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# NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter for Retired SCS and NRCS Employees

Vol. 42, No. 3 May/June, 2015

The **ARCSE Newsletter** is published bi-monthly by the Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees, P.O. Box 7454, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7454

Website: [www.arcse.org](http://www.arcse.org)

## NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

*John Stierna*

**Capitol Hill**—Earlier this year, both the House and Senate passed their respective annual budget resolutions for FY 2016. The leaders of both the House and Senate budget committees have been working to develop a single resolution for passage in both houses. While they missed the April 15<sup>th</sup> deadline, they are now close to having it done so that both chambers can vote on it sometime in May. **Senator Debbie Stabenow** (D-MI), who is a Senate member of the budget conference committee, argued strongly that the farm bill enacted in February 2014 already made substantial cuts, and that the budget resolution should not impose further reductions on agriculture. Senator Stabenow was chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee for the 2014 Farm Bill formulation and passage.

With completion of the budget resolution, the appropriation process will move to the forefront. Many agricultural and conservation groups have been seeking to reach appropriators, asking that they not impose caps on the funding provided in the 2014 Farm Bill. The reductions already imposed by that compromise legislation, it is argued, means that agriculture has already contributed its fair share for deficit reduction.

**Conservation Compliance**—The office of the Secretary and the three USDA agencies engaged in implementation of conservation compliance issued the interim final rule for the addition of crop insurance to the several other USDA programs linked to conservation compliance. The rule was published on April 24, 2015. USDA recently had another informal briefing for constituency groups concerning the status of implementation. **Deputy Secretary Krysta Harden**'s opening remarks emphasized that USDA is not implementing compliance as a "got ya" rule. Instead, every effort is being made to enable producers to retain eligibility for USDA program benefits, including crop insurance premium assistance. Louisiana State Conservationist **Kevin Norton**, returned to Washington on detail to USDA, to help insure that implementation is workable on the ground. June 1, 2015 is the deadline for producers to file a signed form AD-1026 if they do not already have one on file at USDA—this is important for those producers newly-covered by compliance requirements.

**Conservation Easements**—NRCS **Chief Weller** has approved a 30-day extension to the public comment period for the interim final rule on the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program. It had been slated to close on April 28<sup>th</sup>. A number of groups had requested more time for review and comment on the rule. The ACEP program was created in the 2014 Farm Bill by combining the Wetlands Reserve Program, the Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program, and the Grassland Reserve Program. The interim final rule was issued on February 27<sup>th</sup> and called for a 60-day period for comments. The 30-day extension will likely put stress on NRCS for reviewing and addressing all public comments and developing a final ACEP rule by the December 31, 2015 deadline promised by Chief Weller.

**USDA**—**Secretary Vilsack** announced a USDA plan to address climate change. It calls for USDA to partner with American farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners to reduce carbon emissions and bolster carbon sequestration to achieve a combined 120 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> mitigation per year by 2025. USDA's strategic plan to combat climate change will rely on incentive-based, voluntary programs. Secretary Vilsack listed USDA's 10 "Building Blocks for Climate Change" and a few examples of the goals the agency pledged to accomplish. More information can be found at: <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=climate-change>

**Sage Grouse**—NRCS is claiming a success story for conservation efforts in California and Nevada that has helped keep the greater sage grouse off of the endangered species list. More information is available at:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD340732>

**RCPP**—NRCS will soon announce a second opportunity for conservation projects through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). Created in the 2014 Farm Bill, RCPP combines the authorities of four former conservation programs, the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program, the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative, and the Great Lakes Basin Program. As reported in the last issue of the ARCSE newsletter, NRCS selected 115 projects for about \$370 million in Federal funding earlier this year. This second round of RCPP project funding will provide about \$230 million in Federal dollars that will be leveraged with a similar amount of non-Federal funding.

**WOTUS**—The waters of the United States rule has gone to the Office of Management and Budget. EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers have revised the rule based on the public comments received during the past several months. In the meantime, the House has been working to force EPA and the COE to withdraw the rule and reformulate it after consulting with state and local officials.

**People**—NACD has announced that **Jeremy Peters** was selected as their new Chief Executive Officer. Jeremy joined NACD last October as Chief Operating Officer but moved into the CEO position that became available when **John Larson** moved to the American Farmland Trust.

**Conservation Innovation Grant Program**—Several states have posted announcements under the Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) Program. This program provides competitive grants that stimulate the development and adoption of innovative approaches and technologies for conservation on agricultural lands. The national CIG program announcement is slated to close on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015. However, the following states have closing dates that range from May 8<sup>th</sup> to June 12<sup>th</sup>: Arkansas, Connecticut, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Oregon, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, and Vermont. Go to <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=cig> and click on the specific state announcement for more information.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Warren M. Lee**, [wandblee@comcast.net](mailto:wandblee@comcast.net)

There is still time to vote for our President Elect and your regional vice presidents. Thus far only about 100 of our members have voted. This can be done by either mailing me the completed ballot or emailing me at [wandblee@comcast.net](mailto:wandblee@comcast.net) with your choices. If you send me an email, be sure to identify yourself since email addresses are not always self-evident.

At the risk of not naming other members with milestone birthdays, I ask you to extend wishes to Galen Bridge who is celebrating his 80<sup>th</sup> on May 29<sup>th</sup>. Many of us worked with Galen over the years. Let's see how many birthday wishes our ARCSE members can generate in honor of this achievement. His address: 37459 S. Desert Star Ct., Tucson, AZ 85739-1401 and email address is [agrwoodchopper@gmail.com](mailto:agrwoodchopper@gmail.com).

### **ARCSE President's Award for Outstanding Community Service**

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

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

#### **Qualifications:**

- Nominee is an ARCSE Member.
- Nominee demonstrates strong character and high ethical and professional standards.
- Selection will not be based upon his/her achievements while employed by SCS/NRCS.

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

## A BIT OF HISTORY

**Douglas Helms, Historian**

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### **Wild Flowers, Lady Bird, and the Highway Beautification Act**

An article in the *Washington Post* about the 1992 documentary film “A Life: The Story of Lady Bird” inspired this contribution to the ARSCE newsletter. The article’s author highlighted the impact of Lady Bird’s beautification campaign on the appearance of springtime Washington fifty years after passage of the Highway Beautification Act.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/springtime-in-washington-wouldnt-be-the-same-without-lady-bird-johnson/2015/03/18/36ea99c2-ccc5-11e4-8a46-b1dc9be5a8ff\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/springtime-in-washington-wouldnt-be-the-same-without-lady-bird-johnson/2015/03/18/36ea99c2-ccc5-11e4-8a46-b1dc9be5a8ff_story.html)

The film was shown several times in Washington as part of the annual Environmental Film Festival. At a White House Conference on Natural Beauty (Washington, DC, May 24 and 25, 1965), **President Johnson** called on all the federal agencies to do their part.

In response to the campaign, the Plant Materials Program (PMC) initiated an effort to further beautification of landscape. In his history of the program, **Curtis Sharp** recounted how the PMCs began the search for wildflowers that combined beauty with traditional conservation benefits. With the PMC requirements for evaluation, selection, and commercial release of foundation stock, most of the plant releases occurred after the Johnsons had departed Washington for the banks of the Pedernales River.

Sharp cited in particular the work of **Erling T. Jacobson** at the Manhattan, KS, PMC. Jacobson expanded the center's scope from grasses to a wider inclusion of forbs, some of which were nitrogen-producing legumes. Jacobson released six cultivars into commercial production, and his successors released another five cultivars.

This effort in the 1960s-1970s on wildflowers with conservation benefits predated the more recent focus on evaluation of native plants in the PMC work.



*“Sunglow” grayhead coneflower*



*“Kanab” purple prairie clover*



*“Eureka” thickspike gayfeather*

#### MEMBERSHIP DUES

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

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Ron Marlow, Secretary Treasurer

### New Members

Biddex, Wade  
Nicholson, John  
Butler, Sally

VA  
VA  
ME

Apel, Jimmy  
Lee, Theresa  
Blume, Harold

TX  
TX  
KS

## ARIZONA

**Karl Klingelhofer, ARCSE Representative**

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**John Hedlund, Tucson** - Made it back to North Dakota for the summer only to be greeted by a couple inches of new snow. At least in mid-April it doesn't last long. The trip went well except for high winds in South Dakota. They say things are supposed to be slowing down because of lower oil prices but one doesn't see much of a slowdown. I need an electrician for some work; those I call have a two-month waiting list.



*Ron and Barb Moreland with grandchildren Maddy and Reed.*

**Ron and Barb Moreland, Tucson** - Just spent a week in Sedona, AZ, where we golfed (Ron got his first hole-in-one), hiked, birded, jeeped, etc. But our favorite recent event was a visit from our grandchildren. Here we are hiking in Catalina State Park. **Maddy** is 17 and **Reed** is 12.

**Marilyn Davis, Yuma** - I just want all my retired friends to know what happened to me. Monday March 9<sup>th</sup> my daughter, son-in-law, my son and I were to board an airline in San Diego to fly to Ireland. We were going on a 9-day trip offered thru ND State U called "Treasures of Ireland." One hour before the shuttle was to come to take us to the airport I fell and broke my left hip right below the ball! I was immediately taken to a hospital and had a total hip replacement the next morning. In the meantime, some very quick decisions were made as to who would go to Ireland. **Ron**, my son, remained with me. Dawn and Jack went on the trip and absolutely loved it. They were there over St. Patricks' Day and saw NDSU's Gold Star Band march in the famous parade. And since I had bought the insurance package, Ron and I got our trip money back. I was in the hospital there for three days and then transported back to Yuma to a facility for therapy. I was there for three weeks and have been in my own home since then. I have Home Health care and am doing very well. There have been many of Gods' blessings through all this, but one of the greatest was that this happened in the good old USA and not in Ireland or elsewhere! Another blessing is the support that I have had from family and friends. And I thank them very much!

**Karl Klingelhofer, Tucson**. I took a Caribbean Cruise in March. I picked this particular cruise because the itinerary included a stop at the Isle of Roatan, Honduras. Thirty years ago (1985) I did a volunteer assignment there to supervise the drilling of wells out in the "Boon Docks" to provide some water for isolated communities. This was a couple of years after I retired from SCS, and it was sponsored by VITA (Volunteers in Technical Assistance) with no doubt some State Dept. money. At that time there was no electric system, and the only pavement was one block in the Village of Coxen Hole, and they mixed the concrete in wheel barrows. So the roads were gravel, and my transportation was in a jeep that was broke down half the time, on the back of a motorcycle owned by the technician I was working with, and in the pickup truck belonging to the well driller that I was supervising. I was there 2-1/2 weeks, and the wells were not that productive. A previous volunteer had sited the wells for windmill power on high ground. So I had no say in these locations. The island was very rugged and heavily forested.



*Karl Klingelhofer supervising water well drilling in Honduras in 1985.*



**Dugout canoe used for snorkeling.**

There was one resort then and a fishing enterprise. Now it is a thriving resort destination with beautiful paved roads, restaurants, beach resorts, and special services for diving. I did the first snorkeling of my life from a dugout canoe piloted by a 10-year-old boy at the motel/restaurant where I stayed.

## ARKANSAS

### ARCSE Representative Vacant

Submitted by Ralph Mashburn [ralphmashburn@gmail.com](mailto:ralphmashburn@gmail.com)

**M. J. "Whitey" Spears** at our last meeting announced his resignation as our Arkansas ARCSE Representative. Whitey has worked hard to keep the organization going for a good number of years. HATS OFF AND MANY THANKS TO WHITEY!

