**—Former Chief **Bill Richards** and former Associate Chief **Galen Bridge** will be sharing some of their personal reflections of their service at SCS and NRCS. This will be at an informal discussion this week at NRCS headquarters. This seems like a great idea that perhaps could be continued with others that have served as Chief or other senior officials at NRCS.

**Soil Health**—Two more interesting videos on the Science of Soil Health have been released by NRCS. Perhaps through use of these videos, NRCS is providing another avenue of outreach to the general public with information about soils and farming. Take a look at them:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kD5iSEn3U88&index=31&list=PL4J8PxoprpGa3wFYSXFu-BW\\_mMatlelt0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kD5iSEn3U88&index=31&list=PL4J8PxoprpGa3wFYSXFu-BW_mMatlelt0)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4BTW28oeKJw&list=PL4J8PxoprpGa3wFYSXFu-BW\\_mMatlelt0&index=30](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4BTW28oeKJw&list=PL4J8PxoprpGa3wFYSXFu-BW_mMatlelt0&index=30)

Here is the website for the soil health. From here, you can select several videos concerning soil health.

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/soils/health/>

**Administrative Transformation**—NRCS has implemented a major transformation of administrative functions throughout the country. Administrative staff now report to a subject matter specialist (e.g., Chief Financial Officer) in their respective field, thereby bringing greater consistency to administrative work by the agency. This was implemented last October, and now seems firmly in place.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Cecil Currin**

It was 72 degrees in Massachusetts today, and we are smelling the diesel from tractors and trucks. Planting is underway in our small farm town of Hadley. **Lou** and I are getting ready for the summer season as we try to take care of unfinished things in Hadley. ARCSE has a bit of unfinished business as well, but we have every reason to be optimistic for the future.

Members have responded well to the questionnaire about the printed newsletter. It was sent only to members who receive the newsletter by mail. We sent 292 questionnaires, and 194 people have responded. Seventy-six of those switched to the Enewsletter, and 78 additional folks are willing to pay an additional \$14 per year to continue with the printed version. Many of these have really good reasons such as no computer, rural areas without access to a provider, inability to read a computer screen and some who just really want to hold and enjoy the printed copy. I received numerous notes about the value of and appreciation for the newsletter and personal notes from old friends. Thirty-one members included donations totaling \$1,253. The response to this special mailing and to the last few newsletters has not only balanced the budget but has given us a small surplus for the future. It is so exciting to have a balanced budget after several years of deficits.

Oh yes, the unfinished business. There were almost a 100 folks who did not respond to the questionnaire. If you are reading a printed copy of the newsletter and you did not respond to the questionnaire, please do so. If the dog ate it, you can contact anyone on the board for a copy. We need to hear from you.

The other piece of unfinished business is membership. ARCSE is still not attracting recent retirees, and we continue to reach new lows on membership levels. The Board plans to sit in on a special session about this issue at the annual meeting in July. In the meantime, please give us your ideas and..... ask someone to become a member. The first year is free! Cecil Currin, President

## A BIT OF HISTORY

**Douglas Helms, Historian**

Email: [douglas\\_helms@verizon.net](mailto:douglas_helms@verizon.net)

### **Historical Reflection on Hiring Practices in SCS**

The passing of **Pearlie Reed**, former Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, reminds us of the influence of the Civil Rights Act in the mid-1960s and onward on hiring within the Soil Conservation Service. I wrote about this episode for a conference held at Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, FL, on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Morrill Act of 1890, which provided funding for the 1890 land grant universities. Fortunately, the article that appeared in the journal *Agricultural History* is still on line at:

[http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/about/history/?cid=nrcs143\\_021380](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/about/history/?cid=nrcs143_021380)

**Editor's note: Doug's article is 19 pages in length. The concluding summary is as follows:**

"In summary, the few Blacks who worked for the Soil Conservation Service in the 1940s and 1950s served their clientele well by focusing on those who were not being reached. To take one example, **John Jones** recalled that when he went to work in Anson County, North Carolina there were a few Blacks, those with fairly large farms, who were cooperators with SCS. But some of the black farmers in the northwest corner of the county around Burnsville and other communities did not have conservation plans. By the time Jones left the county, all the black farmers of the county were cooperators with SCS. Jones and his contemporaries were role models for the generation of recruits who joined SCS after the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The response to the Civil Rights Act involved some innovative approaches in working with the 1890 schools to gain recruits. Some of the recruits of the mid-1960s have progressed through the administrative levels of the agencies. Yet, it remains obvious that continued vigilance is needed to ensure that those who do the public's business serve all the public and provide equal employment opportunities for those interested in soil and water conservation."

## NEW MEMBERS

**By Ron Marlow, Secretary Treasurer**

Ayen, Jim	IA	Parkinson, Robert	OH
Blamer, Alvin	IN	Phelps, Ron	PA
Bogovich, Wayne	NHQ	Pierce, Dan	ID
Grimsted, Laurel	OR	Sampson, Rob	NHQ
Kuehl, Ronald	IA	Smith, Tyler	MO
Lindflott, Mark	IA		

## Membership Recruitment

*By Ron Marlow, Secretary-Treasurer*

**Complimentary membership:** When you have retiree social functions or any other time that you see retirees (especially new retirees) from NRCS, be sure to remind them that they are eligible for a one-year complimentary membership if they have not previously been a member of ARCSE. All that is required is that they submit a membership application.

**Change in complimentary membership:** The Board voted at its meeting last summer to expand the complimentary membership to all NRCS retirees who have not previously been a member. Since 2003, the complimentary membership offer applied only to "NRCS employees retiring after Jan. 1, 2003." The wording in the existing Brochure and Membership Application may be changed with pen and ink. For digital copies of the updated Brochure and/or updated Membership Application use this link: <http://www.arcse.org/nFORMS.htm>.

**ARCSE Brochures:** Many of you are planning your annual state retiree social function. These functions are a good opportunity to make our ARCSE membership brochure available to retirees. If you need additional brochures, please send a request to Ron Marlow at [arcse@cox.net](mailto:arcse@cox.net) or use the digital copy link shown above to download or print copies.

## Membership Renewals

*By Ron Marlow, Secretary-Treasurer*

Renewal of membership by existing ARCSE members is the most important step that can be taken to sustain ARCSE financially without raising dues. The second step, and not far behind, is recruitment of new members. For 2016, 32 voting members and one complimentary member have not renewed. This is our lowest number of non-renewals in recent years, but still way too high. I recently provided to state/section representatives a list of members that had not renewed for 2015 and 2016 respectively. I strongly encourage the representatives to share the portion of the list that applies to their state/section with other members. Often the renewal is an oversight, and a gentle nudge may be all it takes to get action. The 2016 dues form can be found at: <http://www.arcse.org/nFORMS.htm>.

## ARCSE REPRESENTATIVES

*By Ron Marlow, Secretary Treasurer*

### **Introducing a New State Representative**

I want to welcome a new state representative on board. Upon retirement of ARCSE state representative **Karl Klingelhofer**, the new state representative for Arizona is **Ken Cookson**. Ken retired in 1994 as a Management Analyst in Washington, D.C. The ARCSE Board deeply appreciates Karl's efforts in leading ARCSE activities in Arizona and especially his role in submitting retiree news. The Board is extremely pleased to see an ARCSE member like Ken stepping forth into a leadership role.

### **Appointment of New State/Section Representatives**

When an existing state/section representative decides to step down, the representative often finds a replacement. When this occurs, the name of the replacement should be submitted to the respective Regional Vice President. ARCSE regional boundaries are found in the ARCSE Charter at <http://www.arcse.org/ncharter.htm>.

The ARCSE Position Manual, under DUTIES OF ARCSE REPRESENTATIVE, states that "The Regional Vice-President appoints ARCSE Representatives." Furthermore, one of the duties of the Vice President stated in the manual is "arranging for replacing a Representative when vacancies occur." So please coordinate with and through the respective Regional Vice President when arranging for and announcing a replacement.

Also ensure that the new representative is a member of ARCSE. It is difficult for a representative that is not a member to carryout duties such as recruiting new members, keeping up with changes in ARCSE, and acquiring and submitting news for the newsletter.

## Spotlight on Earth Team Volunteer

**Dorlene Butler, Regional Public Affairs Specialist**  
**Public Affairs Division, USDA-NRCS, Fort Worth, TX**  
[dorlene.butler@ftw.usda.gov](mailto:dorlene.butler@ftw.usda.gov)

### **Don Hamer: Long Time Employee and Volunteer of the Cape May Plant Materials Center**

**From Laura Coover.** Donald W. Hamer has worked on the New Jersey Cape May Plant Materials Center (PMC) property even before the PMC was built. Don worked for the private vegetable grower that farmed the property before it was purchased by the USDA and State of New Jersey with Green Acres Open Space Funds in 1965.

In his 30-year career at the PMC, Don advanced from Biological Technician to PMC Manager before retiring in 1994. And that is when his volunteer story began.

After retiring (minus a few years hiatus), Don signed up as an Earth Team volunteer and continued the Center's work to develop a cold-tolerant selection of sea oats (*Uniola paniculata*) that could survive winters in the northern Mid-Atlantic States. As PMC

Manager, Don started this project in an attempt to add plant diversity to dune plantings along the northern Mid-Atlantic Coast. Sea oats naturally occurs as far north as Assateague Island, on the Maryland /Virginia state line. However, a cold tolerant selection was being sought that would ultimately be adapted to Delaware and southern New Jersey.



**Don Hamer, Cape May, NJ, Plant Materials Center Volunteer**

After Don's retirement in 1994, this effort floundered until 2010, due to changing priorities and the loss of many sea oats evaluation plantings from coastal storms. However, in the fall of 2010, about 15 surviving plants from a 1993 planting in Avalon, New Jersey were discovered still growing and producing seed.

With Don's assistance, the PMC staff collected and germinated seed from those original plants. The seedlings were transplanted to the greenhouse until they were mature enough to be out-planted.

Ultimately, these plants became part of new evaluation trials in Avalon and Cape May Point. In total, over 800 plants were installed in field evaluation plantings from 2010-2014. Don was instrumental in collecting seed, propagating plants, evaluating the success of the field plantings, and helping establish a new sea oats production field on the Cape May Plant Center.

In September 2015, at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Cape May PMC, it was announced that a future sea oats release will be named in his honor, Hamer Germplasm Sea Oats. **David Smart**, former New Jersey State Resource Conservationist, said, "Nice to hear Don is still active. He is a good man and dedicated to improving the plant world!"

## ARIZONA

**Ken Cookson, ARCSE Representative**

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

**Bill Fobair Report:** Joyce and Bill Fobair purchased a 2016 MKZ Hybrid. The MKZ has a 2.0-litre gas engine and lithium batteries. It is not a plug-in. The gas engine has a four gallon tank. On the last fill up the display screen showed that we would get 980 miles before filling up the tank again. Amazing!



**Bill and Joyce Fobair with hybrid car**

**Gary Nordstrom Report:** As many of you know, I had a major heart attack toward the end of February. Thankfully, with the help of surgery, I was able to survive; and after a month in the hospital, I am now home and going to out-patient therapy twice a week to regain my strength. I have a lot of people to thank for getting me through this, especially my wife **Jayne**, son **David**, and brother-in-law **Chuck Peters**. I also want to thank all of you who said prayers for me and sent me get-well cards.

**Steve Black Report:** **Steve and Licia Black** of Phoenix spent a week in Costa Rica in March visiting an old friend and his family who have lived there for 45 years. Steve and Licia visited the beaches, forests, volcanoes, lakes, waterfalls, and other sites around the San Jose area. They went on a very interesting crocodile river boat trip to get “up close and personal” with the crocs! They also spent a week in Florida visiting friends in Naples and then visited Key West and Miami Beach. Steve still goes back to his farm in Illinois several times a year and was there in April during crop planting season. Always something to do and maintain on an old farm!



**Not Steve Black**

**Ken Cookson Report:** The Moreland's, George's, Bridge's and Cookson's decided we should have a cookout before everybody scattered for the summer. That we did at the George's. We were able to relive a lot of our SCS experiences for the ?<sup>th</sup> time and even embellish on some of them. Everybody had a good time!



**Back:** Ron Moreland, Erwina Peterson, Galen Bridge, Tom George, Connie Cookson, Barb Moreland. **Front:** Ken Cookson, Jeanne George.

**Ron Moreland Report:** **Ron and Barb Moreland** have continued a ten-year tradition of housing collegiate women golfers who come to play in a golf tournament on our course. For the past three years, we have housed **Vivi and Vale Macias** who are from Guadalajara, Mexico, and who attend New Mexico State.