**Ralph Mashburn-Nancy** and I have enjoyed visits from our family members this year. In February our recently married granddaughter and her husband (**Katelyn** and **Ben Cotton**) came from Dublin Ireland. We introduced Ben to southern food including catfish, wild duck, frog legs, hot tamales, fried pies, and biscuits w/gravy or molasses. When ask his favorite dish he said catfish. (I think it was really his least disliked).

In March our son and wife, **David and Jill** from Seattle, visited. **Nancy** did some shopping with Jill and my son **Drew** and I took Dave on a successful trout fishing day on the Little Red River.

I still enjoy working with The Gideons International and seeing my long-time friend, **Gene Sullivan**, most Saturday mornings at our local Gideon Prayer Breakfast. We both distribute Bibles and are Gideon speakers at churches of various denominations in our area. We are grateful that SCS gave us training and experience in public speaking so that we feel comfortable doing this part of the Gideon ministry.



**2015 - Gene Sullivan and Ralph Mashburn at a Gideon Prayer Breakfast.**



**What a Difference a Day Makes. □ or, in our case, about 21,500 days (59 yrs.), 1956: Gene Sullivan (Best Man) and Ralph Mashburn (Bridegroom) at the Mashburns' wedding.**

**Gene Sullivan-Carrie** and I are blessed to be living close enough to our children and grandchildren to see them on a regular basis. We live in North Little Rock where our children grew up, and my consulting office is in Lonoke where **Carrie** and I grew up. We do not do a lot of traveling but did make a fun trip to Disney World last summer with one our granddaughters and her husband. We also took a couple of mini-vacations to do some trout fishing here in Arkansas.

**Marion and Treva Mathis-Treva** and I have had a busy year traveling and also watching our 17-year-old grandson play football, basketball, and baseball. 2014 February, we spent our birthday's week in Galveston. Mine is the 5<sup>th</sup> and Treva's is

the 11<sup>th</sup>. We have done this for the last several years. In June, we met some friends in Keystone, CO for a week. Enjoyed a trail ride on horses, ski lift rides, and rafted Clear Creek in class 4 rapids. We spent September at our time-share week in Branson (rode a zip line). November, we drove to Key West, enjoyed the warm weather, toured **Hemingway's** House and saw the cats with six toes and of course, bought a book.



Marion Mathis at the Panama Canal



Marion and Treva Mathis going through the Panama Canal.

This February, for our birthdays week, we cruised the Panama Canal, leaving LA on Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> and arriving in Ft. Lauderdale on the 19<sup>th</sup>. It was a great trip. We stopped in Cabo San Lucas, took the harbor boat ride, and saw some whales. Next stop was San Juan del Sur in Nicaragua, took a bus ride to the interior--not very pretty at all! Puntarenas Costa Rica was very nice, ate the best banana ever there and saw a dance performance by some school students. Going through the Panama Canal was very interesting--lots of work taking place to add locks and improve it. It took eight hours to pass through it and cost the cruise ship \$473,000 dollars. In Cartagena, Columbia we took a bus ride up a tall hill overlooking the city and visited an old Catholic Church. Spent a half day on Aruba and then went on to Florida.

**Dennis Carman**--I'm getting up every day doing what I want to and that's pretty much working. **Tony Stevenson** and I are trying to keep the Grand Prairie project headed forward. We are doing a lot with automation things like turning farmers' pumps on and off from their truck or office, watching water levels and soil moisture from the lake, and developing a carbon trading program to give rice growers a little added income. And I've mellowed to the point that my key partners are the Heritage Commission, Arkansas Game and Fish, Winrock and the Environmental Defense Fund. Life's good.



We continue making progress on our \$400 million Grand Prairie project. We drew some of the first canal and pipeline layouts on a map in 1987-1988 that are being built now. Others worked on the issue well before that. Most said we were wasting our time. Water Awareness was just taking off, **Clinton** was Governor, **Pat Bass** had hair, and I was losing mine. We have completed about 325 on-farm reservoirs, tailwater recovery and conservation systems. That's over half the farms needing reservoirs. The pump station completion component has been contracted and about three miles of 10-foot diameter

pipes have been installed to move water from the River to the Grand Prairie. Next phases will be canal and pipelines that take water to the farms. Never give up.



**Grand Prairie Irrigation Project, Engineered by NRCS Retirees Dennis Carman, Pat Bass and Tony Stevenson**

**Robert Cantrell:** Remember Arkansas members, the 2015 meeting and lunch will be held at the Arkansas 4-H Center at Ferndale on September 24, 2015 from 10:00am till about 2:00pm. The Attorney General's Office will advise us about avoiding telephone and internet scams.

## CALIFORNIA

**Bill Ward, ARCSE Representative**

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Hello to all our Fellow SCS/NRCS retirees across the Country. California continues to enjoy our Monthly gatherings, one for lunch and one for breakfast.



**California retirees at April 1<sup>st</sup> lunch, from the lower left and moving clockwise included: Pat Grover, Carolyn and Schultz, Ron and Marilyn Hoppes, Bill Ward, Walt Sykes, and Virgil and Dolores Backlund.**

**Harold Honeyfield**, his wife **Valma** and two nephews, **Scott and Eric** recently returned from a whirlwind two-week trip to New Zealand, where they all enjoyed the sights as first time visitors to this country in addition to participating in a wide-reaching family reunion with what may be best described as with "distant cousins" that originated from England.

**Harold** explained to me that a number of "Honeyfields" left England in the 1800's unhappy with the taxes they had to pay there. Some moved to New Zealand, some to the United States and some to Canada. More than one of the Honeyfields has an interest in genealogy and the invitation to other "Honeyfields and family members who married into the Honeyfield family" came from those that settled in New Zealand.



*Harold Honeyfield - Family Reunion trip to New Zealand*

Harold, Valma and their nephews jumped at this opportunity to see a brand new country and meet some of their distant relatives for the first time. Harold provided the photo of those at the reunion and said it was a wonderful experience to meet a number of his "distant cousins" who made it to the reunion.

Harold and his immediate family who made the trip saw a lot of sights and did a lot of moving in their trip to attend the reunion. Stops were made in Auckland, Queensland, Teana, Dunedin, Twizel, Chistchurch, and New Plymouth where they spent a few days enjoying their reunion.

I know they saw many fascinating sights on their trip, but there is only time and space for one photo this time around. The bridge's spectacular shape and setting make it a popular landmark. A spectacular Bridge and photo for sure.



*Harold and Valma on the Te Rewa Rewa Bridge over the Waiwhakaiho River at New Plymouth in New Zealand*

For those interested in more detail about this bridge here is a link for you:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Te\\_Rewa\\_Rewa\\_Bridge](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Te_Rewa_Rewa_Bridge)

After finally leaving New Plymouth, it was on to Rotonia, back to Auckland and finally returning to San Francisco on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015. Whew, Thanks for this wonderful report Harold!



**Marianne Hallet's Bicycle Ride across the United States!**

By the time this report is out to all the retiree's, **Marianne Hallet** will have just completed an amazing bicycle ride across the United States! Marianne kept me and other interested friends and family up on details of her trip with a wonderful daily update that included a picture and a few notes about where she was and what she and the riders had seen that day. Following is one of her update notes at the halfway point of her trip.

She and her group of about 43 riders left San Diego March 7<sup>th</sup> and arrived in St. Augustine, on April 27<sup>th</sup>. They were riding with a company called "Bubba's Pampered Peddlers." They spent nights in a mix of campgrounds, schools, armories, churches and hotels. Their days consisted of riding an average of 65 miles per day with riding times being 4.5 to 7 hours per day. They did have some "no ride" days for rest and to see some sights. The company they rode with provided their breakfast and dinners, and they generally purchased their own lunches in small towns along the way.

It must be quite an effort for a company to take on the challenges of providing the overall coordination efforts for a group of 43 riders like this. Services and staff making the trip with the riders included a chef for their breakfast and dinner meals, laundry assistance (every three days), mechanic assistance, and even a massage therapist! The company also provided a sag wagon that provided water and snacks twice a day and will pick up any riders that cannot complete the ride for the day.

**Marianne's husband Brian** was to meet her in St. Augustine where they planned to explore Florida for a bit before driving back across the states together. Marianne's closing comment provided to me about her experience on this trip was as follows: "It has been a magnificent journey, made all the more pleasant by a congenial group of riders and staff." I am sure all of we retirees want to say "Congratulations, Marianne on your wonderful adventure and accomplishment and thank you for sharing your adventure with all of us!"

I received an April 28<sup>th</sup> "update ps" from Marianne! She finished her ride! Congratulations, Marianne, Well Done!



A final Closing of California's update from **Bill Ward**: My wife **Dana** and I found out we will be blessed with our 4<sup>th</sup> grandchild by our oldest son **Jimmy** and his wife **Becca** this October! I have some music to share with everybody again.

First is a beautiful song from the Easter Celebration weekend at our Church. Following is a song "Beautiful Scandalous Night" from our Good Friday Service with my son **Jimmy**, his Wife **Becca** and my daughter **Jennifer**, helping to sing this beautiful song. What a wonderful weekend it was to celebrate the most important event in history for every Christian, the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UUO8nlmXVD0>

### ***Beautiful Scandalous Night***

And finally in closing a fun new song by the Western Lights Trio, ***Angeline the Baker***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oFdSjFINeLY>

That's all for this update, wishing you all the best from all the California retirees!

## **GEORGIA**

**Edward Ealy, ARCSE Representative**

**Email:** [epdro22@gmail.com](mailto:epdro22@gmail.com)

On April 23, 2015, twenty-six former SCS/NRCS retirees and spouses met at Ryan's Steakhouse in Athens, GA, for the group's quarterly luncheon. Attending were **Andy Page, Pat Robison, Linda Dipietro, Gene and Cecil Martin, Judy and Jim Helm, George and Ellen Norris, Edna Firor, James Huff, Kitty Stevens, Marge Lucas, Evelyn and Donald Stewart, Bob and Frances Wilkes, Edward Ealy, Carolyn Adams, Beverly Walker, Lorraine and Jack Hahn, Talbert Gerald, Gerald Sadler, Fred Dilbeck, Vivian Patten, Gerald Sand Bob Stovall**.

**George Norris**, with a little sadness, informed the group he had lost a trusted member of his family--the family computer. This computer had served them in most of their activities and enterprises in his retirement. They have gotten a new computer; however, a major loss is the demise of his and Ellen's contact list. He asks that the group assist him in rebuilding the contact list by sending him an electronic message.

**Beverly Walker** distributed cards with dates of the remaining luncheons for 2015 to remind us that the group meets for lunch on the fourth Thursdays of January, April, July and October.

## **ILLINOIS**

**Dale Benz, ARCSE Representative**

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

Sixteen retirees and spouses gathered for lunch and visiting on April 2<sup>nd</sup> in Champaign. Attending were **Frank Carroll, Dick Dickerson, Jim and Bonnie McQuilkin, Earl Voss, Judy and Salvador Velazquez, Dennis and Susan Beyer, Elsie Campbell, Ray Coombes, Andy Cerven, Nancy Phalen, Jerry Leonard, and Dale and Nancy Benz**.

**Jerry Leonard** reported on their visit to the Flower and Garden Show at Navy Pier in Chicago this spring. The amount, variety, and displays were astonishing.

**Ray Coombes** spends a lot of time at grandchildrens' athletic events. Ray said **Joe Barkley** had fallen in March and broke his hip. He is healing well and is planning on more traveling. **Earl and Barb Voss** spent a month in Florida and their annual cruise in the Caribbean. This has become a routine winter trip for Earl and Barb.

**Frank Carroll** joined us at the encouraging of Ray Coombes. We don't know what Ray told Frank about our gatherings to get him to attend but are glad you did. Frank retired as District Conservationist in Danville in the 1980s. Frank, don't forget to send in your ARCSE membership application!

**Dick Dickerson** told us about his surgery in January to remove a kidney that had a tumor on it. The surgery was done with a robot, and all is well with the tumor being benign. He had the surgery on Monday morning, went home on Wednesday, and then to Florida for the month of February. During preparation for the surgery, the doctor found an abdominal aneurysm and is to have it repaired in May.

**Judy and Salvador Velazquez** made a six-week pilgrimage to Mexico last November and December. Judy said she is not entering the senior spelling bee this year, but we sensed that she would like to. Keep tuned for further developments!

**Nancy Phalen** has a new grandson, **Will**, who is now 11 months old. It appears that Nancy drops everything when she is called to be with Will. Typical grandmother! Speaking of dropping things, her husband, **Bill**, had a 60-pound chunk of walnut lumber fall and hit him on the head. Seven staples in his head repaired the wound and, fortunately, no other serious injury was incurred. Nancy and Bill vacationed in Charleston, SC last fall. Nancy is also president of the American Legion Auxiliary in Champaign.

**Elsie Campbell** visited with her niece and family in Wisconsin this winter. **Jim and Bonnie McQuilkin** have a new four-month-old granddaughter in Granby, CO who they visited in March.

**Andy Cerven** had knee replacement surgery last November and it is doing well. Andy didn't want to wear out the new joint too quickly, so he lost 45 pounds prior to the surgery. How many trips did you make to the buffet table, Andy! We are glad the knee replacement went well. Andy said he and **Kathy** now have 14 grandchildren.

**Lee Bridgman** sent a note that he and **Nancy** wouldn't be able to join us this time. Nancy had back surgery in March and was still recuperating from the surgery and needed some TLC. Lee said they did go to Yellowstone National Park in February. They saw lots of wildlife. From there they went on to the Tetons, which were beautiful with all the snow. They did some snowmobiling then went on to Salt Lake city for a tour then back home. Since our last luncheon, two of their grandsons have added one great-grandson and twins, a great-grandson and great-granddaughter. Lee and Nancy now have five great-grandchildren.

**Jim Evans** also sent a note that he and **Cheryl** wouldn't be with us, as he had a pretty lousy cold and didn't want to spread it to us. Thanks, Jim, but we still missed you. They had just gotten back from Kansas where they welcomed their newest granddaughter into the world. Congratulations! Jim said they took a vote and decided she was a keeper!

**Dale and Nancy Benz** reported they got grandchild number eight in December. It is amazing how eight grandchildren can make two old grandparents so tired in just two days when they are all together!

We are sorry to report the passing of **Betty McCann** in April. Betty was the wife of **Wes McCann**, retired State Administrative Officer of SCS in Champaign.

We are saddened by the passing of two retired SCS employees in Illinois. **Howard Bush** passed away September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and then his wife, **Sara**, in October. Howard retired as State Conservationist in Illinois in 1975. We extend our sympathy to their family.

**Larry Esworthy**, retired District Conservationist in Olney, passed away on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015. We extend our sympathy to **Sandy** and their family.

The obituaries of both can be seen in the memorium section of this newsletter. Thank you Ron Marlow, our ARCSE Secretary, for doing a super job getting and posting the passing of former SCS/NRCS employees.

Our next gathering in Champaign will be October 1<sup>st</sup> so get the date on your schedule

## IOWA

**Mark Jensen, ARCSE Representative [NEW]**

Email: [amjens1@gmail.com](mailto:amjens1@gmail.com)

Twenty-three: that's the number of deer that were milling around in the yard a few mornings ago when our Yorkie was going crazy barking to let us know that something was out there. It was early enough in the spring that the lilies and phlox were the only green plants in the garden and yard. There were 21 deer in the brown grassy part of the yard and the other two were munching on the lilies and phlox in the garden. I decided that I would try to protect the flowers so I opened a window and hollered out at the deer to scare them away. I saw 21 white flags run down toward the back part of the yard. The two in the garden stood absolutely still and looked at me. I continued to make noise, but they must have decided it was worth the risk to not move. The lilies and phlox are now about ¼ inch high.

Welcome home to **Rosie and Bob Gaudette**. They have returned from their 14<sup>th</sup> year of spending the winter months in Myrtle Beach, SC. They call it their "home away from home." Rosie and Bob enjoy their time visiting with a lot of friends, walking on the beach, and sitting on the balcony of their hotel watching the ocean. While walking on the beach, they collect shark's teeth and shells which Bob uses in his hobby of making trinkets, etc. Right after they got home, we had a big snowstorm. Rosie commented to her neighbor that it was really pretty outside. The neighbor who had been here all winter wasn't convinced!

I just finished reading an article about the Seattle Seahawks and the super bowl. It reminded me that when I was watching the super bowl pre-game hype, a welcome break was when they showed the "puppy bowl." The pups that were up for adoption made me think about **Jim and Kimi Dustin**. Jim and Kimi work with a group that rescues various types of animals, but primarily dogs. They work with a group of coordinators from various states who schedule the runs to rescue the animals. Some of the groups are for specific breeds such as golden retrievers or Newfoundlands, while others are for all breeds. Jim and Kimi have made hundreds of runs over the past many years to rescue animals. The runs are usually made relay style. Each person takes the animal(s) for a set distance, then passes it/them on to someone else. Jim said they have the kennels available to haul up to 26 dogs at a time in their van. Animals they have helped rescue have been adopted in many states and even in Canada. One interesting story from their efforts is that they helped rescue several dogs from New Orleans after hurricane Katrina. They adopted one of the Katrina dogs and also have three other adopted dogs. Thanks to Jim and Kimi for their work in this worthwhile effort!



*Jim and Kimi Dustin with some of the dogs they have helped rescue.*

**Ric Zarwell**, previously the Clear Lake water quality project coordinator, and his wife, **Betty**, have continued involvement in conservation and have had many traveling adventures since Ric's retirement on the last day of 1999. In 2014, Ric and Betty won the governor's volunteer of the year award for their conservation work in Northeast Iowa. Since Ric's retirement, they have been fortunate to have explored 38 nations on six continents. Their focus has been on natural habitats, and especially on finding, photographing, and enjoying unusual birds and other wildlife. Ric has recorded well over 40% of all bird species on the planet. Their favorite destination is Antarctica. Ric said on a January day (summertime there), it was warmer and more comfortable standing beside penguin and marine mammal colonies than it was at their home in Lansing, Iowa.

Other favorite destinations include the pristine Galapagos Islands and the wildlife-rich Serengeti Plains and Ngorongoro crater areas in Kenya and Tanzania, where the largest mammals are quite tame and photogenic from vehicles. For the past 8+ years Ric has been Senior Ecologist with Stantec Consulting, Inc., headquartered in Alberta, Canada. He's also in his 6<sup>th</sup> year as North American Marketing Coordinator for Rockjumper Worldwide Birding Adventures, a South African-based company which offers more than 200 wildlife, birding, and photography tours to over 100 nations each year. The Zarwell's are involved in new conservation projects to protect and enhance Northeast Iowa. Australia, their 7<sup>th</sup> and final continent to visit, is on their radar.



**Ric and Betty Zarwell** standing in their yard overlooking the Mississippi River. The picture was taken at the time they were awarded the Governor's Volunteer of the Year Award in 2014.

On March 1<sup>st</sup>, we were saddened to learn of the passing of **Wilma Maddy**. Wilma was the wife of the late **John Maddy** who retired many years ago as the State Agronomist.

## KANSAS

**Deanne Lull, ARCSE Representative**

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Spring has sprung in Salina with the flowering trees and shrubs and spring flowers being just beautiful. Our area remains very dry and it is sad when the weatherman reports an official rainfall for Salina is 10 drops! We were exceptionally thankful for a good rain that was finally received in the middle of April.

**Hank Letourneau** shared an interesting bit of trivia about his family. **William (Bill) Forerschler**, who recently passed away, was the father-in-law of **Hank**, who is a Soil Conservation Technician, in the Minneapolis, Kansas, Field Office, and the grandfather of **Benjamin Letourneau**, who is the District Conservationist, in the Beloit, Kansas, Field Office. The combined service in this family totals 73 years.

**Dale McClaskey** of Salina has been invited to take the Honor Flight to Washington, DC in May, 2015. Twenty-seven veterans will be travelling together. They will be touring the World War II Memorial, Korean Memorial, the Viet Nam Wall, the Air Force Memorial, the Iwo Jima Memorial, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery, and Fort McHenry, plus a driving tour of the DC Mall. **Dale** was in the Army from 1951-53. This will be Dale's first visit to Washington, DC, in 32 years, where he served four years as a Great Plains Conservation Program (GPCP) Specialist.

**Mary Shaffer** who retired in 2013 as the Public Affairs Specialist in the Kansas State Office, in Salina, KS, says that she is thoroughly enjoying retirement. She has done some traveling--Paris last fall and Ireland this spring. She and her husband, **Phil**, take day trips around Kansas enjoying the back roads and especially watching the eagles in January and February at Milford, Kanopolis, and Marion Reservoirs. She keeps busy with volunteering at church and for several organizations in Salina. Grandkids get attention too. She went to Disney World in Florida with the two grandkids from Conroe, TX. They are swimmers, so she attended swim meets in Corpus Christi, TX, and Bartlesville, OK. Three grandsons who live in Salina play basketball, baseball, and tennis, so there is always a game to attend. She enjoys yoga, gardening, and reading. Life is always busy.

We were saddened to learn that **Robert J. (Bob) Higgins**, **Arlie R. Cox**, and **George N. Jorgensen, Jr.** recently passed away. **Bob** passed away on March 24, 2015. His career had spanned 30 years when he retired in December 1989 as a Biologist on the Resource Conservation Staff in the Kansas State Office in Salina, KS. **Arlie** passed away on March 25,

2015. He started his career in 1961, spending 37 years in the Meade, KS Field Office. He retired in October 1985 as a Soil Conservation Technician. His wife, **Dorothy**, survives. **George** passed away on April 18, 2015. He retired in the early 1980s as the District Conservationist in the Troy, KS Field Office. He is survived by his wife, **Charlene**.

Our annual meeting is June 26, 2015, at the Quality Inn in Salina, KS. Please plan to attend and renew old friendships.

## KENTUCKY

**Billye M. Haslett, ARCSE Representative**

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*Attendees of the Semi-Annual Meeting of Soil Scientist was held March 26, 2015 in Danville, KY. Back Row: Jim Haagan, Steve Blandford, Steve Coleman, Orville Whitaker, Bill Craddock, Glenn Kelley, Harry Evans, Jerry Richardson. Front Row: Jack newton, Don Henry and Jim Fehr. Photo by Thelma Haagan.*

**Billye Haslett**, retired State Administrative Officer reports: I recently spoke with **Jerry Coleman**, president of the KY SCS/NRCS retiree association. Jerry is in the process of making arrangements for the KY annual meeting at Pennyrite State Park. He's also pursuing a speaker.