**Vivi Macias, Ron Moreland, Barb Moreland, Vale Macias**

**Marion Strong Report:** I am pleased to announce that my grandson, **Andrew Strong**, Jim's son, received his Eagle Scout badge at a Court of Honor on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Both of Jim's sons are Eagle Scouts now. I am planning a trip to Seattle in June to attend **Andrew's** graduation ceremony. He will graduate from Rainier Christian High School and has been accepted for study at Western Washington University. He will join his brother, **Nathan** who is currently a sophomore with a Psychology major. I have been on dialysis for several months, which complicates travel. I have to take my cycler and supplies to last the time of my visit. I dialyze each night while I am sleeping. I am looking forward to my 98<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. I am living alone and drive to the store, church, and other local trips.

## CALIFORNIA

**Bill Ward, ARCSE Representative**

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

Hello to all our fellow SCS/NRCS retirees across the country! We continue to meet monthly for both a breakfast and lunch get-together for all retirees who can make it.

**April Luncheon with Gary and Linda Bullard.** In our last report, we shared the challenges **Gary Bullard** has experienced in trying to have a hip replacement surgery completed going back to last November. As of this time Gary is still waiting for that to happen with his surgery just now scheduled for June 7<sup>th</sup>. On April 6<sup>th</sup> Gary and his wife **Linda** did make a special effort (Gary still "without a hip") to come join our retiree group at our April 6<sup>th</sup> luncheon in Davis.

Knowing Gary was going to be there, we had a great turnout of our retirees who came to provide encouragement and best wishes for the work that still needs to be done. Those making it to the lunch included **Gary and Linda Bullard, Danny Maxim, Shirley Leeper, Mark Cocke, Chuck Bell, Ron and Marilyn Hoppes, Hank and Christie Wyman, Ed Schmidt, John Rogers, Harold Honeyfield, Rome Rivera, Jack and Janet George, Walt Sykes, Darwyn Briggs and myself (Bill Ward)**.

Following are four photos of our group, with the exception of **Hank Wyman, Darwyn Briggs** and myself. Hank had the opportunity to share his experiences with the same procedure he has had done on both his hips.



Gary and Linda Bullard, and Danny Maxim



Mark Cocke, Chuck Bell, Marilyn Hoppes, and Christie Wyman



Walt Sykes, Jack and Janet George, Rome Rivera, Harold Honeyfield, and John Rogers



Rome Rivera, Harold Honeyfield, John Rogers, Ed Schmidt, and Ron Hoppes

Both Gary and his wife Linda appreciate continued prayers for a successful surgery. Gary can be reached by phone at (916) 381-1502 or e-mail at [gbullard@comcast.net](mailto:gbullard@comcast.net).

**Bill Ward's Pyramid Lake Fishing trip:** I had a great experience fly-fishing Pyramid lake in early April. Pyramid Lake is located in Nevada on the Pyramid Lake Paiute Indian reservation and managed by the tribe. Pyramid Lake contains a unique strain of Lahontan Cutthroat Trout that can get very large, with fish exceeding 20 pounds not considered uncommon. Following are two "fish pictures" from that trip plus a link to a "music video" I put together with some additional pictures and music from our Western Lights Band, 1999 CD, "Favorites of Ours!"



*To date, Bill Ward's largest Pyramid lake fish, 12 to 14 pounds*



*Many more fish like this cutthroat trout were caught, and all fish released!*

<https://youtu.be/-vywBmKdzP0?t=4>: Bill and Brian's Pyramid Lake Fishing trip Video!

That is all from the California retirees this time around. Best wishes to all our fellow retirees across the country!

## ILLINOIS

### **Dale Benz, ARCSE Representative**

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

Sixteen retirees and spouses gathered for lunch and visiting on April 7<sup>th</sup> at the Urbana Garden Restaurant. Attending were **Elsie Campbell, Lee and Nancy Bridgman, Dick Dickerson, Wiley Scott, Ray and Paula Coombes, Jim and Bonnie McQuilken, Earl Voss, Jim and Cheryl Evans, Dave Dalzell, Leo Downing, Jerry Leonard, and Dale Benz**.

**Lee and Nancy Bridgman** have six grandchildren and all except one, who is still in college, have completed college. They have eight great-grandchildren, with two more due in July. Lee had just planted 325 walnut and cypress trees on his farm in Pike County the day before our gathering, and he said he was a little sore and stiff. He planted the old fashion way with a planting bar. In 50 years those walnut trees should be worth a nice retirement! Lee, that would put you at around 130 years of age! Lucky grandkids! Lee and Nancy are going to Vancouver, BC in June to visit a grandson and are planning a couple months in Arizona next winter.

**Leo Downing** volunteers one day a week at the hospital in Danville. He has been doing volunteer work there for several years. He said one of his daughters has moved in with him, so now Leo doesn't have to cook, clean, and do all of that domestic work!

**Paula Coombes** had open heart surgery in February and is recuperating from that. We wish you a quick healing, Paula.

**Jim McQuilken** said he retired from his postretirement job in December and has more time to do woodworking. He cut up a butternut log to make several things for people.

**Elsie Campbell** went to Memphis, TN with a niece at Christmas time and enjoyed it.

**Earl Voss** has made the hospital his second home this winter. In December he was hospitalized with an ecoli infection in his blood which was successfully treated. Then in January he had his gall bladder removed and a week later had two gallstones removed that evaded the first surgery. But this did not keep him from his winter cruise which he and **Barb** went on a week later.

**Dale Benz** told about his cornea replacement and cataract surgeries in November and January. It is amazing what they can do in medicine. Everything was successful, and he can see again.

We are sorry to report the passing of **Dennis Beyer** on April 10<sup>th</sup>. His wife, **Susan**, recently moved into a dementia center in Champaign. We extend our sympathy to Susan, their son **Brian**, their daughter **Erin** and their families.

Mark your schedules for our next gathering on October 6<sup>th</sup> in Urbana.

## IOWA

### **Mark Jensen, ARCSE Representative**

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Ann and I recently returned from a trip that took us through parts of Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Illinois. The old car put on a lot of miles, but we enjoyed seeing that part of the country. Some of our favorite parts included the irrigated fields in Arkansas, the monument where all of the boundary surveys began for the Louisiana Purchase, white sand beaches along the Gulf of Mexico, walking on the beach along the Atlantic Ocean, visiting a few plantations, the Smokey Mountains, and touring several Revolutionary War and Civil War battlefields and museums.

**Rosie and Bob Gaudette** spent a couple of months in Myrtle Beach, SC, this winter relaxing in the warmer climate, walking on the beach, and enjoying the beautiful sunrises over the ocean. They have been going in that direction every winter for 15 years. One of their favorite pastimes is to collect shells and shark teeth along the beach. Bob said this year they collected about 2,200 shark teeth. He used many of these along with thousands more that they have collected over the years to make necklaces and a dozen wall plaques. Each wall plaque used 700 to 800 teeth. Bob told me that he will bring one of the wall plaques to our Christmas party this year to show everyone. I'm looking forward to seeing it!

**Lyle and Charlotte Asell** took a road trip in February to visit Lyles's sister and her husband in Casa Grande, AZ, as well as other relatives in the Phoenix area. Lyle thinks they have as many relatives in Arizona as in the Midwest during the winter months! The road trip continued to California to visit some cousins. After getting back home, they left the next day to go to the Twin Cities for baby-sitting duty with their 14-month-old grandson. It's always fun to have a little time to spoil the grandkids – then come back home!

Thanks to **Duane Miller** for providing this report on his annual skiing trip. For the 31<sup>st</sup> time in as many years, the "Black Hole Ramblers" have made their annual trip to Summit County in central Colorado. For the benefit of those who are not familiar with the Ramblers, they are now mostly retired NRCS employees who actually like the altitude and snow. Sometimes we even do some skiing! The group this year consisted of retirees **Bob Dayton, Duane Miller, and Rick Knutson; Dale and Joanne Bruce, current NRCS/Tech support; Craig Muhlberg (Former NRCS) and his wife Kim; Jody Christiansen, current NRCS; and Rick, friend of Rick Knutson**. There are many great breweries and micro distilleries in Summit County that always deserve some of our hard-earned retiree pay! Much time is spent in hot tubs, as well as playing cards and dominoes. Every year we ski a bit less

than we did thirty years ago, but many of the group have taken up snowshoeing, which is almost as much fun! I believe everyone had a great time and are looking forward to next year.

Thank you to **Sheila Cox** for providing the following on her activities since she retired. It's hard to believe it's been over four years. I retired on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011, as the Assistant State Conservationist, Field Office Operations, for Area 1 in Sioux City, IA. So what have I been doing? My daughter and grandson moved home about two months after retiring. That time was spent watching a one-year-old while my daughter found a job, apartment, and a daycare provider. I took classes and became a master gardener and volunteer for the Extension Service. I was also President and very active in the Iowa Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society in 2011 and 2012, and drove the conservation van during RAGBRAI for several years. *Editor's Note: RAGBRAI is the Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa, which is a non-competitive bicycle ride organized by The Des Moines Register.* We've traveled a lot: cruises to Alaska, the Caribbean, and Mexico. I worked in Hawaii for seven years, and my husband, **John**, still owns a harvest business on Oahu. He goes over there 2-3 times a year, and I go back about every other year. We have also spent several weeks a year in Florida managing a couple of rental houses, but due to the recent upswing in the housing market, are down to one house that may eventually become our winter home. I didn't work for anyone that first year, but the second and third summer I worked for the Southern Iowa RC&D doing Wetland Reserve and Grassland Reserve easement monitoring in southern and southwest Iowa. Last year the RC&D didn't have any work for me, so I worked a few months at a Lowe's garden center. Then **Christine Evans**, DC in Woodbury County, asked if I could come back to the field office and help them out as a district technician. Both **Jim Kovarna and Barb Benson** retired at the end of December, with over 65 years of combined experience. I've been working three days a week since July, 2015, and find that the field office and working with farmers on their land is really the best job there is.

Many of us Cyclone fans were pretty excited about our men's basketball team this year. **Eldon and Jeannie Weber** have had season tickets to ISU football and women's and men's basketball for over 25 years. Eldon told me that when he watched ISU beat Kansas this year, when the Jayhawks were ranked number one, was the second time that has happened. He attended the game in 1957 when ISU beat number-one-ranked Kansas. That was when all-Americans **Gary Thomson and Wilt Chamberlain** were playing. I hope we don't have to wait another 59 years for that to happen again!

**Gerald and Marion Stevens** celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. They enjoyed a festive dinner with family and friends at the Saints Avenue Buffet in Boone. Congratulations Jerry and Marion!

Shortly after **Larry Hammitt** retired, he was diagnosed with cancer in his bladder. He will undergo three or four rounds of chemotherapy starting in late April. The bright side of this story is that it was caught in time, and he should have a full recovery. Larry told me that he has taken on an interesting part time job in retirement. The Harrison County SWCD hired him to perform the O&M inspections on watershed structures in their county. He will be inspecting around 60 sites per year in Harrison County. Pottawattamie County also recently asked Larry to do their O&M inspections. He plans to accept their offer and will begin that work soon, hopefully between chemo sessions.

In April 2013, **Monica Monk** was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Since then, the cancer has spread to other parts of her body. Monica has endured numerous treatments and made many trips to Rochester, MN, to secure their expertise and care. She is an amazing person who is a strong believer in the power of prayer and positive thinking. Her spirit serves as a good role model for all of us. Let's keep both Monica and **Larry** in our thoughts and prayers.

Mark your calendars. Our retiree summer function this year will be on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will be meeting in the SCORE Pavilion in Nevada. Socializing will start at 11am with lunch being served at 12:30. Lunch will be catered by Hickory Park from Ames. We will have a short business meeting with a program following. The program will be presented by **Dorman Otte**, the National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) state legislative chair and President of the Des Moines NARFE Chapter. A map to the pavilion and a registration sheet will be sent out with the next *Current Developments*.

In April, we were saddened to learn about the passing of **Loren Greiner** from Emmetsburg. He was 108 years old and was Iowa's oldest living World War II veteran. He retired from the Soil Conservation Service in 1968.



**Loren Greiner, was Iowa's oldest living World WWII veteran**

## KANSAS

**Deanne Lull, ARCSE Representative**

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I am up to my ears preparing for the Kansas NARFE State Convention which is in Salina this coming weekend. It sure takes a lot of work to get it carried out.

After three weeks of heavy winds, Salina finally received a little rain from this last storm system. Several areas in western Kansas received 5 to 7 inches. Salina's official measurement was three-quarters of an inch! As usual, the big rains went around us.

Being a sports fan there was excitement at our house when I learned that the Royals were traveling throughout the state to share the World Series trophy with their fans and that a stop would be made in Salina. The day finally arrived, and **Ron** and I donned our championship tees and headed for the mall. I knew that this was a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see the trophy up close and was anxious to see the display. There it was and pictures were being taken, which I wasn't going to pass up. After standing in line for a short time for our picture, we then visited with friends and enjoyed the mascots as they visited throughout the crowd. Yes, we were impressed.