I was recently contacted via email by a fellow named **Earl Seals** to locate information about his father **Bobby Seals**, who served in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). I didn't know the requestor. I was contacted because I live in Kentucky. Bobby Seals was originally from Rockcastle County, KY. It seems that through various searches for CCC information Earl found me on a link--I assume because of ARSCE. He hit the jackpot, because my husband is an amateur genealogist and is pretty good at locating people and/or finding resources to help with the search. We provided all the information that we found, to include a social security number that the family didn't have.

In June 2009, the CCC records were transferred from the Office of Personnel Management to the National Archives and Records Center in St. Louis. There is a fee to obtain the records. Turns out my new friend in California and I have more than Kentucky roots in common. He lives 20 miles from my step-daughter **Lisa**, in Orange County, CA.

**Connie McKinney**, retired Contracting Officer reports: I'm staying busy preparing for an estate auction to be held in Pendleton County on Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>. Dunaway Auctioneers will be selling the usual household items and furniture plus crocks (all sizes), insulators, old bottles (medicine, milk, pop), jars, jugs, knives, old cream separators, signs, tools, some junk, and 70 acres of land.

**Taylor Morgan**, retired Engineer reports: I celebrated the marriage of my youngest son, **John Morgan** to **Sherry Tucker** on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in Eubank, KY. They will be living in Eubank.

**Dick Quiggins**, retired Engineer reports: **Joyce** and I have had a good year. We spend the last two weeks in Siesta Key, FL each year. Joyce volunteers each Tuesday AM at the Central Baptist Hospital in Lexington.

She says she works for food, "Lunch." We have a bus tour scheduled for a trip to Washington, DC in June at the Smithsonian. I keep as busy as I want, by working the daily crossword puzzle, and then walking at the Fayette Mall, then drinking coffee and telling lies with my fellow walkers. Someone has to do it! I'm trying to learn to use my new "smart" phone. It's smarter than I am. Our health is good and we're enjoying life.

**DEADLINE FOR JULY/AUGUST 2015 NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS IS JUNE 25, 2015**

## MAINE

**John Simon, ARCSE Representative**

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**Bruce Champeon** celebrated his 69<sup>th</sup> birthday in April. In May, **Charlie Boothby** will celebrate his 80<sup>th</sup>, along with **Phil Christensen** (??<sup>th</sup>), **Bob Lagassey** 77<sup>th</sup>, and **John Simon** 76<sup>th</sup>. We sure are getting older for sure.

The day started out at 18.3 degrees at my place but warmed up to a balmy 51.4 degrees, so it was a nice day. Those attending the Tuesday breakfast March 10 were: **Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon, Charlie Boothby, Sally Butler, Paul Hersey, and John Simon**. Sally and Paul are new to the breakfasts. Paul said **Gary Hedstrom** decided to go skiing rather than come and have breakfast with us. Can you believe it? Just kidding, Gary. Paul indicated the drive is about 1.5 hours, so we probably won't see those folks too often.

Sally indicated that she has enjoyed retirement from "day 1." Paul on the other hand jumped back into the frying pan by signing up for part time work through the NOWCC program. He is supervised out of the state office and serves multiple counties. NOWCC stands for "National Older Worker Career Center." This program is for 55 and up. Good luck Paul, they are getting a seasoned and talented person.

It was also mentioned that **Joyce Swartzendruber** and **Kay Nickel** (X-Mainers) retired in January 2015. Paul mentioned that Joyce emailed him best wishes on his retirement--she was that kind of person. I hope Kay and Joyce join ARCSE. For new retirees they give you the first year free! I get brownie points to place on my gravestone for all those who join ARCSE during my watch.

**Bill Moulton** indicated that he and his son **Peter** moved the ice shack off the Kennebec last week, so smelt fishing [on the ice] is done for this year. Bill and Pat will spend a month in Florida to let the ground warm up before planting season. Charlie also indicated that he spent a day fishing with Bill Moulton recently and had a good time.

Hopefully the weather on April the 8<sup>th</sup> (second Tuesday of the month) will be warmer so more can feel like coming to breakfast.

Those attending the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday breakfast on April 14 at Dysarts were **Art Taylor, Charlie Boothby, and John Simon**. A small group indeed. After an early AM shower, it turned into a beautiful day. Nice and sunny and up to 65 degrees!

Art indicated that he is continuing to work on installing the sheet rock in his new home. He has one of those sheet rock lifter/retainers that takes the full 12'x4' sheets and holds them up to the ceiling rafters or wall studs while Art power screws them in place. Really a neat operation and with only one person! He should be done in a month or so. Then comes the plastering of the joints.

Charlie informed us that his gardening class was cancelled this year from lack of attendees. He only had four sign-ups. It was a bummer as Charlie had worked hard to prepare class material and line up speakers, etc. Charlie indicated that he has stuff started in his greenhouse, but he has to watch out as the greenhouse easily overheats.

I started repairing my damaged hedge shrubs (Arbor Vitae). I cut them all down to an even 7 feet and used a bungee cord to wrap the bent limbs on each bush into pretty good looking bushes. Without a close look you would not know how bad they all looked! Another use, among many, for the bungee cord!

The week of April 12<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup> saw the ice in the Penobscot river leave, at least up to the Viezie power plant, and the snow also. I had well over a foot of snow on my lawn starting the week, and by Friday just a few piles of snow remained! Yahoo! The whole week was sunny and in the high 50s and low 60s. For April in Maine it was a glorious week.

I am attaching a copy of an email from Lew Crosby for your information. Hope you enjoy it. Quite a piece of logging history in Maine.

**Subject: Lombard Log Hauler Snow Run With Steam**

*This was an exciting day for our Lombard crew as we made our first steam run in snow. Many original restoration crew members helped, including Rod Stanhope, Ed Berry, Byron Aubrey, Mike White, Chuck Spalding, Joel Anderson, and Lew Crosby. The Bradley fire department brought an 11 HP portable pump and ran 4" fire hose from Blackman Stream to our Lombard, quickly filling the boiler and saddle water tank. They were incredibly helpful and made this job look easy. The UM Woodsman's Team split and loaded our firewood. Rod Stanhope brought his large tractor and built a snow road for us to get out of Machinery Hall. We amazingly still had 2 feet of snow in the parking lot and this proved a challenge for our Lombard. It easily powered through the heavy snow but steering required a true Lombard man. We all tried and agreed this was a challenge. This was a beautiful snowy day we will all remember. You can see a video and photos at the following links:*

<http://youtu.be/WdUC2-X7CRI>

<https://plus.google.com/photos/112160710702091583388/albums/6133976441847946449>

Till next time take care and God bless, John Simon.

## MINNESOTA

**Marlene Mechelke, ARCSE Representative**

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

Metro retirees gathered for lunch on Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>: **Gloria McCalip, Cathy McCormack, Vic Ruhland, Al Giencke, Ron and Sylvia Olson, Marge and Micki Gangl, Robin Martinek, Sid and Joan Cornelius, Susan Ploetz, John Handler, Kay Schoen and Craig**. Due to a previous commitment, Marlene was there for only about a half hour.

**Al Giencke** reports: Snowbirds **Al and Ro Giencke** took advantage of low gas prices this winter and decided to travel the southern US. They started by spending the first two weeks in Naples, FL and then took the back roads leading to San Francisco, CA. There they stayed with their son in Mountain View, CA for the last part of the trip.

As Al stated, "the highlight of the trip was to see the cultural changes as one traveled from the east coast to the west coast. We have a lot of sameness across the country with chain corporations, but thank goodness we still have the small cultural diversity differences to enjoy. Good thing gas was cheap, as we logged 9,000 miles."



*Picture taken by Al Giencke at the quarterly luncheon April 8<sup>th</sup> in Roseville. From left around the table: Ron and Sylvia Olson, Robin Martinek, Marlene Mechelke, Vic Ruhland, Micki Gangl, Margie Gangl (partially hidden), Craig (Kay's husband), Kay Schoen, John Handler, Cathy McCormack, Gloria McCalip, Joan Cornelius, Sid Cornelius.*

**Vic Ruhland** reports: I attended **Bill Hunt's funeral** several weeks ago, our past State Conservationist. This funeral was different than what I'm used to. There were prayers, singing, eulogies and a homily--quality as well as quantity. They no doubt reflected the great man Bill was. More visiting with conservation folks occurred with the meal. Not only did I feel good about honoring Bill (he and I had many discussions about SCS in Minnesota from an earlier time), but by attending I witnessed and participated in a funeral not familiar to me.

**Billy K. Benson**, retired DSTC, reports that he no longer has email. He is doing "real good" but doesn't move around as good as he used to. Still mows his yard.

**Richard Myers**, retired ASTC for Admin reported that he has a new email address: [1richmir@twc.com](mailto:1richmir@twc.com). His mailing address and phone number are the same. He is doing well and enjoys visiting his seven grandkids in Alabama and Raleigh, NC. He did ask if we were going to have another breakfast, lunch or some kind of get together anytime soon. He was sorry to have missed the last one.



*Current and past SCS/NRCS employees in Minnesota who attended the funeral of William Hunt on February 28, 2015.*

## MISSOURI

**Dave Rastorfer, ARCSE Representative**  
**Email: [daverastorfer@aol.com](mailto:daverastorfer@aol.com)**

**Lane Thurman:** Our Springfield group of SCS/NRCS retirees has more or less disbanded and we are no longer meeting. Only a few retirees would show for the meetings and it became a chore on putting together the meetings, so we just disbanded. We might have one meeting per year at a later date. As far as I am doing, I am planning on a lot of camping and fishing down at Tablerock Lake this year. Going down on Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, for a week of fishing, then again on May 1<sup>st</sup> when my son from LA comes up and spends a few days with me on the lake. So the summer is not completely planned, but a good bit of it is! So see you on the lake.

**Paula Price:** Life for the Prices in Savannah, MO hasn't changed much. **Alan** is still fighting the residuals of the stem cell transplant. I'm working full-time at a real estate firm as their office manager, just four blocks from home. Our twin granddaughters are now nine months old, and **Jordin** will be seven in May. Our son is just about to complete his first year of teaching special needs middle school. Our daughter-in-law holds things together! We are looking forward to summer when we can get outside and sit in the gazebo. Again, we say to each of you: If there are things you have been putting off that you "WANT" to do, better get 'em done! In the blink of an eye, life can change in ways you cannot imagine. For Alan the stem cell transplant is a success and he is Cancer Free for 5 years now. However, the cure has just about taken him out more than once! Our biggest joys so far this year have been twin granddaughters coming to visit overnight for a late Christmas, and Alan got to see Jordin's first ever basketball game and first ever basket in that same game. It's what he strives to live for! Those granddaughters are special!

**Jim Sowash** was married to **Betty Harms** on April 11<sup>th</sup> at Cole Camp, MO.

**Forrest Tindall:** Putting my rusty engineering skills to work installing a drain pipe under the driveway at the dog rescue ranch.

**Jerry McElhiney:** **Mary** and I moved to John Knox Village in Lee's Summit, MO three years ago. We are both busy with volunteer work. John Knox is a 501c3 not-for-profit Corporation Continuing Care Retirement Community. In October 2014 I was appointed to the Board of Directors. The Board is made up of nine Directors--three are residents of John Knox, and the other six come from the Kansas City area. I will serve for a three-year term. I was also elected President of the John Knox Village Foundation Ambassadors Executive Committee. I am grateful to John Knox for the honor of serving this community.

**Ed Smith:** Just a couple of items from the Smiths. We got home from our three-month stay in sunny Florida on April 1<sup>st</sup>. I now have the last of the leaves blown from the fence lines and flower beds and mulched along with getting the grass cut for the first time. I got a round of golf in between rain and yard work, so that part of my summer is under way. We had a good winter except making a trip back to MO the 1<sup>st</sup> of Feb. when a younger brother passed away suddenly. We have now lost a brother and sister from our family of eight siblings. Looking forward to the summer and fall with a couple of family get-togethers and our annual fall trip to CO planned. Hope all my "old" friends from past SCS days have a great summer and know I think lots of you throughout the year.

**Jess Epple:** We are receiving spring rains here in OK; grass is growing, cows are beginning to ignore winter hay bales, and spring-born calves are running everywhere. Spring has truly "sprung" at the ranch! Easter week-we drove to K.C., MO to meet with our Missouri families. Great-grandchildren and grand-children are doing fine, as well as **Boyd and Debbie (Epple) Hughes**. Boyd, who earlier retired from Yellow Freight (YRC), went back to work for them! **James Hughes**, grandson, continues to referee and host tournaments near Columbia, MO and continues water quality work for the U.S. Geological Survey in Columbia. We have another great-grandson in Franklin, TN, born in March to **Dr. John and Shayna Wood**. Another trip to Tennessee is being planned! The American Civil War Battle of Honey Springs, at Rentiesville, OK, will have a new Visitor's Center very soon. The majority of the \$\$\$ to build this center will be coming from USDA, Rural Development. My father (deceased) had an obsession with this very unique civil war battle since the 1920s. He was raised just eight miles east of the Battlefield. This battle was the third largest fought in Indian Territory, West of the Mississippi River, and was probably the most important. Coming thru Highway 69 in Oklahoma, please visit the battlefield. Be well, be happy and most important--keep smiling.

**Jay and Leigh Lingwall.** We are finally well settled into our new house in Bokeelia, FL. The dock has a boat lift and cover plus water and electric now, so Leigh has hired a contractor to get her kitchen remodeled. We had lots of enjoyable company this winter: family and friends including **Gary and Natalie Noel**. One more 10K race is on the calendar to complete our ten 10Ks in the year we both turn 60. I started playing four-person sand volleyball in an intermediate league in Fort Myers with the son of a friend from up north. So far we are 6 - 1. My son and I are headed to Arizona for a jeep trip with other jeepers and then on our own up to the Moab, Utah area the last two weeks of May. We are both looking forward to this trip. Leigh and I will head to Minnesota the first week of July as she is competing in the 10K race in the national senior games. After that will do a little traveling and fishing in Canada for a week and then head to South Dakota, Missouri, and Illinois to visit family and friends.

**Dennis Shirk:** Hello Folks. I think spring is finally here in central MO. People are finding morels. I have my animals out on pasture. We had a wonderful trip the first week of April to "Big Creek Trail Ride" Hartshorn, MO. We crossed the current river several times per ride. I highly recommend this place if interested in trail riding. We will be going to Lesterville, MO the first week in May for another ride, along with several trips planned to Illinois, Lois's family reunion and also her 50<sup>th</sup> HS class reunion. That's about it for now see y'all down the trail.

**Nancy Ayers:** Jan-March 2015 spent in South Florida (yep, missed all that snow and ice) taking care of my **Aunt Marie's** health issues (three operations and rehab), and the squatter that took over my Aunt's home and changed the locks while her home was vacated, when she was in hospitals and rehab facilities for over three months. (Our elected officials need to make laws to protect landowners and homeowners against squatters and trespassers in lieu of spending time with the three Gs. We even had problems with this on WRP easements before I retired). While in south Florida, I did camp in the Everglades for two weeks and went gator gigging and air boat rides. Also, spent some time in Key West and Miami Beach (Florida pictures attached below). I'm no longer sub teaching and driving a school bus after five years. Too busy running about 160 head of beef cattle and 32+ chickens (layers) that provide organic fresh eggs to two restaurants in the area. My husband, **Van**, is still employed with the University of Missouri. He plans to retire in 2-3 years, then we are moving to the farm! My daughter, **Vanessa**, graduated from Murray State University two years ago with a BS in Agricultural Science Technology. She works for Black Gold Potato Co. (HQ in North Dakota). She works out of the Charleston, MO office where they grow (mainly Mississippi, New Madrid, and Dunklin Co.) the white and sweet potatoes that go into Frito-Lays chips, etc. She plans to get married in November. **Harrison** (my menopause baby) is a sophomore at Cape Central, 6'2" and still growing! He is very active in football and baseball. Cape Central placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in state this past year in class 4-A HS football. He plans to go to college and major in Civil Engineering--the same degree my grandfather **Caldwell** received at MIZZOU in 1905! Harrison received his Eagle Scout this past year and received five palms. I bagged four toms (the spring limit) at our TN farm this spring! Last year I bought a Hurricane Deck boat with a fishing package. This has been fun! Now I own a deck boat, eight canoes, a flat bottom johnboat, and two kayaks.



Everglades



Miami Beach

**Mike Blaine:** The Blaines have been busy this spring with church things. We helped put on an Easter Cantata that gave three performances. It was very well received by those who attended. We are currently getting the garden ready and cleaning up the yard from the winter. The yard was mowed for the first time on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Both **Pam** and **Mike** have had the respiratory crud that has been making the rounds. We've had it almost a month with two trips to the doctor. We are finally getting over it, but it was a struggle. As this is written, we are headed east to see our girls in WV and PA for a couple of weeks. We have been looking forward to the trip. Hope all are doing well.

**Doug and Dana Switzner** moved from Cassville, MO, to their new house in Smithville, MO, to be closer to family. Their son and daughter-in-law, **Dan and Janet Switzner**, are building a house on their small acreage just 1.5 miles from where Doug and Dana now reside.

**Norm Klopfenstein:** After having the best ice fishing in years, Norm Klopfenstein and **Linda** headed for the beach in Mexico. Good weather, good food and good people made for a great trip. Soon after, they headed for Texas to visit their daughter and family. Norm took a side trip for a three day hunt and harvested a Corsican and a Texas Dall Ram. According to Linda, the wall space for trophies is getting smaller.

We were saddened to hear about the recent passing of **Craig Everly**, son of former Area 1 Clerk **Neva Everly**. Craig had retired from FSA after 32 years of service.

## MONTANA

### **Dick Gooby, ARCSE Representative**

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

**Phyllis Phillips Report:** Hope all is well. I'm doing well. Have been enjoying almost a year of retirement. Next week my musical comedy "Desperate Farm Wives" will be shown in Conrad April 9-12 and 16-18. It is dedicated to women in agriculture and the men who love them and is a tribute to small-town rural America. It has been really keeping me busy along with travel to Delaware to see my two granddaughters. Also went to Costa Rica, one of my dream trips. It was spectacular! Have a wedding for my son planned for June and more travel plans. All of the Great Falls NRCS retirees are going to meet on April 8<sup>th</sup> for lunch. Look forward to seeing lots of folks I haven't seen for a while. Hope you are well!

Desperate Farm Wives is about a big city girl who marries a farmer and how she adjusts to rural life with the help of her neighboring farm wives and the community. She learns the hard way that farming is not a sweet smelling romance novel. She helps birth a cow and goes to a Testical Festival, even though she thinks it is barbaric. We have dancing Holsteins and some great numbers. I wrote three of the songs, including ***The Desperate Farm Wife Blues***. I'll forward you a link so you can listen to it on the Barn network. Anyway, it is great fun and has sure kept me busy for a while.

**Scott Hoag Jr. Report:** Scott and **Nancy** left Yuma on March 29<sup>th</sup> for Bainbridge Is, WA where they celebrated with their daughter on her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. Then to Montana, arriving in Bozeman on April 16<sup>th</sup>, one day behind a storm that dumped 10 inches of snow in and around Bozeman. Otherwise the roads and all the passes were bare and dry.

**Joyce Swartzendruber Report:** Joyce Swartzendruber retired January 2<sup>nd</sup> and after 2 1/2 months of not packing a suitcase, she and her husband, **Jim Melnis** packed the pickup camper and took off for 40 days of touring and reconnecting with people in the Southeast and Texas. They toured the Edmund Pettis bridge in Selma, AL; the Everglades and coral reefs in the Keys; Natchez Trace National Parkway; New Orleans French Quarter festival; Fort Worth, TX; Durango, CO; and Anasazi region of southwest CO. She connected with **Mary and David Combs** at their winter home in Cudjoe Key, and recently retired in Weatherford, TX. Mary and Joyce created a new Facebook group for Retired Women State Conservationists and hope to hold a reunion for them with **Sylvia Gillen** in 2016.

**Jim Johnson Report:** I don't have very much to report. **Ray Smith** passed away on February 26<sup>th</sup> at the age of 89. I went to his *Celebration of Life Service* at the Grace Bible Church in Bozeman on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. There were quite a few of our retirees at the service.

The retiree breakfast on March 4<sup>th</sup> was canceled. We did go to the breakfast on April Fool's day, along with about 15 other retirees.

We did get about a foot of snow at our house in last week's storm--the most for any one snowfall this season. It was good to get the needed moisture.

**Matt Kidney**, NRCS, Human Resource Assistant located in Bozeman, Montana passed away. He was **Kim Kidney's** son who many of you know.

**Gooby Ranch Report:** When **Mary Ann** starts the tractor to feed the cows, the cows always head to the sound of the tractor. Since we are a cattle handling friendly ranch, Mary Ann hit on the idea of developing a cow call to get the cows to come in when she wants to move the cows to another location. She figured if she makes a cow call that sounds like a tractor, she can get the cows to follow her anywhere.

Mary Ann's tractor for feeding the cows during the cold weather is the one her grandfather gave us when we got married, since it uses gas instead of diesel. The only problem with the tractor is that it was built before they had batteries, so she has to crank the tractor to start it.

Normally when Mary Ann goes out to start the tractor on the first crank she will get a "chug." Then on the second crank she gets a "chug, chug." Then on the third crank she gets a "chug, chug, chug" and the tractor is started. Since the tractor is a two cylinder, it sounds different than the newer tractors do.

Sometimes when she turns the crank, the crank kicks back and throws her in the air. One time I thought she was going to fly over the moon.

It was amazing that her grandfather gave us the tractor. Nowadays to get a tractor from someone's relative when you get married, you would probably have to go to the website, *Farmers and Ranchers Only dot com* to find a wife.

Mary Ann said if she can get the cow call to work, she plans to patent it, and her hope is to be able to sell it to one of the companies that makes elk calls. Her goal is to sell the patent for enough to buy a new tractor that has a cab, a heater, and a place to plug it in to warm the tractor so you can start it no matter how cold it is.

In your wildest dreams could you imagine finding a good looking, hardworking, smart partner that would provide you with two tractors in your marriage? Not only that, but Mary Ann said she will also buy me a new fly rod, so hopefully I can catch a fish once in a while.

I'll bet *Farmers and Ranchers Only dot com* can't top that.

When Mary Ann gets the cow call perfected, it will be a big help to me when watching my favorite soaps--I won't be interrupted to have to help Mary Ann move cows.

## NEBRASKA

**Norman Kempf, ARCSE Representative**

Email: [nkempf@neb.rr.com](mailto:nkempf@neb.rr.com)

SCS/NRCS breakfast meetings were held on March 18, 2015. President **Steve Scheinost** opened the meeting. There were 16 people attending.

**Steve and Sandy Scheinost** spent some time in Arizona, touring Mesa, the Sedona area, the Grand Canyon, Tombstone, and Jerome.

**Gary and Nancy Muckel** headed to Prescott via Denver and Phoenix. They encountered many difficulties with de-icing in Denver, car rental in Phoenix as Gary was trying to familiarize himself with the rental car and managed to lock himself out of it with the keys in it! There was more de-icing delay in Denver on return trip.