*Ron and Deanne Lull by the Kansas City Royal's 2015 World Series Trophy*

Two have joined our retiree roles. **A. Dale Ehlers** retired February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016, as a Soil Conservation Technician in the Marion Field Office. **Edwin W. Radatz** retired April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016, as a Hydraulic Engineer on the Engineering Staff in the Kansas State Office in Salina. I worked with Ed in the late 1980s when he worked on the Watershed Planning Staff. He then transferred to the Hutchinson Area Office as Area Engineer before returning to Salina in 1993 to finish his career on the Engineering Staff.

Congratulations are sent to **Jean Hamilton** who will celebrate her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Jean is the widow of **Vernon Hamilton**. Jean is able to continue with her handiwork and always has a piece in progress which she works on during meetings she attends.

Our sympathies go out to the Droege family. **Harry C. Droege** passed away April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016. I met Harry in the late 1950s when we worked on the Watershed Planning Staff in the Kansas State Office. Harry spent most of his career working as a Construction Inspector in a number of the watershed project offices. His wife, **Norma**, preceded him in death.

We were saddened to learn of the death of **Richard L. Wynia** who suffered a massive heart attack and passed away April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016. Although not a retiree, Rich was well known throughout Kansas and neighboring states. Since 1991 he had served as the Manager of the Plant Materials Center in Manhattan, KS. He was beneficial in the selection, propagation, development, and release of new varieties and certified seed for many different plants, trees, and shrubs for conservation purposes. His wife, **Shirley**, survives.

The Kansas Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016, in Salina, KS, at the Holiday Inn, 3145 S. Ninth Street. The evening will begin with a social hour at 5pm followed by dinner at 6pm. The program following the meal will be given by **Jennifer Krehbiel**. Her husband, **Dean Krehbiel**, is the current NRCS State Resource Conservationist. Jennifer will share her experiences as a beekeeper. She has been keeping bees for eight years and now has 24 hives.

## MASSACHUSETTS

**Jim Wesloski, ARCSE Representative**  
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Well, it's been a quiet few months for the Massachusetts retirees. We survived the mostly snowless winter, and the signs of Spring are unmistakable.

**Carol Rickless**, who was the state conservationist's Secretary, decided to retire in late January after 33 years of federal service. Carol came to NRCS after many years with the Postal Service at the bulk mail center in Springfield, and she jumped right into being the social sparkplug for the office, organizing holiday lunches and activities. NRCS is going to miss Carol's spirit and enthusiasm.

In case you missed it, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 was the annual celebration of Pi Day (3/14/16 = 3.1416 = pi). Some people spent the day in quiet contemplation of the mysteries of pi, while others just ate pie to observe the day. A small Pi Day party was held at the Hadley Diner attended by **Cecil Currin, Frank Wilda, Paul Benjamin, Rudy Chlanda, Dave Nelson, and Carl Gustafson**. My sources tell me that **Carl Gustafson** is still putting in a few days a week at the Fish and Wildlife Service regional office on some hurricane repair projects, and **Cecil Currin** is busy on a wide variety of agricultural work for his neighbor. I also learned that **Paul Benjamin** had an enjoyable round of golf with **Rick Devergilio** and **Mark Grennan**.

One of the sure signs of Spring is that our "snowbirds" **Lou** and **Cecil Currin** are making plans to head back to their home on the St. Lawrence River in New York, having spent the cold winter in the balmy climate of Hadley, MA.

## MISSOURI

**Dave Rastorfer, ARCSE Representative**  
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Welcome to the retiree ranks Gena Michalson.

**Lane Thurman**: No seeds in the ground yet but got the garden worked up. Haven't even been fishing yet this year. When the weather is agreeable, the wind has been really blowing hard, making it hard to stay on the lake. We also have another problem that has arisen just recently. **Nancy** has had a reoccurrence of the lymphoma that she had about eight years ago, and so we have been trying to get on top of that fairly rapidly. It was found when she had a PET scan just recently. She will be going back on chemo shortly, and we hope that will work its charm as it did before when she had it. So keep her in your prayers again and wish for the best in this fight she is starting again.

**Dennis Shirk**: Not much new to report. We are basically well and blessed. Have been doing some riding and got my fall calves weaned. Will be going to Lesterville at the end of April for camping and riding. Otherwise, just normal stuff at home. See ya down the trail.

**Alton Taylor**: Hope to spend the month of May in AZ with our daughter and family. Hope son-in-law can teach me how to use Linux and smart phone. I'm tempted to test its smarts at times by dropping it in the pot and see if it can swim out.

**Mike Blaine**: The Blaines are planting garden and mowing yard. Mushrooms are not up yet, and I already got my first tick stuck on me (hunting mushrooms!). And just in case there is anyone out there who is having allergic-type reactions that doctors cannot identify as resulting from known causes--our allergist last year told us about a fairly newly identified tick disease that makes a person allergic to all mammal meat. **Mike** was having two allergic attacks per month over the last several years. When he stopped eating beef, pork and venison last June, the attacks immediately stopped and he hasn't had one since. **Pam** has the same condition which we believe resulted from tick bites while we lived in south Missouri. The only meats we can eat are poultry and fish, which is ok--we like both. Have a great spring and summer, folks. I hope this info might help someone.

**Jess Epple**: Best Wishes from near Muskogee, OK and greetings from Indian Country and the site of a history-making Civil War Battle, "Honey Springs Depot" (south of Checotah, OK).

The new 8000-sq.ft. visitors' center is nearly complete. We hope civil war enthusiasts will stop and learn more about this large complex/unique battlefield site, where a Regiment of African-Americans were used in combat on July 17<sup>th</sup>, 1863. Also, large numbers of American Indians fought on both sides. Our great-grand kids continue to increase in numbers. We now have seven. Six are located in Missouri and one in Franklin, TN. Thank goodness for smart phones and tablets! They help us keep up with their progress. Most of our spring calf crop has arrived and are doing well. We have been fortunate so far to have rainfall at the correct time. Grass is growing, and it's time to weed spray and fertilize. No rest for us hard-working "middle aged" ranchers!

Have an eventful and healthy fun-filled spring/summer.

**Bill Pauls**: **Kris** and I are now officially "Ridgerunners!" We are moved and settled in here on Thunder Mtn., 149 Kingfisher, Camdenton, MO 65020. It is simply beautiful here right now. The dogwoods are in full bloom and the redbuds are just now leafing out. We welcome visits from any of our ol' SCS/NRCS friends and former colleagues. You can fish, boat, swim, hot tub, or just sit around and swap stories of the good ol' days. We went to Cordy Potter's funeral, paid our respects and saw a lot of old friends. What a great guy that man was. Truly he will be missed! We're headed up to the Prairie Fork Conservation Field Day, a last Parks & Recreation Commission meeting in Columbia, then will head out to Delaware for marathon #93. #94 will be in Seattle in June

(God willin'). We close on our house in Columbia on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will start on the garden when we get back from DE. Life is good and we are blessed. PS: We just entertained old friends from our SCS days in Bethany, MO this past weekend. His name is **Ed**, and he is battling cancer; thus I will request your prayers for our friend and his family.

We are saddened to report the passing of a good friend and retired design engineer, **Cordes Potter**. In addition, the passing's of **Lu Cook**, widow of the late **Hubert Cook** (retired engineering technician) and **Nina Anderson**, wife of **Carl Anderson** (past assistant state engineer some years ago).

Hope you all have a wonderful spring and summer and please travel safely wherever your travels take you.

## MONTANA

**Dick Gooby, ARCSE Representative**

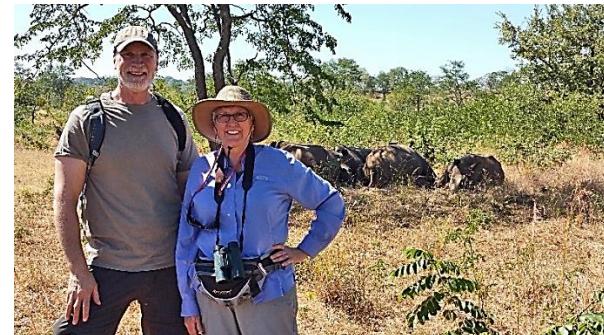
Email: [inca@3rivers.net](mailto:inca@3rivers.net)

**Carla Lawrence Report:** Just wanted to let you know **Alyce Hill** passed on April 1<sup>st</sup>. There is no service planned. Pretty sad, she worked all those years only to be a ward of the state. Anyway, just wanted to let you know. All is well here in Boyd. It's been raining all day, so we are happy.

**Joyce Swartzendruber Report:** Greetings from Livingstone, Zambia. **Jim and I** are traveling throughout southern Africa for a few weeks, but got a good start with a view of Victoria Falls, and an introduction to lion research during our first days here.



Joyce and Jim Swartzendruber on African safari.



Jim and Joyce with small crash of white rhinos in Mosi-Oa-Tunya National Park, Zambia



We will also be in Zimbabwe, South Africa, Swaziland, and Mozambique before we head home to Bozeman.

**Hal Hunter Report:** Hal reported that the northern portion of Yellowstone Park native plant cover is 14% of its potential. Hal has been working since he retired from NRCS to try to get Yellowstone Park to improve the native plant cover. The amount of rainwater entering the soil is far less than it would be if the rangelands were in better condition and had more plant cover. The soil conservation districts and others need to work with Yellowstone Park to help them get the plant cover back to excellent condition.

Hal sent me a number of charts that show the current native plant condition at various sites in the northern portion of Yellowstone Park.

**Harold (Boge) Kraut Report:** Back in my younger days a friend and his dad worked at Rice Stix, which was a distributing company between the manufacturer and the merchants.

John and his dad worked for Rice Stix building display rooms. All of the lumber and plywood from the displays was hauled away to the dump, so instead of paying to haul it away I picked it up for free which was a good deal for both of us.

In addition to that, Rice Stix had merchandise returned to them from the merchants that had some small defect. Overalls brand was 50 cents. If they had been washed, they were 25 cents. John said "what size do you want," and I said size doesn't matter. Helen and I can both wear them, along with our seven kids. The lumber I hauled was made good use of by me and my neighbors.

My oldest brother worked for Heil Packing Co., a slaughter house with all kinds of meat, hogs, and cows. I bought a model A Ford truck (low speed). The hill had to be steep to get it up to 30 mph. My brother, in addition to working for Heil, had about 10 acres south of St. Louis, and he raised hogs. He bought feeder pigs and fed them garbage he picked up on his way home. That lasted quite a while until the little town wouldn't let him do it anymore. So he loaded up the pigs and brought them up to me and dumped them out.

I had ear corn in the corn crib which we knew wouldn't last long. My brother had also been picking up stale (day-old) bread from Colonial Baking Company. So he got me a contract taking all their stale bread, which was perfectly good. So I started feeding the hog's day-old bread.

The neighbors knew when I went to get a load and waited at our house until I got back. They replenished their supply (no charge). How could you charge your neighbors a penny a loaf for the bread?

Harold didn't say, but this was probably happening during the depression. The next time we go to town I'm going to have Mary Ann check with the grocery store to see what they do with their day-old bread. Maybe they will give it to us.

**Scott Hoag Jr. Report:** Scott and Nancy report not much change from two months ago. The first day of spring arrived and it's now "springtime in the Rockies" --some sun, some snow, and overnight temps less than 40. Scott and Nancy are in Maple Valley, WA with Nancy's sister helping get their 96-year-old mother into an adult care facility. A hard piece of business and a wake-up call for us to get our affairs in order.

**Gooby Ranch Report:** It's just about impossible to figure out ahead what the weather gods are going to do. We changed our calving time to start the middle of April to get away from the freezing temperatures and snowy weather. Well guess what: yesterday it rained like crazy, then snowed six inches. Last night the temperature was way down in the teens. When **Mary Ann** went out to check the cows, sure enough one decided to pop out a calf. She just wouldn't wait 'till the weather got decent again. There was way-better weather in January to calve than we are having this spring.

Mary Ann went out to look at the calf, and it was so cold and just shaking, and it couldn't get up since the snow was so deep, wet, and slick. Mary Ann came back to the house to get me to help her get the calf in the barn out of the cold, and help her get the cow in the stall so she could milk the cow and feed the calf, since it was so out of energy from fighting the wet and cold weather.

I had a conference call coming up in a few minutes, so I couldn't help Mary Ann. I recommended that she wait to get the calf in until after the conference call, but she was afraid the calf wouldn't make it if she waited. It was an important conference call, so I had to get on the call. I wanted to help Mary Ann really bad but I couldn't.

Mary Ann went out and got everything set up to get the calf in the barn, then got the wheelbarrow so she could put the calf in the wheel barrow and wheel the calf into the barn.

I entered the conference call-in number and was put on hold until the host got on. I was able to look out the window to see what Mary Ann was doing. She took the wheelbarrow and headed out in the field to get the calf. The spotting scope I got Mary Ann for her birthday a few years ago really helps me keep my eye on her.