**Dave Camper** skied at Crested Butte in January. He visited his daughter in Connecticut in February and experienced the heavy snows in that area.

**Val Bohaty** was sporting bruises on face and hands from a fall. **Evelyn Buller** (Lou's wife) also had a bad fall. She is doing fine now.

**Arthur (Art) Laughlin**, Retired Civil Engineering Technician at the Soil Mechanics Laboratory, died on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Janet McGrane** 58 of Lincoln died on March 25, 2015. She was the wife of **Pat McGrane** who retired as Information Officer for NRCS in NE.

Due to conflicts and a lack of sign-ups the spring banquet was canceled.

## NEW YORK

**Nancy Lee, ARCSE Representative**

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**Julian Drelich** reports: We just found out we will be having our 2<sup>nd</sup> grandchild in May of 2015. Molly, our first was three on August 27<sup>th</sup>. All is well, still visiting Walton one or two days a week. **Sylvia** is still working at Oxford Academy and Central School. Son **Dan** is still with Sporting Kansas City, working in stadium operations.

**Gene Hanchett** reports: I am doing OK. No major medicinal issues. He recovered well from a major knee replacement last year.

**Dave Hoyt** gives us Northerners a dig about winter in the Northeast: You guys are really getting hammered up there. Hang in there, spring will come. We do miss the beautiful trees and the changing seasons but not the snow. It was 81 degrees this afternoon in Riviera, TX. We are thinking of you all. Our kids are in Cazenovia, NY and Burlington, VT so we keep an eye on what happens up north.

**Frank Winkler** sent in a notice that **Gerhard E. Klee**, 84, of Walton, a resident since 1959, passed away at home on January 26, 2015. See the In Memoriam section for more details.

**Erwin Rice** reports: The Rices had their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with much pleasure and thanks from friends and family. Erwin has signed up for shot-put and discus competition at the Senior games in Cortland on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

REMINDER: The New York Retirees' picnic will be held July 15, 2015 at Whitney Point, NY. Please mark your calendars now and hope to see you in July.

## NORTH CAROLINA

**Jim Canterbury, ARCSE Representative**

Email: [jhcanter@bellsouth.net](mailto:jhcanter@bellsouth.net)

New Retirees since our last newsletter: welcome to our group.

**Laura A. Brewer**, Administrative Management Assistant, Area Office, Waynesville, NC

**B. J. Cook**, District Conservationist, Wilkesboro, NC

**Patricia S. Gabriel**, District Conservationist, Goldsboro, NC

**Kayla B. Hudson**, District Conservationist, Sylva, NC

**Perry K. Wilkerson**, Resource Conservationist, Area Office, Waynesville, NC

**Senior Conservationists:** Since our last newsletter, **Norma Coggin, Erling Gamble, Billy Jones and Ann Ward** became Senior Conservationists. There are now 24 Senior Conservationists in North Carolina. To be a Senior Conservationist as recognized by the Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees, ARCSE, one must be 83 years old and has worked at least five years as a permanent employee. Also you must complete an application. If you know of someone who is eligible, please notify **Jim Canterbury**.

#### **Senior Conservationists living in North Carolina**

##### **95-100+ years old**

Grady Wise (100)

##### **90-94 years old**

Everett Barefoot  
Elwood Guthrie  
Lawrence Matheson  
Ormond Williams

**Erling E. Gamble (new)**

Robert Kirby  
Charles Wallace

##### **83-89 years old**

Eugene C. Bobbitt  
Arlie R. Culp  
Edgar L. Helmey  
**Billy Jones (new)**  
Julian H. McIntyre  
Richard Phillips  
Rosalie Whittington  
Edwin J. Young

**Norma Coggin (new)**

John J. Garrett  
Franklin T. Hodges  
Leonard J. Kilian  
Fred Patterson  
Beulah M. Souther  
Craig Wright  
Robert S. Tennant

The following retirees have died since our last newsletter or were not previously reported. We extend our sincere sympathy to the families: **J. Roland Wadsworth**, 88, Battleboro, NC, Died August 12, 2012; **Donald L. Gish**, 86, Yadkinville, NC, died July 15, 2014; **Billie Joe (B. J) Loyd, Jr.**, Oxford, NC, died August 26, 2014; **William "Bill" Brooks Thayer**, 84, Raleigh, NC, died October 4, 2014; **Herbert C. Fox**, Jr., 78, Cary, NC, died November 18, 2014; Senior Conservationist **Edward O. Brewer**, 91, Wilkesboro, NC, died January 1, 2015; Senior Conservationist **Anne O'Brien Ward**, 84, Raleigh, NC, died January 21, 2015; and **Steven T. Evans**, 60, Albemarle, NC, died February 8, 2015. See the In Memoriam section in this and previous newsletters for more details.

#### **SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL MEETING**

The 70<sup>th</sup> SWCS International Annual Conference will be held July 26-29, 2015 in Greensboro at the Sheraton Four Seasons. Our own **Mark Berkland** is the current president of the International Soil and Water Conservation Society. North Carolina has previously hosted the International meeting in 1958 and 1986. North Carolina has also produced three International Presidents. In addition to Berkland, **Jesse Hicks** was elected in 1980 and **Dr. Maurice Cook** served as president in 1987. **Hugh Bennett** served as the first president but he was living in Washington, DC at that time.

**National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE):** If you are not a member of NARFE, I would recommend that you consider becoming a member. This is the only organization that lobbies for your Federal Retiree Benefits in Washington. There are several local chapters in North Carolina. I am a member of Chapter 192, Raleigh. With a new congress, all retired federal employees need to be aware of pending legislation that could affect your retirement. NARFE has a new legislative home page. By entering your 5-4 Zip code, it will give you your federal and state representatives. To access, go to [www.NARFE.org](http://www.NARFE.org).

**WORLD WAR II VETERANS.** We are compiling a list of World War II Veterans who worked for SCS in North Carolina. If anyone knows of a living or deceased SCS employee who served in WWII, please let Jim Canterbury know. To date, we have identified 84 employees who served in WWII. Only 14 of these are still living. I have a master copy of the list, and if anyone would like to have a copy, please let me know.

The **annual NC SCS/NRCS Retirees' Picnic** will be held at the Beech Shelter at Lake Crabtree Park, 1400 Aviation Parkway, Morrisville, NC (Exit 285 Interstate 40 just west of Raleigh) on Thursday, May 14, 2015. Lake Crabtree is part of the Wake County Park System and is located on one of the structures in the Crabtree Creek Watershed Project. Contact **Jim Canterbury** for details.

#### **OREGON**

**Don Stettler, ARCSE Representative**

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

Although precipitation amounts for the first quarter of 2015 have been near normal in the Pacific Northwest, a record low snowpack is being reported because of exceptionally warm temperatures. My observation is that flowering trees and shrubs have blossomed at least one month early this year. Like the snowpack, attendance at the spring quarter retiree lunch was also on the low side. I attribute much of this to the great outdoors being so inviting for such activities as fishing for salmon on the Columbia and Willamette Rivers and whale watching on the Oregon Coast.



*Typical Hog Line fishing for salmon on the Willamette River near Oregon City.*



*Whale watching on the Oregon Coast at Depot Bay*

Other than these activities, there were a number of excuses given for not attending. **Pat Willey** told me he would be at a Bluegrass festival in North Carolina. Undoubtedly, he took his fiddle. Ex-snowman, **John Lea** told me he would be enjoying the 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Western Snow Conference meeting in Grass Valley, CA. He said he had to be there since he is the organization's secretary. **Bobbie Hart** told me she and several other retirees would be having a fun time at the beach. **Russ Hatz** indicated that on the day of the lunch he would be beginning work on constructing a new driveway. And **Jeff Repp** told me he would be in Northern California doing some soil and environmental site descriptions.

Fittingly for a group of conservation minded retirees, the spring quarter lunch was held on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Earth Day 2015, at the Clackamas The Old Spaghetti Factory. Attending were **Chad McGrath**, **Eldena VanderZanden**, **Gary Formanek**, **Bruce Newton**, **Roy Mann**, **Shaun McKinney**, **Lamont Robbins**, **Thor Thorson**, **Bill and Jean Hughey**, **Dick and Kathy Sylvester**, **Ralph Wadleigh**, **Leland Saele**, and yours truly, **Don Stettler**.



*Left to Right: Dick Sylvester, Kathy Sylvester, Eldena VanderZanden, Lamont Robbins, Leland Saele, Gary Formanek, Bruce Newton, Shaun McKinney, Don Stettler, Roy Mann, Jean Hughey, Bill Hughey, Ralph Wadleigh, Thor Thorson, and Chad McGrath.*

**Shaun McKinney**, acting director of the West National Technical Support Center in Portland, gave us an update on the activities at the Center. In his presentation he mentioned a number of things in which the Center is involved. High on the list are activities related to alleviating the effects of the drought, attributed to climate change. Another program, Regional Conservation Partnership Program, is being well received. In this program, NRCS provides assistance to producers through partnership agreements and through program contracts or easement agreements. Other programs include bio-security for livestock operations, eco-system markets, dam inspections, and feral hogs on Guam.

The day before the lunch, **Roy Fox** celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his transfer to the Albany Area Office. This 1950s era area office was co-located with a beer distributor. Now this Hill Street location is occupied by a microbrewery, Calapooya Brewing. To celebrate the occasion, Roy drove to Albany and enjoyed a glass of beer and a hamburger in the brewery's sandwich shop.

The summer quarter retiree lunch is planned for July 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Tanasbourne The Old Spaghetti Factory. The OSF management has promised a much better experience than our January lunch.



*Bill Hughey celebrating having successfully completing the second round of chemotherapy.*

## PENNSYLVANIA

**Bill Bowers, ARCSE Representative**

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

Hope everyone had a good Easter holiday! We all are certainly ready for some spring weather! I want to welcome **John Metrick, Chuck Shrump, and Kevin Blake** as new retirees! John was an RC&D Coordinator and recently a watershed planning specialist on the Engineering Staff in the State Office. Chuck was a Soil Conservation Technician in Washington, and Kevin was District Conservationist in Sunbury. Welcome, all!

There certainly has been a rash of sad news bulletins with the passing of **Bill Hunt, Sheila Dunn, Mary Latarre and Lou Beck** in the last two months. Please continue to send information to Tim or me so we can spread the news. Also please continue to send stories of your '**good old days**' at SCS/NRCS and news about what is happening in your life. The BUGLE needs your input!!

Let me tell you a little about our **annual meeting**. It will be September 21, 2015 at Grey Towers National Historic Site in Milford, PA. Grey Towers is the ancestral home of **Gifford Pinchot**, first Chief of the US Forest Service and twice governor of Pennsylvania. We will have a guided tour of the mansion and gardens and learn how Gifford Pinchot's family has made Grey Towers a working center for natural resource conservation. A block of rooms has been reserved at a nearby motel. Details of the day will be forthcoming in the next PA BUGLE. Time to mark your calendars and plan to visit with friends and coworkers in northeast Pennsylvania on **September 21<sup>st</sup>!** More information on Grey Towers is available at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/wo/gt/> and <http://www.greytowers.org/>.

As the September 2014 PA retirees' meeting wound down, **Harvey and Vickie Pinkerton** were off on an extended motor home trip with two young granddaughters. Harvey reports: "New York State was our first destination, doing Niagara Falls and other adventures in the north country and along the St. Lawrence. **Kayla** was no problem with home schooling. In fact,

she finished all her requirements in February and is now taking electives to finish the school year. However, homeschooling **Jordyn** became an issue from the very beginning. She was already six weeks behind, since the material didn't arrive when it should have. We even changed curriculum and that just put us that much further behind.