As Mary Ann was getting closer to the calf, the cow was getting more nervous and didn't think she wanted Mary Ann too close to her baby. Every time Mary Ann tried to pick the calf up and put it in the wheelbarrow, the cow would butt the wheelbarrow and knock it over. It's a good thing I had taught Mary Ann to lift with her legs because she was getting a lot of practice in lifting the calf. After the 26<sup>th</sup> time, the cow didn't butt the wheelbarrow, so Mary Ann grabbed the handles and started dragging the wheelbarrow backwards so she could keep her eye on the cow. Fortunately, the cow didn't try to kill Mary Ann but was concentrating on the wheel barrow. Even though the cow kept butting the wheelbarrow Mary Ann was able to keep it upright.

Finally, Mary Ann got the calf and cow in the barn and came to the house to take a break. The whole time she was out getting the calf into the barn I was on hold waiting to get on the conference call. When Mary Ann got to the house I looked up the email with the conference call information and I had punched in the wrong number. I don't think I will tell Mary Ann that I messed up.

## NEBRASKA

**Norman Kempf, ARCSE Representative**

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The NE Reitrees' breakfast meetings were called to order with 15 members present in March, and 17 members present in April.

**Norm and Linda Helzer** took a trip to Texas to see the whooping cranes. Norm reported that the population has now grown to around 300. Linda added over 100 bird species to her life list on the trip.

**Roger Hammer** spent Valentine's Day in Valentine, NE with his grandchildren. They then traveled to California to see a new granddaughter. He had one week at home, then had to go back to California to attend his brother's funeral.

**Bill and Colleen Hance** had a lengthy trip starting in Texas to attend a funeral. While there, Bill even rode a horse for the first time in many years and says he wasn't even sore the next day. They spent some time in Shreveport, LA, then on to Hope, AR. In Hope, they visited both the home where Bill Clinton was born and his early childhood home. They went on to Washington, AR, which was the State Capital during the Civil War after the Union Army captured Little Rock. Homes in Washington have been restored to the period. The Hances' final destination was in Elizabethtown, KY.

## NEW YORK

**Nancy Lee, ARCSE**

**Representative**

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**Bob Hartrick** writes and provides a picture of an outing of former Area 1 employees in western New York at Hawley's in Perry, NY. Had a great time seeing and talking to everyone and hopefully we can get together this summer at **Bob Wintamute's**. Stay healthy and hope to see you all soon.



**Sharon Potter** writes: It should be noted that **Harry** recently received a plaque for his 30 years of service on the Town of Pamelia Planning Board. We look forward to attending our 15<sup>th</sup> (and last) graduation for grandchildren, which started with the ones from 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Especially pleased since they were all out of state. We have just completed a Conservation Easement on our property. There will be no development and hopefully many native birds will return. We feel this is a fitting legacy since Harry spent his career in conservation and has converted me in our almost 60 years of marriage. We are well and enjoy each day.

## NORTH CAROLINA

**Jim Canterbury, ARCSE Representative**

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One of our ongoing projects is to identify all of the World War II veterans who worked for SCS/NRCS in North Carolina. We have identified 86 former employees who are WWII veterans. These NC veterans had distinguished service in Europe and the South Pacific serving in the Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard and Army Air Corps. Several participated in the invasion of Normandy, Battle of the Bulge, and the Battle of Remagen Bridge. One was a B-24 pilot, some were commanders of boats, and one was a driver for General Patton.

Only twelve of our North Carolina WWII veterans are still living, some of whom live out of state. Most are 90+ years old. They are **Elton W. Askew, William E. Austin, Eugene Bobbitt, Arlie Culp, Erling Gamble, Lawrence Matheson, Julian McIntyre, Fred Patterson, Robert S. Tennant, Charles S. Wallace, Ormond C. Williams and Edwin Young**.

## OREGON

**Don Stettler, ARCSE Representative**

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The spring quarter retiree lunch held on April 24<sup>th</sup> at The Old Spaghetti Factory in Clackamas was a well-attended affair. Those attending were **Lowell and Marian Kenedy, Eldena Vanderzanden, Jack Land, Chad McGrath, Clifton and Marva Deal, Bruce Newton, Gail Voge, Beckie Wray, Laurel and Rick Grimsted, Thor Thorson, Kay Denfeld, Bobbie Hart, Jeff Repp, Greta Keller, Rose Loehr, Ralph Wadleigh, Dick and Kathy Sylvester, Anna Cerotsky, Marcine Richmond, Lamont and Karen Robbins, Terry Mitchell, Roy Mann, Stephanie Aschmann**, and yours truly, **Don Stettler**.

**Jack Kanalz** sent me his regrets saying he would be on the river trying to fill his salmon tag. He went on to tell me that he and Geneal recently returned from a two week trip to Portugal and Spain. The trip involved some land tours and a river cruise on the Douro River in Portugal. **Russ Hatz** said he would be taking a class on inspecting organic livestock operations. Further, he and Sue had recently spent seven weeks in Europe and three weeks in California.

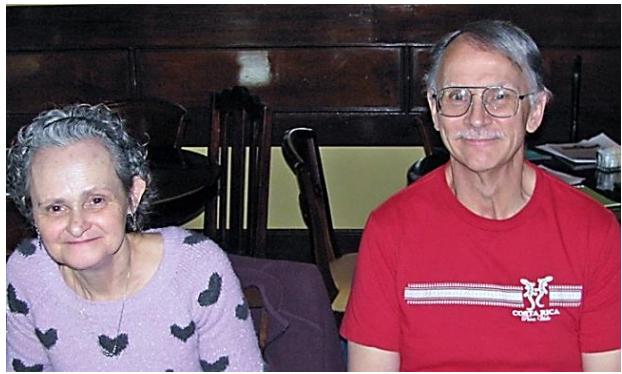
**Laurel Grimsted and Beckie Wray** were welcomed as retirees attending their first quarterly lunch. A special greeting was given to **Jack Land** after a long absence. News from those attending the lunch included **Bobbie Hart** and **Greta Keller** telling of their

success in chance games. Greta's big news, however, was that she now has a great granddaughter. **Stefanie Aschmann** reported that her dragon boat team had a good time in Australia. Unfortunately they did not do well with the race competition. **Kay Denfeld** told of her ukulele group performing in Scappoose. Kay also won a competition of pronouncing a Hawaiian word correctly. It helped that she lived in Hawaii for a time. **Bruce Newton** continues to enjoy sailing. **Roy Mann** announced that he is now totally retired. No more foreign assignments for him.

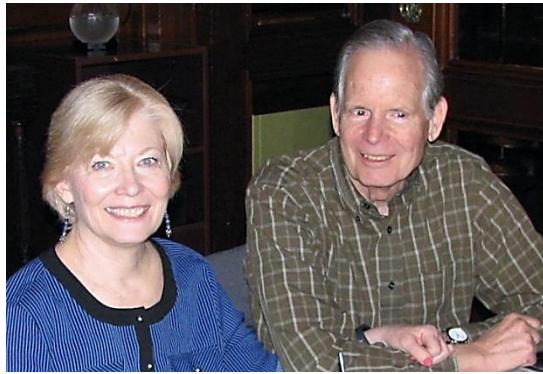
The summer quarter lunch is scheduled for the fourth Wednesday in July, the 27<sup>th</sup>, at the Peppermill Restaurant in Aloha.



*Beckie Wray and Rose Loehr*



*Laurel and Rick Grimsted*



*Karen and Lamont Robbins*



*Clifton Deal and Pat Straka*



*Marcine Richmond and Kay Denfeld*

## PENNSYLVANIA

**Bill Bowers, ARCSE Representative Email:**  
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**Tim Murphy, PA Bugle Editor**  
**[Email: vindemurph@verizon.net](mailto:vindemurph@verizon.net)**

The Pennsylvania SCS/NRCS retirees are busily planning our annual meeting. It will be September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in Carlisle, PA. We plan to visit the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center (USAHEC). Indoor exhibits include army history from the Revolutionary War up to the present, including exhibits on the individual soldier's experience, soldiers' battlefield art, and military memorabilia. An outdoor heritage trail combines displays of military vehicles, weapons, and representative encampments from several eras. We

will have a welcome presentation, business meeting, and lunch, followed by the visit to the USAHEC. Details for the day will be forthcoming in the next PA BUGLE. Time to mark your calendars and plan to visit with friends and former coworkers on September 19<sup>th</sup>! It has been a few years since we met in south central PA. We hope to see a lot of old friends at this event.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

**Byron Thompson, ARCSE Representative**

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The South Carolina Chapter had their spring meeting in Columbia SC on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016. The agenda included an update on activities of each member over the winter months, lunch, and presentations by **Ellis Morrow** on the past, present and future of SCS/NRSC with questions from the group. A few members shared key moments in their careers with SCS/NRCS, which did reflect some of the history of our agency that Ellis covered. As for myself, I will be running for my second term as County Council in McCormick County, SC and asked that someone assume the leadership role as South Carolina representative to ARCSE. **Ellis Morrow and Grady Adkins** agreed to share the position.



**Byron Thompson, Ellis Morrow, and Grady Adkins**



**South Carolina Retirees Spring Meeting:** Bill Melvin, Shirley Melvin, Walt Douglas, Ellis Morrow, Craig O'Dell, Hugh Caldwell, James Wilson, Byron Thompson, Mary Thompson, Niles Glasgow, Carolyn Glasgow, Grady Adkins, Marcia Adkins, Bennie Nicholson, Henry Nicholson, Linda McNeil and Al McNeil. Dan Guy (not in picture) was the photographer.

## TEXAS

**Arnold King, ARCSE Representative**

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The March 2016 meeting of the SCS/NRCS Alumni Club will be held at 10am on Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016, at St. Ann Catholic Church, 100 SW Alsbury Blvd., Burleson, Texas.

Twenty-six members attended the February 19 meeting. Those attending were: **Bill Kuenstler, Emma Adams, Bill Adams, Arnold King, Willeene King, Clyde Goodman, Dennis Gaster, Dave Drennan, Marie Garsjo, Dennis Erinakes, Don Kapalka, Betty Sisson, Anita Plummer, Jere Rickman, Jim Rickman, Mark Boysen, Joyce Petty, Barbara Gillum, Bernelle Baxley, Elaine Davis, Billy Don Davis, Barbara Stockbridge, Dave Stockbridge, Don Newman, Mary Mattinson and Diann Wilmart.** President **Clyde Goodman** called the meeting to order.

Correction: **Marla Goodman** enjoyed her cruise despite having recently had back surgery, NOT Achilles tendon surgery, as I reported previously.

**Bernie Owen** will give the program at our March meeting. He will talk about changes in the tax rules and provide information to help you with your 2015 taxes.

**Bill Adams** presented our program for February, on the subject of ham radio operation. Bill is an Extra Class ham radio operator, the highest level of licensing. He has been a ham radio operator for about 50 years. His wife, **Emma**, is also an Extra Class ham radio operator.

Ham radios are no longer the big, bulky boxes with big unsightly antennas, as they were depicted in the movies when we were growing up. The radio Bill brought to the meeting was about the size of a walkie-talkie, but with a longer antenna. He used it to chat with a pre-arranged contact about 2.5 miles east of Burleson. For international communication, the radio is about the size of a loaf of bread, but the antenna is much larger. Bill's antenna at his house is a 90-foot piece of wire that is draped over a tree (to conceal it as much as possible) and connected to his radio. Bill has had this unit about a month, and in that time he has contacted people in 40 states.

Even with cell phones and the internet, ham radio still plays an important role during major emergencies. After Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast, they were the only means of communication for three days in that area.

We received an update from **Dave Moffitt**. "The holiday season and the month of January were just a blur in the Moffitt household. We had daughter **Amy** and her family from western Colorado with us in Fort Worth at Christmas. Our son, **Brian** and family, and daughter **Cathleen** spent most of the Christmas season with us as well. It was a great time! The down side was that **Maryke**'s sister was admitted to the hospital in Salt Lake City with pneumonia. **Elly** seemed to react well to the hospital care and medication at first, but passed away on January 2<sup>nd</sup> with Maryke and friends by her side. With the assistance of our two daughters, **Maryke** and I spent a week emptying her assisted living apartment and settling her affairs. We were home a little less than a week (I had acquired pneumonia while in Salt Lake) when we left for San Francisco and a cruise that included Hawaii and the Baja. Hawaii was beautiful as always. We had rain one morning, but the rest of the days were sunny and warm. The highlights for us are always the flowers and the whales. We arrived home the first week in February with just enough time to do laundry, look at 250 e-mails, and pack a bag for me to visit Washington, DC, as a part of my work with Texas A&M's AgriLife Research."



*Pictures from Hawaiian cruise by the Moffitts*

**Mark Boysen** and his wife just returned from two weeks in Israel and Jordan. A trip like that would make a great program for our meeting sometime, Mark (hint, hint!). **Marie Garsjo** announced that she would be 60 years old February 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Mary Mattinson**'s granddaughter received a four-year academic scholarship to Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls. She will also be on the soccer team there. **Elaine and Billy Don Davis** recently had the honor of caring for their two-year-old great granddaughter (although I think Elaine used the term "survived for five days").