We did the New England States, including Boston and Cape Cod. I have a cousin who lives on the Cape in the summer and on Sanibel Island, FL in the winter. Actually saw them in both places this year. We kept closing down campgrounds as we moved south. Interesting, when you get up in the morning and find the water has been turned off. We did not do New York City proper, but made it to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. Stopped at my Mother's in NJ and spent some time with her. She is only 96 and going strong, lives by herself and Skypes me very consistently.

We spent about a month based in Gettysburg. Did DC from there, and **Paul** lives about 20 minutes from where we camped. Spent a couple of weekends helping him do some work around his place. Also spent some time checking up on the **Lindseys**. Back to Jordyn--the farther we came south, the worse she got. Her ADHD was manifesting itself, and she was becoming more defiant. It was very evident that the trip would soon end. So, by mid-December we were back in Florida. We accomplished 1/4 of our goal by visiting 12 states in the East.

We have spent the rest of the winter back in our old campground and Jordyn is back in school. We did discover that Jordyn has to have a set schedule and we each have our place. That didn't work very well in the motor home. We are the grandparents, not parents and teachers. Also, it brought out her ODD problem which the ADHD was masking. She was also getting homesick.

During this winter, we have acquired a new puppy. She is a Sheltie and is now three months old. So, we seem to be back to somewhat normal, and we hope to be home in May to take care of a collapsed roof over our deck. Hopefully, Vickie and I can continue at least part of our travels this fall, but it will be without grandkids and we expect to end up back in FL for next winter."

**Frank Resides** reports: We've had a cold and snowy winter here in Southeastern PA. My High-Low thermometer shows minus one degree, so it got that cold at least once and was generally colder than usual all winter. I got to use one of my favorite toys, my snow blower, a lot and even on the first day of Spring, when we got 6 inches.

Maybe it was the weather that inspired **Jane** and me to join the YMCA located about a mile from our house. We attend a fitness class twice a week and use some of the exercise machines a couple times a week. Right now I'm waiting for about the first week in May when I hope to get out and burn some gasoline with my F-250, do some trout fishing and maybe hunt a Spring gobbler. Sounds better than going to the "Y". Wishing you all a great spring and summer.

**Don McCandless** wrote that after a foot of snow and the coldest February on record, the warmer weather has he and **Shirley** think about camping. "We will be getting the travel trailer out of storage in April. Currently we have reservations for five outings at local State Parks. Last year for several reasons we only had the trailer out three times which is not enough. We are hoping to do better this year.

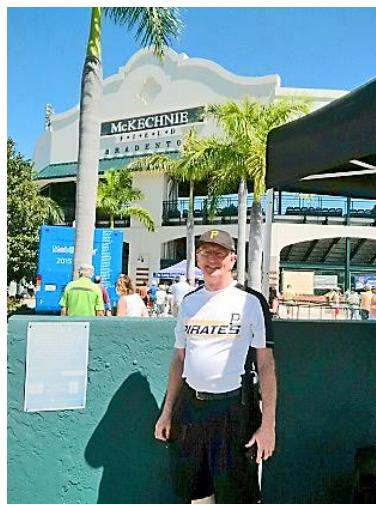
**Sylvia Rainford** shares the following, taken from an article in the St. Paul Pioneer Press. The article was written because a partner (The Nature Conservancy) thought so highly of Bill Hunt that they contacted the newspaper: "**William Hunt**, a behind-the-scenes conservationist who played a key role in establishing America's largest prairie wetland restoration project in northwest Minnesota, has died. Hunt, a Woodbury resident who served as state conservationist with the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service during the establishment of Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge, died Feb. 22 of brain cancer. He was 71. Friends, colleagues and family this week remembered "Bill" as a humble but determined conservation ally who also strove to mentor and recruit women and minorities into the ranks of a field where they've been historically underrepresented." The full article is available at

[http://www.twincities.com/localnews/ci\\_27618567/obituary-conservationist-william-hunt-helped-start-wildlife-refuge](http://www.twincities.com/localnews/ci_27618567/obituary-conservationist-william-hunt-helped-start-wildlife-refuge)

**Fred Bubb** says it's a time of change at the Bubb's. "First, I have a new computer. Due to an oversight on my part, I left my computer security lapse. As a result, I got hit with a virus that wiped out my computer's memory. How fortunate that all the PA Bugle mailing lists had been transferred to Tim. I hate to think of the job of trying to re-create."

"Second, on April 1<sup>st</sup> (no joke), **Carol** and I made a down-sizing move to a much smaller one-level house, located in New Cumberland, PA. My advice, if you are facing down-sizing, is to do it NOW! The longer you wait, the harder it is. Greetings and blessings to all."

**Bill and Mary Ann Bowers** traveled to warm, sunny Florida for some spring training baseball games in mid-March. Since Bill is a long time (and for many years long suffering) Pittsburgh Pirates fan, we saw the Pirates win one, lose one, and tie one. Yes, they only play nine innings in spring training regardless of the score. It was in the 80's and sunny, but we got home just in time for one of the PA snowstorms.



On the medical front, Bill is undergoing treatment for a melanoma removed three years ago that has spread to his lung. So far so good. Any and all prayers are gratefully accepted. We are looking forward to spring and all the gardening activities that it brings.

**Carl DuPoldt** writes that he is still working as a consultant with Green Building Solutions & Supplies, LLC. "I celebrated my 10 year anniversary. It is hard to believe that I have been retired from NRCS for 10 years. I am doing a lot of online activities." He sent the following article about GMOs:

*On Monday, April 27, 2015 9:10 AM, John Zaginaylo <[johnzag03@gmail.com](mailto:johnzag03@gmail.com)> wrote:*

*To whoever, I am not sure why I got a copy of this message but I think it was through the Bugle News Letter. I have been operating a farm all of my life and have seen the changes and adopted many. The use of GMO's has changed a lot of how we farm. I do understand the lack of research and its long term affects. However we need to step back and take everything into consideration. GMO's has allowed us to use less toxic herbicides, to adopt no-till, reduce fuel consumption, reduce labor and get better yields. This has been a major economic boost to agricultural operations. Look at positive affects they have had versus the possible changes in the food supply. One there is more food. Two the environment has been better protected through no till practices. Soil health is improving through less tillage. Farm labor to do multiple passes in a crop fields to till or cultivate is nonexistent. Young people do not want to work like that even if agricultural operations could pay it. Renewable energy and control of pests that could wipe out a crop in an entire region are other critical benefits. Scaring people about GMO's is not the answer. A holistic discussion on how agriculture can operate to be sustainable and produce all the food in the safest manner is needed. Cheap food in this country drives the economics of agriculture. If reversing the use of GMO's is the answer then people will absolutely have to pay a lot more. Europe where GMO's are not accepted pay significant more of their expendable income on food. Nobody wants to give up their vacations, cars and such because they have to spend more on food. So where is this discussion going? It will only concern people and make any farmer a bad guy for trying to stay afloat with the use of GMO's!*

**Neil Bogner** says: "It will soon be 43 years since I left Upper Darby! But I do want to learn about those who were there while I was there."

**Tim Murphy** says this was the second winter in a row for great cross-country skiing, with persistent snow cover from New Years to March, which is reminiscent of his days in New York State. But now the winter resident bluebirds are fighting over limited nesting space, and greener days are ahead. Have a wonderful Spring, everyone!

Submitted by **Ed Brzostek**: I was a new employee at the Allentown Field Office and worked under the direction of quite a prankster technician, **Sam Yohn**. Sam always sponsored some sort of game to see who would pay for coffee and donuts in the morning. Well, Sam had an extra special version of the game for those cheap big shots from the State office. I am pretty sure one of our first victims was unfortunately **Fred Bubb** and then every State Conservationist who came in. Sam said those State office people make big bucks and should be buying us coffee and donuts anyway, so we will just make sure that they do.

What Sam had me do was put slips of paper with the number 7 in a hat. The person who picked the predetermined number (7) had to buy coffee and donuts. Sam would pick first and say it was a two. I would pick next and say it was a nine, and then I would have the visitor from the State Office pick the next folded paper out of the hat and of course they would pick the winning number seven, and they'd have to buy us coffee and donuts. We always loved when State Office people came to visit.

**Ed Petrus** shares a story about **Sheila Dunn**: She was with me in the field in Mercer, probably about 1985 or so, along with the farmer who owned the property. As we walked along, Sheila happened to spot an arrowhead on the ground (before our cultural resources training, no doubt!) She picked it up and was obviously ecstatic, as she had never found one before then. The farmer said "Let me see that," and she handed it to him. He replied, "Wow, that sure is a nice one," and put it into his pocket. In truth, it WAS his, but her mood instantly deflated, as she assumed she'd be bringing it home as a "trophy." (*Editor's note: having had the training in the past, I know this as a "projectile point." A real piece of history nonetheless.*)

**Frank Resides** wrote: "After my junior year in high school (1952) I was selected to attend the annual week-long meeting of the American Institute of Cooperatives at East Lansing, MI. I had an FFA Project that included a Black Angus steer, five or six Brood Sows, Yorkshires and Durocs, and numerous feeder pigs. I bought all my feed and supplies from the Eastern States Farmers' Exchange, the only farm supply store in the State College area at the time."

So, for giving a talk about my project and how great Eastern States' products were, they sponsored my trip. It was a wonderful week for a 16-year-old lad. I met many nice people. We had cook-outs, skated at the Michigan State ice rink and visited the Oldsmobile engine plant in Lansing to watch them make those V-8s. (that was back when they put the **whole** engine in a car.)

Fast-forward to the mid-1960s, when I was working as an Economist in my cubicle in the state office in Harrisburg. One day **Hobart Sockman**, ASTC-Watersheds, popped his head in and asked if I had been to East Lansing. I replied "I sure have been," and by the time I turned around to tell Mr. Sockman about my wonderful trip, he was gone. I thought that a bit strange and was somewhat disappointed that I couldn't tell him my story.

A few weeks later I learned that Hobart had been looking for people to attend the SCS Training Center, which had recently been moved from Coshocton to East Lansing, of which I was not aware. Well, that was the last time anyone asked me if had been to East Lansing, so I never did get that valuable training they gave out there. But, somehow I was able to muddle through a 40+ year career without it. Miracles will never cease!

## SOUTH CAROLINA

**Byron Thompson, ARCSE Representative**

Email: [landmgtinc@wctel.net](mailto:landmgtinc@wctel.net)

Our South Carolina Chapter held their spring meeting on April 23<sup>rd</sup> in Columbia, SC. We had 24 members and their spouses attend the meeting. Our special guest for our meeting was **Kathryn Hensley**, President of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association. She covered several legislative issues that impact retirees and those that will retire in the future. I would encourage other ARSCE chapters to develop a relationship in their respective state.

**Walt Douglas** reported that he and **Richie** had completed a trip to New Zealand. One of the highlights of the trip was to visit a working sheep farm and the use of dogs to manage movement of the herd of 1,000 sheep in a single operation.

**Ronnie and Jeanie Feaster** commented on their trip to Scotland. Ronnie got to play the historic St. Andrews Golf course and marked off one item on his bucket list.

**Mary and Byron Thompson** reported they had recently become Great Grandparents with the birth of the Great Grandson **Greyson**.