**Barbara Gillum** reported that her husband recently got hearing aids, and now he is amazed at how much he was missing. **Arnold and Willeene King** just returned from a trip to Mexico. They go to an area near Guadalajara.

**Betty Sisson** said she now believes that climate change is real. It is the middle of February, and she has roses in bloom. **Don Kapalka** is a proud grandfather of a one-month-old grandson.



**Dave Drennan** is enjoying the activities of his grandchildren. He has a grandson who plays on his high school soccer team, and his granddaughter is on the high school drill team. **Bill and Rita Kuenstler** were at their house in Florida in early February. They did some painting and quite a bit of work in the yard, trimming trees and shrubs. They are slowly getting things ready for the move down there.

**Dennis Gaster** reported that he has squirrels in his attic (better than bats in your belfry, Dennis!). He's not going to call an exterminator, but is going to try to get them out himself, because "it's personal this time."

**Clyde Goodman** reports that **Marla** continues her rehab work after her back surgery. She is making progress, and they plan to take another cruise next winter.

The April 2016 meeting of the SCS/NRCS Alumni Club will be held at 10am on Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016, at St. Ann Catholic Church, 100 SW Alsbury Blvd., Burleson, Texas.

Nineteen members attended the March 18 meeting. Those attending were: **Earl Blakley, Dennis Gaster, Clyde Goodman, Joyce Petty, Anita Plummer, Mary Mattinson, Elaine Davis, Billy Don Davis, Dave Drennan, Barbara Stockbridge, Dave Stockbridge, Bob Rymell, Don Newman, Dennis Erinakes, Jerry McMIndes, Don Kapalka, Maxine Owen, Bernie Owen, and Diann Wilmart**. President **Clyde Goodman** called the meeting to order.

**Karl Hickson**, who was a former printing press operator in the National Cartography and Geospatial Center, died February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Additional news provided by members stated that **Bill Porter**, OK, passed away recently as did **John Malley**, ME. **Jane Seibel** recently broke her hip and is now home under the good care of husband **Doug**.

**Bernie Owen** presented our program for March on the subject all dear to our hearts, Federal Income Tax. A number of information sheets were handed out by his able assistant, **Maxine**, and Bernie brought us up to date on the latest tax information. Members were interested in the gift tax. Up to \$14,000 per person may be gifted without paying tax while gifts above that are taxed up to 40%. If married filing jointly, up to \$28,000 per person may be gifted. The receiver of the gift does not pay any tax on the gift.

Health Information was a hot topic at the meeting. **Dave Stockbridge** stated that he got a mild case of shingles in January. Why was it mild? Dave had already received a shingles shot. **Clyde Goodman** said that the shingles shot does not prevent shingles, but greatly reduces its severity. Clyde also said that wife **Marla** also got shingles on March 12<sup>th</sup>, but cannot have a shingles shot because it is a live virus and her autoimmune system does not permit it. A steroid shot seemed to do the trick. In addition, **Dennis Erinakes** recommended getting a pneumonia shot. The pneumonia shot is good for five years, but do not get one after 80 years of age, per **Don Kapalka**. Shots are available at several pharmacies such as CVS and Walgreens. Dennis Erinakes also said to check the appearance of and codes imprinted on your pills against your prescription. He recently had an issue with this. It is amazing how much interest there is in health issues. Could it be that our age has something to do with it?

**Barbara Stockbridge and Dave** are going to England, Scotland, and Ireland next month. **Don Kapalka** is enjoying his 2-month old grandson, although he said the boy doesn't do too much. Just wait a couple of years! **Elaine and Billy Don Davis** have their 4<sup>th</sup> great-grandchild due next month.

**Dennis Erinakes** will be giving us an update on the Prairie Lands Groundwater Conservation District activities at our April meeting. The district covers Ellis, Hill, Johnson, and Somervell Counties. He recently hunted snow geese in Nebraska where he reduced the bird population by fifty. The birds were fooled by 2,000 decoys! He hunts from 6am until 7pm each day.



**Snow Geese in Nebraska**



**Bison in the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, Kansas**

<http://www.nps.gov/tapr/index.htm>

He also stopped by the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve in Kansas. He highly recommends a visit to the preserve. They even have bison there.

**Diann Wilmart** took a Greyhound bus trip to visit her boarding school roommate in Los Angeles, California and had a great time. I make that a shade over 1,400 miles! She talked with a fellow passenger who inherited some land near Pecos, TX, and he is interested in the soils on his property. She will put him in touch with NRCS personnel. However, **Earl Blakley** and others familiar with the area, say it is desert country out that way.

**Dave Drennan** is getting ready for a trip to Hawaii. He is going to Atlanta, Georgia next month to attend the wedding of his oldest granddaughter.

**Dave Stockbridge** said that Lake Granbury is plum full and the fish are very uncooperative. He got into the beer brewing hobby about three years ago and reported that his 10<sup>th</sup> batch of beer is nearly ready. Some of his beers are good and others are better. Friends are always available for tasting sessions.

**Maxine Owen** reported that her two oldest granddaughters visited over spring break and always enjoy going to the annual NRCS Credit Union meeting, mainly for you guessed it, the door prizes! **Clyde Goodman** reported that Marla is awaiting knee replacement after her health improves.

**Margie Christie** wrote that she had a wonderful Christmas with son **Mark** and his wife **Amy** and grandson **Chris**. She is very proud of Chris who just graduated from UCSD with a degree in electrical engineering.

**Dennis Gaster** is proud of his thirteen year-old grandson who was inducted into the National Honor Society. His eleven year-old granddaughter, who will be in seventh grade next fall, was thrilled that she made the cheerleading squad. Dennis has been participating in the YMCA Diabetes Prevention Program since last June and is happy to report some good weight loss and more importantly a reduction in his A1C numbers from 6.4 to 6.1 to 5.9. He still has to take Metformin, but the numbers are getting better. An A1C of 5.6 or less is the goal.

## VIRGINIA

**Ken Carter, ARCSE Representative**

**Email:** [kc7169@comcast.net](mailto:kc7169@comcast.net)

**Ruth Carter**, former Budget Officer, fell over Easter weekend and broke her hip. After replacement surgery, she is up and already wearing out the walker. Home address: 10516 Gayton Rd., Richmond, VA 23238.

**Earl Edward Scates**, Conservation Technician in the Tappahannock Field Office passed away on March 10, 2016.

## WASHINGTON, DC, NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

John Peterson, ARCSE Representative

Email: [jwpeterson@cox.net](mailto:jwpeterson@cox.net)



Niles Glasgow, Blanche Peterson, Carolyn Glasgow, Jo and Don Gohmert waiting for the boat to Fort Sumter, Charleston, SC



John Peterson, Jo and Don Gohmert, Blanche Peterson, Niles and Carolyn Glasgow on boat to Fort Sumter.



**Niles Glasgow, John Peterson, Art Holland, Don Gohmert at Lunch at the Crazy Crab, HHI. We try and meet with Art every year we get to Hilton Head Island, SC.**



**Don Gohmert and Niles Glasgow at the Salty Dog Café, Hilton Head Island, SC.**

Art Holland was the NTC Director in Broomall (Philadelphia), PA. He lives in Sun City, near Hilton Head Island, SC. He is still an associate director of his SWCD at 84, and assists his local RC&D council.

**From Carl Bouchard:** Again I had the privilege of serving as the official photographer for the Princess Program of the National Cherry Blossom Festival. I have lost track, but I think this is about 15 years where I have photographed some portion or all of the program, and Janet has been involved for many more years in one capacity or other. This year we had 58 young ladies representing most states and territories as well as seven countries. A surprise this year was that we had six young ladies who are studying chemical, mechanical (aerospace) and bio-medical engineering. That is over 10 percent of the class. Things are promising for the future. If anyone is interested, they can look at the pictures at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/141242815@N05/albums>.



Janet and Carl Bouchard



National Cherry Blossom Festival Princesses

**Ron and Ann Marlow** report that a highlight of 2015 included an eight-day trip in June to Santa Cruz, NM to attend the wedding of a good friend at Santa Cruz de la Canada Church, built in the 1730s. Prior to the wedding, they had a great time visiting the Painted Desert, Petrified Forest, Hubbell Trading Post, Window Rock (see picture), and Canyon De Chelly in Arizona; Mesa Verde in Colorado; and Four Corners. Window Rock, AZ is the Capitol of the Navajo Nation. After the wedding, they visited friends in Las Cruces from Ron's time in the USAF in the early 70s.



Ron and Ann Marlow at Window Rock, AZ

**John and Blanche Peterson**, along with 125 other charter season ticket holders of DC's Major League Soccer (MLS) club, the DC United, were honored at the April 23<sup>rd</sup> match versus the New England Revolution, marking the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its RFK debut. DC United is the last MLS original team to remain at the same venue, RFK Stadium, for the first 20 years. The team is building a new stadium strictly for soccer near the Washington Nationals ballpark, at Buzzard Point near Ft. McNair. The original season ticket holders, called the 96'ers for the year when the team and league started, were recognized on the field prior to the game's start. DC United won 3-0.



John and Blanche Peterson were honored at DC United soccer game, in RFK stadium.

The annual South State Conservationists and Friends gathering was held in Fredericksburg, VA, April 24-27, 2016. This is always a fun, social reunion of many retired SCS/NRCS people whose families have become friends and enjoyed each other's company over the years. The group socialized on Sunday, did some local sightseeing on Monday, had a golf scramble and did more sightseeing on Tuesday, and then all departed for home after breakfast on Wednesday. The hosts for this year's gathering were Dolores and Ed Nelson, Mary Ann and Gary Margheim, and Barbara and Warren Lee. Those attending were Jude and Rich Duesterhaus, Peggy and Ernie Todd, Barbara and Warren Lee, Shirley Klumpe, Carol Waite and Jerry Seinwill, Barbara and Coy Garrett, Mary Ann and Gary Margheim, Dolores and Ed Nelson, Galen Bridge, Carolyn and Niles Glasgow, Barbara and Hershel Read, Sue and Bob Halstead, Carol and Dick Gallo, Blanche and John Peterson, Betty and Billy Miliken, Bill Richards, and Lee Frederick and Dennie Burns.

Tuesday evening, after the golf, more sightseeing and visiting, the group took a great Trolley Tour of historic Fredericksburg topped off by a wonderful dinner at the Bavarian Chef at the old train station. In 2017 Bill Richards has offered to host the gathering in Circleville, OH, aided by other volunteers. It may be in early May. Fredericksburg was an excellent choice for this gathering. In addition to great shopping and food, it is home to many historic sites; four War between the States Battlefields: Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, The Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House. The Stonewall Jackson Shrine, where Jackson Died is close by. George Washington's boyhood home, Ferry Farm; Chatham Manor used as a field hospital during the battle of Fredericksburg, and the only private home in America visited by three presidents, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln; Kenmore, one of the most elegant mansions in America and the home of George Washington's sister Betty and her family; the James Monroe Museum, the Confederate Cemetery, Martha Washington University were just some of the attractions visited. **Carol Waite's** art gallery, Brush Strokes, attracted many. It was noticed that the gang is walking just a bit slower each year. The **Warren Lee golf team (Warren, Ed Nelson, Billy Miliken)** defeated the **Dick Gallo team (Dick, Ernie Todd, and Gary Margheim)** by one stroke in a hard fought contest. Ed & Dick tied for the longest drive, and Ernie was closest to the pin. The Gallo team said that since Warren was in charge of the outing, the outcome was highly suspicious. The Warren team claimed that Billy was the real captain, and everyone knows he is absolutely trustworthy. Sounds like old times!



South State Conservationists and Friends annual gathering, Fredericksburg, VA April 24-27

## WASHINGTON

**Gerald Richard, ARCSE Representative**

Email: [gjr52pdr@aol.com](mailto:gjr52pdr@aol.com)

Present at our March/April luncheons at the Timber Creek Grill and Buffet were: **Jud Melton, Lennie Husa, Joe Carmack, Harry Riehle, Ralph Schmidt, Larry and Jean Edmonds, Jerry Richard, Carl Vennes, Ken Kaul, and Larry Zehm.** **Lennie and Florence Husa** will be traveling to Alaska on a two-week cruise trip. **Carl Vennes** will be on a fishing trip near Vancouver Island, BC. **Larry Zehm** enjoyed his recent veterans' military flight and tour of Washington, DC. **Ralph Schmidt** sent us an update on his upcoming surgery. "One morning after walking six blocks following several weeks of walking as I was preparing for Bloomsday, I felt a burning sensation in my right chest. Three days later after walking 10 blocks I was exhausted. As a follow up I went to my family doctor, then a cardiologist and lastly to a surgeon. The final report is that I am scheduled for a double bypass on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Providence Heart Center." Our thoughts are with **Ralph and Lynn** and we wish him a speedy recovery. And thank goodness we have the expertise and facilities here in Spokane to provide the help required.

## WEST VIRGINIA

**Peg Reese, ARCSE Representative**

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

**James E. Thorn**, former public affairs specialist, passed away on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015. You can read more in the obituary section of this newsletter.

**Judy Barr Fairbanks** gave the following update: Hi Retires! What a difference a week makes, one Saturday we had a blizzard, stacking up a foot of the white stuff; then the next Saturday it's bathing suit weather. Well, not for me but you get my "drift!" Haha.

The sad news is, the peach tree buds froze solid. But the good news is, the below-zero temps caused my Transparent Apple to be a late bloomer, so it's alive!

This week, a friend drove his tractor through town (only in Parsons) to plow my small garden. Although I protested, the farmer wouldn't take my money; he says he'll be blessed by helping widows, so I'm praying for **Victor Beckman** while plotting out rows.

It's hard to believe **Terry** died 10 years ago; I realize many of you have lost your loved ones, I just keep "putting in time" with Church, Board of Education, hospice care, catering and porch sitting. This winter I tore up old carpet and oil-stained maple hardwood floors! Yes, they would be awesome sanded and refinished, (I did that many years ago before my knees died), but my mixture of boiled Linseed oil and mineral spirits soaked right into this worn wood and it looks great. Kinda reminds me of the old oiled school house floors.

PS: if you ever try this treatment always throw out oily rags, they can spontaneous combust! I found that out 40 years ago while staining the cabin floor (almost caught fire!). I'm praying you are all well and enjoying spring! Take care and God Bless.

**Peg Reese** recently attended the Mountain Stage show at WVU's Creative Arts Center. All the performers were good, but **Judy Collins** was outstanding. Needless to say, a good time was had by all who attended.

## WISCONSIN

**James Enlow, ARCSE Representative**

Email: [jjenlow@att.net](mailto:jjenlow@att.net)

The Wisconsin retirees met for lunch and fellowship on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at Grizzlies Bar & Grill in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. **Vic Price** was the gracious host.

Those in attendance included **Vic and Mary Price, Gene and Annmarie Nimmer, Roger Dahl, Diane Sczipsanski, Ron Kugel, Louie and Cathy Barber, Stan and Marlene Dingle, Larry and Gerri Natzke, Keith and Gail Sengbusch, John and Jean Milligan, Ted Manning, Dale and Rita Jakel, Ken and Joanne Lubich, Steve Rake, Olin and Jan Fenriete, Mike Schendle and wife.**

Everyone enjoyed the lunch and fellowship. The next luncheon is scheduled for June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at Langford's Pub and Grill in Green Lake, WI.

**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.*

**Alton G. Taylor, Denton, TX**

**Marc Safley, Chronicler, Senior Conservationist**

## 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, I will be glad to do the search. Please send death notices and obituary information directly to Ron Marlow at [arcse@cox.net](mailto:arcse@cox.net). Always include the position or the spouse's position with SCS/NRCS.*

### Surname

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

**Anderson** **Nina Grace Preston Anderson** (96) passed away on March 24, 2016. **Nina** was born in Lamar, CO. She married Carl Leo Anderson Jan. 26, 1946, in Burdett, Kansas. They celebrated 70 years of marriage in January. **Carl** retired from SCS as the assistant State Engineer in the late sixties. **Nina** graduated from Emporia State Teachers College in Emporia, KS. She was an All-State basketball player in high school. She is survived by her husband, **Leo Anderson**; two daughters, 10 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren.

**Arbogast** **Rex L. Arbogast** (91) of Higginsville, Missouri passed away on March 14, 2016, at Meyer Care Center. He was born in Sprague, Missouri. He was preceded in death by one brother and one great-great-grandchild. **Rex** served as a veteran of World War II, serving in the Army Air Force, attaining the rank of Private First Class. He worked as a Soil Conservation Technician for the Soil Conservation Service office in Higginsville, retiring in 1979. He also enjoyed farming. He was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Higginsville and a member of the Higginsville American Legion Post #223. In addition to his wife of 66 years, **Gertrude**, he is survived by two sons, **Duane Arbogast** of Higginsville, MO and **Ralph (Susan) Arbogast** of Higginsville, MO, one daughter, **Susan (Mark) LaRoche** of Cookville, TN; and nine grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren and one great-great-granddaughter. Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.hoeferfuneralhome.com](http://www.hoeferfuneralhome.com).

**Ball** **Lemuel Franklin Ball, Jr.** (91) of Claremont, Oklahoma passed away on February 28, 2016, at home. He was born on the family farm in LeFlore County, Oklahoma. Following high school graduation at age 16, he joined the U.S. Army. During World War II, **Lem** served overseas in the First Calvary Division of the Army. Upon his return from service in 1946, he enrolled in Oklahoma A&M College where he completed a Bachelor's in Agriculture and later received his Master's in Agriculture, then OSU. On August 19, 1950, **Lem** and **Margie Lou Priegel** were married. Following college, he worked in seed stores in Enid and Oklahoma City. He then taught in the Agronomy Department at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M and worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Reclamation. And later he worked for the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), which is what he wanted to do all along. As a career employee of the SCS, **Lem** worked in many places including Okemah, Poteau, Claremore, and Okmulgee, retiring in 1980. Through the years, **Lem** even served as Secretary, Vice-President, and President of the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Society. He is survived by his son-in-law, **Rex Fry** of Claremore; his three granddaughters, and six great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by wife, **Margie Lou (Priegel) Ball**; and children **James Ball** and **Virginia Ann (Ball) Fry**.

**Bertsch** Life Member **Walter John Bertsch** (84) of Bryan, Texas passed away on January 15, 2015. **Walter** was born in Coffeyville, Kansas. His family relocated to Aransas Pass, Texas where he lived until he was 21. Walter's enjoyment of classical music and opera began in high school while learning to play the trombone. He became a fervent scholar of The Hebrew and New Testament scriptures and was passionate about living a life that reflected the teaching of Jesus. He served in the US Navy, 1951-1956, and was in the Navy band. During his final tour in Boston, Walter met his beloved **Rhoda**. They married June 2, 1956. The couple moved to College Station, Texas where **Walter** earned a BS from Texas A&M University in 1961. Walter retired from the Soil Conservation Service in 1993 after 42 years of service in west Texas. He and **Rhoda** made Bryan their home in 2003 to be near children and grandchildren. **Walter** was a mentor and ardent supporter to their four children and spouses: **Lawrence** and **Jill**, **John** and **Kent**, **Carol** and **Jody**, **Nancy** and **Kelly**. To his six grandchildren, he was a gentle playmate, a family leader, and an amazing waffle chef. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Hospice Brazos Valley Inpatient Care Facility, Bryan Texas; Friends Congregational Church; or your charity of choice.

**Beutler** **Charles Stanley Beutler** (97) of Elk Grove, California passed away on March 7, 2016. **Charles** was a native of Gem County, Idaho. After graduation from H.S., he remained on the family farm working with no electricity until 1939 and no telephone at all. Like many of his peers, he joined the Army and served in MacArthur's reconstruction effort in Japan as a counter intelligence agent, serving as a carrier of top secret documents and later operated out of a unit that worked with Koreans in gathering intelligence in North Korea. After returning from the War and greatly benefiting from the GI Bill, **Charles** graduated from Brigham Young University with a B.A. degree in Agronomy, becoming the first from his home town to achieve this academic distinction. He married his wife of 64 years, **Beth**, the evening of his graduation. Soon after, **Charles** was able to join the Soil Conservation Service. In this role he was a major contributor to the soils mapping of several California Counties. **Charles** served as an officer in a variety of community and professional associations, including the coastal section of the Soil and Water Conservation Society of America. Along the way he and **Beth** also raised three great girls, **Lisa**, **Rachael** and **Sylvia**. He was the last living member of his own birth family and is survived by his wife, children, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. See more at: <http://www.eastlawn.com/obituary/Charles-Stanley-Beutler/Elk-Grove-CA/1597282#obit-memories>.

Beyer	Member <b>Dennis Beyer</b> (71) of Champaign, Illinois passed away on April 10, 2016. He was born in Delano, CA. He married <b>Susan Goodman</b> on August 7, 1965, she survives. <b>Dennis</b> earned an Engineering degree at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, CA. He worked over 40 years as a civil engineer for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, retiring in 2009. <b>Dennis</b> further served his country as a member of a team of engineers responsible for restoring New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Also surviving are a son, <b>Brian (Melinda) Beyer</b> of Carrollton, TX; a daughter, <b>Erin (Sean) Arie</b> of Champaign; and five grandchildren. During retirement <b>Dennis</b> cared for <b>Susan</b> , who has Alzheimer's, and he would volunteer to file taxes for the elderly. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Alzheimer's research. Condolences may be made to the family at <a href="http://www.morganmemorialhome.com">www.morganmemorialhome.com</a> .
Collins	<b>Mike Collins</b> (59) of Alamosa, Colorado, died in a snowmobile accident on February 27, 2016 in the Snowy Range, west of Laramie, Wyoming. He grew up in the Livonia, Michigan area and went to college at School Craft College in Michigan and then transferred to the University of Wyoming where he received two Bachelor's Degrees in Soil Science and Ag. Mech. in 1980 and 1981. <b>Mike</b> worked for the Northern Gas Company while in Laramie. He then worked almost 29 years for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service where he enjoyed his work as a Soil Scientist and Soil Conservationist. He is survived by his wife of 29 years, <b>Stacy Stapp Collins</b> ; son, <b>Dustin Collins</b> of Cody, Wyoming; daughter, <b>Michelle Collins</b> of Laramie, Wyoming. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Soil and Water Conservation Society.
Cook	<b>Lulu M. Cook</b> (75) of Harrisburg, Missouri, passed away at her home on Sunday, March 27, 2016. Lulu was born in Houstonia, MO. She was married on October 4, 1958 to <b>Hubert D. Cook</b> in Smithton, MO who preceded her in death on March 6, 2004. <b>Hubert</b> was an SCS technician in the state office. She is survived by a son, a daughter, and three grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Coyote Hills Children's Home, 9501 Coyote Hills Rd, Harrisburg, MO 65256. Online tributes may be left at <a href="http://www.memorialfuneralhomeandcemetery.com">www.memorialfuneralhomeandcemetery.com</a> .
Davis	<b>Ronald Melvin Davis</b> (72) of Prineville, Oregon passed away on April 18, 2016 at his home. <b>Ron</b> was born at Enterprise, Oregon, was raised on a cattle ranch north of Enterprise, and went to a one-room country school, grades 1-8. He attended Eastern Oregon College for one year. He received his draft notification in 1964, so he enlisted in the Navy where he served four years during the Viet Nam War. After his service to his country, he returned to college and earned degrees in Education and Agriculture. He taught school for four years, first in John Day and later in Harrisburg. <b>Ron</b> began his career with the Soil Conservation Service in 1980. He worked in McMinnville, Tillamook, and Prineville where he retired as the District Conservationist in 2005. He and his wife also cared for foster children for several years. <b>Ron</b> loved serving his church and community. In 2006 he, along with many friends from the First Baptist Church and the community of Prineville, helped start the Oasis Soup Kitchen, a service to feed the homeless and hungry. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, <b>Marlene</b> , his daughters; <b>Susan (Mark) Friesen</b> of Springfield, Virginia, <b>Jennifer (Andrew) Sahnow</b> of Vancouver, Washington; and son-in-law <b>Pepper Woolsey</b> of Prineville. He has seven grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his precious daughter <b>Steffany (Davis) Woolsey</b> . Memorial contributions may be made to: First Baptist Church Food Pantry or the Redemption House Ministry (ministries that Ron loved) in Prineville through Whispering Pines Funeral Home. 3168 N.E. 3rd Street, Prineville, Oregon 97754. 541-416-9733, <a href="http://www.whisperingpinesfh.com">www.whisperingpinesfh.com</a> .
Donaldson	Life Member and Senior Conservationist <b>Norman Cesko Donaldson "Norm"</b> (98) passed away on October 29, 2015 in Colville, Washington. He was born in Pomeroy. <b>Norm</b> graduated from Washington State College (now Washington State University) in 1940 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy. He then entered the U. S. Army Air Corp for three years during WWII and was honorably discharged on October 19, 1945 from the Fort Lewis Base in Washington. In November, 1945 he began work with the Garfield County engineer's crew, then as field man in the Production Marketing Administration until 1952 in Pomeroy. It was in 1952 that <b>Norm</b> began his career with the Soil Conservation Service as a soil scientist. He was the party leader in charge of soil surveys in Spokane, Stevens, Whitman and Pend Oreille counties. He retired in 1982. In 1962 Norm married <b>Dorothy Freeman</b> . They shared their life in marriage until 1977 when Dorothy passed away. Norm has been an active community service volunteer in Colville, offering his assistance. He has been an active member in the United Methodist Church for many years. He is survived by his wife's sister, <b>Lois Lunden</b> and her husband, <b>George</b> , Newport and their children; and his "adopted" family, <b>Lynn Andrews</b> and his wife, <b>Johanna</b> , Colville and their children. Memorial contributions may be given to the The Hub Senior Center in Colville. Please visit the on-line memorial and sign the guestbook at <a href="http://www.danekasfuneralchapel.com">www.danekasfuneralchapel.com</a> .
Droge	<b>Harry Carl Droke</b> (89) of Council Grove, Kansas, passed away April 5, 2016. He was born in Seneca, KS. <b>Harry</b> married <b>Norma Spell Meier</b> on June 25, 1950 who preceded him in death. He was a member of the Army Reserves and worked for the U.S. Corp of Engineers before becoming a construction inspector for flood control with the Soil Conservation Service. <b>Harry</b> is survived by his three sons, seven grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and a younger brother.
Dunn	<b>Steve Dunn</b> (61) of Portland, Oregon passed away on February 26, 2016 following his battle with medical issues. He was an Electronic Technician with the Natural Resources Conservation Service at the National Water and Climate Center in Portland.
Ferguson	<b>Kenneth Ferguson</b> (88), retired District Conservationist from Poteau, Oklahoma passed away March 2, 2016. He retired from the Soil Conservation Service in the mid 1980's. <b>Kenneth</b> was born in Tipton. He was the first president of the Choctaw Nation Historical Society. He was a drill sergeant in the military where he served as a

scout for the 245th tank battalion, 45th infantry in Korea. He was a graduate of Oklahoma A&M in 1956. **Kenneth** retired from the LeFlore County District Soil and Water Conservation office where he worked for 26 years and then went into the Forest Service for another 10 years. At one time he kept 50 bee hives and worked with combined harvested grass and clover seeds. He was preceded in death by his wives, **Margie Ann (Hayes) Ferguson** and **Wanda (Galland) Ferguson**. Survivors include his daughter, **Barbara (Marshall) Thompson** of Fort Walton Beach, FL; son, **Stanley (Susan)** of Norman; and a stepson.

**Gertsch** Life Member **Marion L. Gertsch** (83) of North Platt, Nebraska passed away December 22, 2015 at his home. He was born in Columbus, NE. **Marion** graduated from Lincoln North East High School in 1949, entered the military and served with the Navy from January 1951 until his honorable discharge on November 3, 1952. He was united in marriage to **Mary Lou Parli** on August 1, 1953 in Lincoln, Nebraska. **Marion** served as a Boy Scout leader and a 4-H club leader. He was also a member of the Lincoln County Fair board and various other organizations. He was a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. He retired as an Engineering Technician after 31 years of service from the Soil Conservation Service in December, 1989. **Marion** is survived by four children, **David [Donita] Gertsch**, Plattsomth NE; **Douglas [Marie] Gertsch**, North Platte; **Dwight [Sandy] Gertsch**, Chandler, AZ; and **Dawn [Chuck] Kincaid**, North Platte; nine grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Mary Lou** in 2000. Online condolences may be shared at [www.carpentermemorial.com](http://www.carpentermemorial.com). Memorials are suggested to Public Television.

**Greiner** **Loren Greiner** (108) passed away on April 2, 2016 at Emmetsburg, Iowa. **Loren** retired in 1968 after a 32-year career as a soil scientist for the Soil Conservation Service in Nebraska and Iowa. He earned a Master's degree at Iowa State following his military service during World War II. He was a World War II veteran and at age 36 landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day. His unit served in France and Germany and liberated an internment camp. He earned five Bronze Stars for his military service. He was the oldest living World War II veteran in Iowa and one of the oldest WWII veterans in the country. He married **Alice Sweet**, a chemistry teacher, in 1942, and she predeceased him in 1977. During his long retirement, **Loren** became an advocate for water and development issues on Iowa lakes. He also led an effort to establish a senior center at Emmetsburg. He is survived by his son, **Keith**, of Des Moines and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Griffing** **Milton Edward Griffing** (89), "Scottie" as he was known to family and friends, passed away peacefully at his home in Sequim, Washington, on January 16, 2016. **Milton** was born in Masonville, Colorado. At Loveland High School, **Scottie** was twice state champion at wrestling. After graduating from high school in 1943, he worked as a welder in the Portland, OR Naval Shipyard until enlisting in the US Navy in January, 1944. During WWII he served as quartermaster, operating L.C.T.'s (Tank Landing Craft) at Palermo, North Africa, and Marseille. In 1946, **Scottie** served as quartermaster on the USS Midway on its shakedown cruise. Discharged from the Navy in 1946, **Scottie** attended Colorado A&M (now CSU) at Fort Collins. In 1947, he married **Dorothy Druhan**, whom he'd met while stationed in New Orleans, and they settled into the house he had built by hand in Loveland. After graduating, the new **Griffing** family moved to Greenbush, MN, where **Scottie** taught farming techniques to veterans. In 1953 he purchased a 235-acre dairy farm outside of Greenbush, and then in 1958 moved his family to Fargo, ND to get his master's degree in Ag Economics. In 1960, the Griffings moved to Lincoln, NE where **Scottie** pursued a Ph.D. in Ag Economics at the University of Nebraska. In 1964, the Griffing family, now with seven children, moved to Bozeman, MT, where **Scottie** worked as the Economist for the USDA Soil Conservation Service for 15 years. In 1980, the Griffings were transferred to Portland, OR where **Scottie** became the economist for the western multi-state team. **Scottie** retired in 1986 and moved to Sequim, WA. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 66 years, **Dorothy**. **Scottie** is survived by his seven children, thirteen grandchildren, and thirteen great-grandchildren.

**Heard** **Thomas Allan Heard** (79) of Lexington, Kentucky passed away on March 20, 2016. **Allan** was born in Oxford, MS. He went on to attend the University of Mississippi, from which he graduated with a degree in civil engineering in 1959. He began work with the USDA Soil Conservation Service. During 34 years with the SCS, he rose to the position of Assistant State Conservationist, living during those years in Mississippi, Nebraska, Alabama, and Kentucky. He also earned a Master of Resource Administration degree from the University of Montana. Following his retirement from SCS in 1993, Allan was hired by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government as a senior municipal engineer. He retired in 2004. **Allan** is survived by his wife of 55 years, **Mary Alice Hearn**, and by his three children and seven grandchildren. He was a longtime member of Immanuel Baptist Church, where he sang in the church choir for many years and was also a deacon. For several years he worked weekly at the Elkhorn Association's clothes closet helping to distribute donated clothes to the needy. Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to the Immanuel Baptist Church Missions Fund, [The Michael J. Fox Foundation](http://The Michael J. Fox Foundation), or Hospice of the Bluegrass. [www.milwardfuneral.com](http://www.milwardfuneral.com).

**Hickson** **Karl Henry Hickson** (58) of Decatur, Texas passed away February 16, 2016, at home. He was born in Hackensack, N.J. **Karl** served in the US Army and was a printing press operator in the National Cartography and Geospatial Center in Fort Worth for NRCS. Survivors: Wife of 20 years, **Marie Hickson** of Decatur, two daughters, and four grandchildren.

**Hill** **Alyce Hill** (89) was born on October 25, 1927 and passed away on April 1, 2016. **Alyce** was a resident of Bozeman, Montana.

**Langford** **H. C. Langford** (78) passed from this life on March 25, 2016 at Stillwater, Oklahoma. **H.C.** was born in Wellington, Texas. He grew up in Wellington and attended school in nearby Quail, Texas. He graduated from Clarendon

Community College in Clarendon, Texas. **H.C.** and **Frankie** were married in Perry on April 8, 1982. They are members of the First Baptist Church in Stillwater. He worked for the Soil Conservation Service as a surveyor for 37 years, retiring in 2000. He worked in the office at Perry as a Technician and then as the CET. After retirement, **H.C.** farmed and did contract work for Ducks Unlimited. Survivors include his wife, **Frankie**, of the home; two daughters and a son, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made in his name to the Ronald McDonald House Charities at 1301 NE 14th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73117. Phone number 405-424-6873. Condolences and remembrances may be sent via an online guestbook at [www.strodefh.com](http://www.strodefh.com).

## Lare

**Boyd Duane Lare** (85) of Albuquerque, New Mexico passed away on April 22, 2016. He was born in Auburn, NE. In 1949 he went to Eastern NM College to study engineering. In 1957 he was hired by the Soil Conservation Service at Hagerman to be a surveyor. **Boyd** graduated from New Mexico State University with honors in 1961. The family moved to Portland, OR where he worked for the Soil Conservation Service as an engineer in the E&WP Unit. In 1964 the family moved to Albuquerque. He transferred to the US Army Corps of Engineers, later working with flood control. He retired in 1982. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, **Jackie**; a daughter, two sons, two grandsons, a granddaughter, and three great-granddaughters. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the National Kidney Foundation, [nkfcare@kidney.org](mailto:nkfcare@kidney.org). Please visit our online guestbook for **Boyd** at [www.FrenchFunerals.com](http://www.FrenchFunerals.com)

## Leonard

**Maurice O. Leonard** (95) of Storm Lake, Iowa passed away February 16, 2016 at the Fonda Specialty Care in Fonda, Iowa. **Maurice** was born in Holstein. After graduation from H.S., he enrolled at the University of Iowa. While attending Iowa, he was called to the US Army to serve his country in 1941. He served in the Coast Artillery and was stationed in Michigan, Montana, California, and Nebraska. **Maurice** transferred to the US Army Air Force where he was a flight engineer on a B-24 Liberator Bomber on Kodiak Island in Alaska. He was honorably discharged following WWII in 1945. Following his discharge from the service, **Maurice** worked for General Electric in Omaha. He pursued his passion for the land and was employed by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in Guthrie Center, eventually moving to Storm Lake in 1955. He continued this work, retiring in 1980. His gun collection was envied by many, given the number of vintage guns he owned. He sold his collection and pursued other collections such as Hummel figurines, plates, and Meerschaum pipes. **Maurice** also enjoyed his coffees with friends at Hy-Vee and Hardees. Even in his 80s, it was not uncommon for him to set off on the 2-mile walk each morning to Hy-Vee. **Maurice** is survived by his wife of 68 years, **Lillian** of Storm Lake and daughters, **Dr. Cynthia Martinek (Jerold)** of Belmond, Iowa and **Dr. DiAnne Leonard (Neil Ellison)** of Danville, Pennsylvania; and five grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a grandson, **Jeremy Martinek**.

## Ludwig

**William L. Ludwig** (89) of Eagle River, Wisconsin passed away March 20th, 2016, on his birthday. **Bill** was born in Plymouth, Wisconsin. He served in the US Navy in the Pacific during World War II. Upon returning home he began his college career in Stevens Point and later transferred to the University of Wisconsin-Madison, graduating in 1951 with a BS in agriculture. He began his career with the Soil Conservation Service as a soil scientist and worked in Madison, Wausau, Ashland, Stratford, Neillsville, and Rhinelander, Wisconsin, and out of state at Athens, GA and Des Moines, IA. While in Neillsville he played drums with the Howie Sturtz Orchestra for 12 years, appeared often on TV's Dairyland Jubilee, and recorded four albums. **Bill** loved the Big Band era music. He obtained his private pilot's license and became active with the Civil Air Patrol. Bill was always headed to a meeting, as he was forever on a board of directors or a committee most of his life and even into retirement--too many to list. After retiring in 1984, Bill began his second career as a strawberry farmer. He worked tirelessly perfecting the biggest, most delicious strawberry he could. He loved working on his land! And "weather permitting" he was out hoeing, plowing, irrigating, bulldozing, or just walking around assessing things, sunup to sundown. Over the last six months, **Bill** fought his battle, but in the end succumbed to the insidious Alzheimer's disease. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, **Shirley** and their three daughters, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild. You may leave your private condolences for the Ludwig family at [www.carlsonfh.com](http://www.carlsonfh.com).

## Malley

Senior Conservationist **John Crohan Malley** (90) of South Portland (and formerly of Cape Elizabeth), Maine, passed away on March 4, 2016 after a long illness. **John** was born in Newton, Massachusetts. He graduated from the University of New Hampshire, Class of 1960, with a BS in Agriculture. He was a World War II veteran. He joined the US Navy at age 17 and served from 1943 to 1946 as a Medical Corpsman. With his father, he operated Indigo Hill Farms, Inc. in Somersworth from 1946 to 1956, maintaining a herd of Registered Guernsey Cattle. From 1956 to 1984, he worked for the USDA Soil Conservation Service as a Soil Conservationist in Concord and Exeter, New Hampshire, then transferring to Maine as a District Conservationist in Machias, Presque Isle and Portland.

Following his retirement in 1984 from the USDA, he worked as a Resource/Land Use Planner for Sebago Technics, Inc. before starting his own consulting firm with a primary focus on land application of bio solids and septic system design. **John** was a skilled and avid yachtsman, and he and his wife cruised the coast of Maine extensively in an Albin 25 motor vessel named "Caper." After leaving the boating world, they traveled throughout the USA and Canada in their RV. **John** maintained a continuing interest in the Cumberland County Maine Soil and water Conservation District, serving 25 years as an Associate Supervisor until his retirement in early 2010. He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 67 years, **Irene (Mailhot) Malley**; sons **James (Anne)** of Barre, Massachusetts; **Robert (Becky)** of Cape Elizabeth; daughters **Mary McQueen** of Marietta, Georgia; and **Nancy (David) Erb** of Scarborough; along with several grandchildren, great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. John was predeceased by his daughter **Ann Atherton**; and granddaughter **Irene (Reenie) McQueen**. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in John's memory to: Catholic Charities Development Office, PO Box 10660, Portland, ME

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Neitzel	Honorary Member and Senior Conservationists <b>Kenneth Karl Neitzel</b> (101) of Edina, Wisconsin was called by his Lord on March 2, 2016. He was born in Baraboo, Wisconsin. He was the oldest of seven children. His wife <b>Helen</b> predeceased him in 2008. <b>Ken</b> and <b>Helen</b> devoted their lives to the Salvation Army Church and practiced the Salvation Army motto "Heart to God and Hand to Man." Ken was a veteran of World War II. Following his discharge, he went to work for the USDA Soil Conservation Service. He was called back by the military to serve in Korea. Upon discharge, he went back to work at the same agency. He worked in Wisconsin, Washington, DC and Champaign, Illinois. He retired in Illinois as the USDA State Administrative Officer for SCS in 1970. Donations can be made in his name to: Salvation Army Noble Worship Center, 10011 Noble Parkway, Brooklyn Park, MN 55443.
Page	Member <b>Leland Page</b> (84) passed away on February 15, 2016, at his home in Sandy, Utah. <b>Lee</b> was born in Ottumwa, Iowa. He was proud to be a veteran of the United States Navy, serving from March 1, 1951 to February 2, 1955. He was stationed on the USS Essex CVA 9 during the Korean War. After his military service, he earned a bachelor's degree in Farm and Ranch Management from Colorado State University in 1960. He married <b>Gladys F. Petersen</b> on March 7, 1964. They had two children together, <b>James (Jim) and Leann</b> . <b>Lee</b> and <b>Gladys</b> were married for 42 years upon her death in 2006. <b>Lee</b> had a long career as a Soil Conservationist for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, first in Iowa, then Indiana, and finally to Sandy, Utah, in 1976, where he and his family made their permanent home. He retired in January, 1996. <b>Lee</b> loved the rodeo and traveled the rodeo circuit, bulldogging (steer wrestling) both before and after he graduated from college. He loved all things auto racing, especially sprint cars, camping, dune buggies, the Indiana Hoosiers, good home cooking, old western movies and hunting shows. <b>Lee</b> is survived by his children: son, <b>Jim Page (Stacy)</b> and daughter, <b>Leann McFalls (Michael)</b> ; as well as five grandsons. Condolences may be extended to the family at <a href="http://www.MemorialUtah.com">www.MemorialUtah.com</a> .
Porter	<b>Billy Ray Porter</b> (60) of Stillwater, Oklahoma passed away at his home on March 16, 2016. <b>Bill</b> was born in Kingfisher, Oklahoma. He graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1980 with an Agricultural Economics degree. <b>Bill</b> enjoyed his job and co-workers at the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service for over 36 years. For the past 21 years he served as the Assistant State Conservationist for Water Resources. Survivors include his wife of 28 years <b>Pamela Porter</b> , a son, and a granddaughter. The family asks in lieu of flowers that memorial donations be made to the American Cancer Society.
Potter	<b>Cordes L. Potter</b> (69) passed peacefully from this life on March 25, 2016, at his home with his wife at his side. <b>Cordes</b> was born in Columbia, Missouri. He attended Hickman and the University of Missouri, graduating with a BS in Civil Engineering in 1969. He was vice president of Sigma Phi Epsilon and later served ten years as Chapter Advisor. He received the Volunteer Excellence Award from the National Chapter in recognition of his service. He enlisted in the US Air Force and was stationed at Eglin Air Force Base, where he was assigned to the Engineering Squadron and was a member of Prime BEEF (Base Emergency Engineering Force), a part of RED HORSE. Prime BEEF team members were on call for rapid response to anywhere in the world. <b>Cordes</b> distinguished himself by being awarded Airman of the Year in 1971. This award is given yearly to only one outstanding airman in the entire Air Force. He was honorably discharged in 1973 with the rank of Staff Sargent. He then went to work for the US Department of Agriculture, NRCS, where he was a design engineer in the state office. He married the love of his life, <b>Gayle Ann (Coats) Potter</b> , October 16, 1970, at Campus Lutheran Church in Columbia, Missouri, and she survives. They celebrated 45 years of marriage and had two daughters and three grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, please donate to <a href="http://www.sigep.org/chapterscholarships">http://www.sigep.org/chapterscholarships</a> . Under "choose a program," select "Missouri Alpha Cordes Potter Scholarship."
Putnam	Life Member <b>Billy Marion Putnam</b> (89) of Stillwater, passed away on February 22, 2016. <b>Bill</b> was born in Ada, Oklahoma. He spent his early years in the Ada area before moving to Brownsville, Texas, where he attended high school. <b>Bill</b> joined the US Navy and served on active duty in WWII and the Korean Conflict. He was honored with several prestigious service awards during his 20-year Naval career. Following his honorable discharge in 1962, <b>Bill</b> began working as an Administrative Officer for the Soil Conservation Service. In 1966 he married the love of his life, <b>Pauline "Polly" Hinrichs</b> in Albuquerque, NM. The family relocated to Connecticut, Virginia, Puerto Rico, and several other states before Bill's retirement in the mid-1980s. Upon retirement, the family moved to Stillwater, Oklahoma, to be closer to Pauline's family. He could often be found at the Moose or Elks Lodge, or the Stillwater VFW visiting with friends. He is survived by his wife and best friend <b>Polly Putnam</b> of Stillwater, Oklahoma; daughter <b>Claudia (Clint) Lynch</b> of Denton, Texas; a grandson and a great-grandson.
Putnam	<b>Pauline "Polly" Putnam</b> (89) of Stillwater, Oklahoma passed on February 27, 2016 in Stillwater. <b>Pauline Josephine Hinrichs Putnam</b> was born in Stillwater, OK. She graduated from Stillwater High School in 1944 and attended Oklahoma A&M College from 1944 to 1946. She was employed by the Soil Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. In 1965, she transferred to the Albuquerque, NM office of the Soil Conservation Service where she met her husband, <b>Billy Putnam</b> . She is survived by a step daughter <b>Claudia Lynch</b> .
Reed	<b>Pearlie Sylvester Reed</b> (67) of Marion, Arkansas passed away on April 8, 2016 in Methodist University Hospital. <b>Pearlie</b> was raised on a farm in the rural town of Heth, AR, where he was the ninth of eighteen children. He worked hard to attend the State University of Pine Bluff where he received his degree in Animal Husbandry, and he later earned a Masters of Public Administration degree from American University in Washington, DC. <b>Pearlie</b> began his remarkable career with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in 1968 as a student intern in Walnut

Ridge, Arkansas. Through a wealth of experiences and job responsibilities, he eventually served and led NRCS as Chief from 1998 to 2002. He served as State Conservationist for several states including Arkansas, Delaware, Maryland, and California as well as the US Territories of Puerto Rico and Guam. **Pearlie** served as Assistant Secretary for Administration of the US Department of Agriculture from 2009 to 2012, retiring to return to work as a consultant in his own firm in Marion, Arkansas. Over the course of his career, **Pearlie** received numerous awards and honors. He is survived by his wife, **Lesia Ann Reed** and her son, **Robert Charles Terrell, Jr.**; his daughters, **Cheryl Yvette Reed** of Raleigh, NC, **Teresa Reed** of Raleigh, NC; a granddaughter, a grandson, a great-granddaughter and thirteen brothers and sisters. He was preceded in death by his late wife, **Deloris W. Reed**.

Scates	<b>Earl Edward Scates</b> (74) of Warsaw, Virginia passed away on March 10, 2016. He was retired from the United States Department of Agriculture as a Soil Conservationist Technician in the Tappahannock Field Office. He was a member of Menokin Baptist Church. <b>Earl</b> is survived by a brother and a sister, four nephews, and a niece. Memorial contributions may be made to Menokin Baptist Cemetery Fund, c/o Julie Christopher, 4710 Menokin Road, Warsaw, VA 22572.
Scott	<b>Arneal Scott</b> (80) of Athens, Georgia passed away on April 7, 2016. He was preceded in death by his daughter, <b>Pamela Scott Haeberer</b> . Survivors include his wife of 59 years, <b>Melba Colleen Scott</b> ; son, <b>Michael Arneal Scott (Beth)</b> ; and two granddaughters. <b>Arneal</b> began his career at the Soil Conservation Service in August 1957 in Hereford TX. He then became the Assistant State Conservationist in Athens, GA in November 1975, where he worked until he retired on November 30, 1990. He was a member of Tuckston United Methodist Church and was active in the Gideon Ministry. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to the Benevolence Fund at Tuckston UMC or the Alzheimer's Association.
Sykes	<b>Charles W. Sykes</b> (91) of Humboldt, IL passed away on March 25, 2016 at the Mattoon Rehabilitation and Health Care Center. <b>Charles</b> was born in Baylis, IL. He married <b>Rachel Cuppy</b> of Humboldt, IL on June 16, 1951 in Arcola, IL. She passed away on October 9, 2010. After graduating from Barry Community High School in 1943, he served in the US Navy until the end of WWII. In 1950 he graduated from the College of Agriculture, University of Illinois, and after teaching vocational agriculture in Wisconsin and Illinois for several years, he served as District Conservationist with the USDA Soil Conservation Service in Henderson, Scott, Brown, Calhoun and Jersey Counties in Illinois. He retired from that position in 1983. He then farmed the home farm in Adams County until 1996 and until his death he attended to various farming and other interests such as beekeeping. He maintained an active membership in the First United Presbyterian Church of White Hall, IL and the White Hall Lodge 80 AF&AM until moving to Decatur, IL in 1989. He later would move to Humboldt, IL and attended the Humboldt United Methodist Church. He is survived by five children, seven grandchildren, and fourteen great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to the Humboldt United Methodist Church.
Thorn	<b>James Eugene Thorn</b> (81) of Morgantown, West Virginia passed away unexpectedly October 30, 2015. He was born in Brilliant, Ohio, graduated from high school in Point Pleasant, and was a Morgantown resident since 1970. <b>James</b> was an avid runner having completed more than 40,000 miles during his lifetime and was only hit by lightning two times. He served as the Public Affairs Specialist for the Soil Conservation Service, retiring in 1992. <b>James</b> is survived by his loving wife, <b>Julia Hathaway Zay Thorn</b> , his three sons, a stepson, and eight grandchildren. Condolences: mcculla.com
Vandenbos	<b>Ruth Ann Junge Vandenbos</b> (86) of Gresham, Oregon, died peacefully surrounded by her family at her home on February 28, 2016. She was the wife of <b>Arlo</b> who retired as a design engineer on the SCS Oregon Staff. He passed away January 1, 2003. She graduated from the Mary Lanning School of Nursing in Hastings, Nebraska, in 1950. She married Sgt. <b>Arlo Ledell Vandenbos</b> , USMC, on February 28, 1954, in York, Nebraska. In addition to her parents and her husband, she was preceded in death by nine of her 11 siblings. She is survived by her five children, 11 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren. <b>Ruth</b> was an RN for over four decades, including 18 years in Gresham at Mt. Hood Medical Center. She served as a volunteer with Mt. Hood Hospice for nine years.
Wynia	<b>Richard "Rich" L. Wynia</b> (64) of Manhattan, Kansas passed away on April 3, 2016. He was born in Platte, South Dakota and served in the United States Navy from 1974–1977. He later earned his PhD in Agronomy from South Dakota State University. Rich devoted 30 years of service to the USDA-NRCS and the Plant Materials Program. He had served as the Manager of the Plant Materials Center in Manhattan, Kansas since 1991. Survivors include his wife of 39 years, <b>Shirley</b> of the home, three daughters, and four grandchildren.
Young	Senior Conservationist <b>Haden Ewing Young</b> (90) of Mangum, Oklahoma passed away on July 13, 2003. He was a member of the Civilian Conservation Corp at Binger from July 1934 to March 1936. <b>Haden</b> retired from the Soil Conservation Service in 1981 as an engineering technician after 33 years in Caddo, Kiowa and Greer counties. He was a member and elder of the Church of Christ. He was a member of the board of directors of Quartz Mountain Christian Camp for many years. Young's Mountain was dedicated in his honor. Survivors include his wife of 68 years, <b>Altus</b> ; three sons, two daughters, 14 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren.

**DEADLINE FOR JULY/AUGUST 2016 NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS IS JUNE 25, 2016**



*Reflection Pond, Denali National Park, Alaska.*



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