*James and Sylvia Williams listening to the meeting speaker on retirement issues.*



**Kathryn Hensley, SC President of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association responding to questions on legislative issues and need to contact your congressional contact and make them aware of your position on these issues.**



**Niles Glasgow introducing our speaker for the meeting. Thanks to Niles for making the contact and inviting Kathryn as our speaker for the meeting.**

## **TEXAS**

**Arnold King, ARCSE Representative**  
**Email: [arnolddking@hotmail.com](mailto:arnolddking@hotmail.com)**

Twenty people attended the February 20<sup>th</sup> meeting: **Earl Blakley, Dennis Gaster, Barbara Gillum, Rex Gillum, Joyce Petty, Elaine and Billy Don Davis, Rita Kuenstler, Don Newman, Bernie and Maxine Owen, Dave Drennan, Don Kapalka, Doug Seibel, Anita Plummer, Betty Sisson, Helen Shanklin, Mary Mattinson, Mark Boysen, Bernelle Baxley, Clyde Goodman, Mary Garsjo, and Dennis Erinakes.**

**Marie Garsjo** presided over the February business meeting. **Bernie Owen** gave a very informative program on preparing your 2014 income tax return, including various tips that will help members make sure they don't pay more than necessary.

We were very happy to see **Barbara Gillum** in attendance. She has made a good recovery from her heart surgery in January.

**Jim Brasfield** wrote on February 28<sup>th</sup>: **LeAnn and I** have had a good year. At the present we are both recovering from bronchial flu. I appreciate your printing **Joe Nichol's** obituary. We were the best of friends, and Joe was an excellent soil scientist. I would kid Joe sometimes about me being older. My birthday is on July 10 and Joe's was on July 14. Keep up the good work on the newsletter.

**Ken Twitty** wrote: We hope to be able to start attending in September when our great granddaughter **Mieshka** will be in school all day. Her mother is working and I have to take Mieshka to school and pick her up at 11:30am so can't get to the meetings now. We miss attending.

The annual **Texas SCS/NRCS Reunion** will be held April 21-22, 2015, at the Schlitterbahn Resort in New Braunfels, TX.

Nineteen people attended the March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting: **Earl Blakley, Dennis Gaster, Joyce Petty, Barbara Gillum, Clyde Goodman, Bernie and Maxine Owen, Mark Boysen, Douglas Seibel, Rita Kuenstler, Betty Sisson, Anita Plummer, Elaine and Billy Don Davis, Dave and Barb Stockbridge, Bonnie McKee, Dennis Erinakes, and Arnold King.**

**Dave Stockbridge** reported that he found the sand bass in Lake Granbury and one day recently caught his limit. The lake level is slowly coming up. He and **Barb** are going to check out a new micro-brewery in Lewisville with daughter **Erica**. A trip to Durango, CO is planned for late May.

**Dennis Erinakes** reported that his son **Michael** is buying a farm in Nebraska that provides habitat to a lot of ducks, geese, and pheasants. **Bernie Owen** is hard at work providing income tax services for a number of clients. **Mark Boysen** is busy runnin' cows and still finds time to volunteer building houses for Habitat for Humanity. He gave some interesting information on that organization.

**Bonnie McKee** lost one of her dogs, but has three others to ease the pain. She is looking forward to a trip to Alaska in August with her daughter. **Barbara Gillum** is undergoing cardio rehab sessions and is the only woman in the class...wow!

**Rita Kuenstler's** house received new flooring. Husband **Bill** is in Guadalajara, Mexico with **Jerry Lemunyon** at a conference. **Rita** and **Bill** will be going to Florida in April.

**Anita Plummer** heard from **Don and Mary Stelling**, and they are doing well. **Anita's** first cousin, whom she grew up with, passed away recently.

By the time you read this newsletter, **Elaine Davis** will have had knee surgery which we hope went well. **Billy Don** will be attending to her every need.

## VIRGINIA

**Kenneth Carter, ARCSE Representative**

Email: [kenneth.carter26@verizon.net](mailto:kenneth.carter26@verizon.net)

**John Moore** reported that he and his wife spent 10 weeks last summer in Iceland and Greenland traveling on foot, 4X4, ferry, chartered and commercial planes and even a Zodiac boat. In addition, they spent two months at their cabin retreat in Vermont, where John completed his lifelong fete of climbing all of New England's 100 highest peaks. This accomplishment has been spread out over the last 49 years, most of it solo hiking, climbing and bushwhacking through the dense growth, as John described it. The attached "selfie photo" shows John after a 9-hour climb of Scar Ridge, NH where no trail exists. John reports this was one of the three most difficult climbs of the series and had nothing to do with the bear he encountered on the climb.



We also report the sad news of the passing of **Karl Otte**, former NHQ employee; Dan **Crowner**, soil scientist and IT support, and **Sherwood "Woody" Hall**, Contract Specialist.



## WASHINGTON, DC, NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

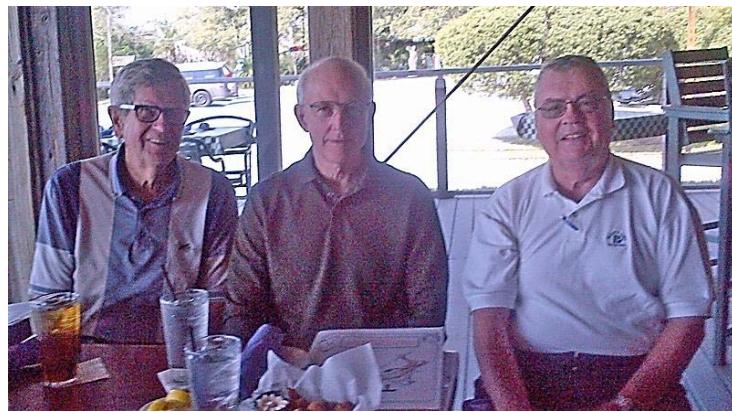
**John Peterson, ARCSE  
Representative**  
Email: [jwpeterson@cox.net](mailto:jwpeterson@cox.net)

*John Peterson, our man in Washington, DC.*



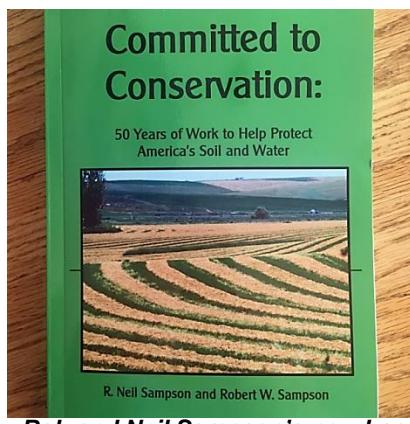
*John Peterson and Jerry Hytry at a Washington Nationals Spring Training Game on Wednesday March 11<sup>th</sup> in Viera, FL*

**John and Blanche Peterson** spent a March week in Florida attending the Washington Nationals Baseball team's spring training. They linked up with **Jerry Hytry** and took him to a Nats game against the Braves. They enjoyed reminiscing so much that they missed much of the game. It was tremendous fun. **John and Jerry** worked together in HQ, were neighbors, and went to the same church in Burke.



*Art Holland, Niles Glasgow and John Peterson met for lunch at Hilton Head Island's Crazy Crab restaurant on 18 MAR. They enjoyed reminiscing about all the SCS memories they experienced and shared.*

**Neil Sampson** sends, "Rob and I have finally gotten our book into final proofing and production. Title is "Committed to Conservation: 50 Years of Work to Help Protect America's Soil and Water." It tells the story of our family's work in SCS, NRCS, and NACD from 1960 to 2010 or so. It will be available at Amazon in May and then other book outlets as well. The price (they tell us) will be \$12.95 plus shipping. The Kindle version should be out in June, but I don't know what they will charge for it."



**Rob and Neil Sampson's new book**

**Barbara and Keith Schmude** are celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary in June this year. They were married on June 18, 1955 in Oshkosh, WI. They are thankful that they are still in good health and can celebrate together with their family.

Prior to returning to Virginia for the summer, **Warren and Barb Lee** had lunch with **Judy Johnson** and caught up with their activities. **Gordon and Betsy Klostad** joined them on a day trip to Prescott, AZ where they lunched with **Gary and Jayne Nordstrom**.

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015 the VA Senate Committee on Rules made appointments and reappointments of senators and citizens to commissions and other groups. **John Peterson** of Burke, VA was reappointed to another 4-year term on the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund Advisory Committee. The committee makes recommendations on funding Bay Restoration Projects and the money comes from sales of a special Chesapeake Bay VA license plate. Also, NACD President-elect Lee McDaniel established a District Outlook Task Force, charged with conducting an analysis of the changing environment for districts and locally led conservation. Virginia's NACD Board Representative **John Peterson** has been appointed to it. The Task Force will develop and deliver a report to the NACD Board of Directors in July 2016 that will provide guidance on how districts can grow with their changing workload and community needs. NACD will also use the report as a guide in the next strategic review and revision of its services to members.



**Janet and Carl Buchard with the Maine Princess**

Since 2007 **Carl Bouchard** has been the official photographer for the National Conference of State Societies for the Cherry Blossom Princesses Program of the Cherry Blossom Festival. This year's festival was held from April 4<sup>th</sup>, started with the lighting of the Japanese Lantern on Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup>, and culminated on April 11<sup>th</sup> with the Parade and Sakura Matsuri Japanese Street Festival.



**Cherry Blossom Princesses by the Tidal basin at the unveiling of the commemorative Dogwood Forever Stamp**

This year was special because it represented the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the US gift to Japan of 50 flowering dogwood trees as a thank you gesture for the gift of the 3,000 Cherry Trees given by Japan in 2012. As usual, it was a fun-filled week, and I am getting too old (not) to follow 55 young and charming ladies around for a week. Pictures of the week can be found at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/2015cbpp/sets/>. The 2015 US Queen is from Nevada, chosen by a spin of the wheel.



**US and Japan Cherry Blossom Queens riding the float**

**Ron and Ann Marlow** report a great trip in August 2014 to Lake Tahoe to attend a wedding. In addition to the wedding and touring the Lake Tahoe area, highlights of the trip included a challenging hike to the top of Mt. Tallac (see photo with summit in background), visiting Lake Shasta, the Redwood National Park, Monterey, Carmel, and driving the Avenue of the Giants

and the northern California coastline. As to farming, Ann especially enjoyed seeing the rice fields in Yuba County and the "Salad Bowl of the World" around Salinas.



*Ron and Ann Marlow near Lake Tahoe*

## **WASHINGTON**

**Gerald Richard, ARCSE Representative**

**Email: [glr52pdr@aol.com](mailto:glr52pdr@aol.com)**

Present at our March and April luncheons at the Timber Creek Grill and Buffet were: **Jud Melton, Harry Riehle, Ralph Schmidt, Larry and Jean Edmonds, Gary Johnson, Hans and Kathryn Krauss, Jerry and Phyllis Richard, Carl Vennes, Chet Jahn, Ken Kaul, Joe Carmack and Tim King.**



**Ken and Tina Kaul with cousin in Wielepole Skrzynskie**

This past fall **Ken and Tina Kaul** toured Poland, Tina's family roots. In Poland they visited Warsaw, Czestochowa, Krakow, Auschwitz, Wroclaw, Jawor, Torun, and Gdansk. The highlight of the trip was when they left the tour group, hired a local guide/interpreter, and went to Wielepole Skrzynskie and Rzeszow. In Wielepole Skrzynskie they were able to find Tina's deceased Aunt Mary Pajak's home. And, made contact with a 90-year-old cousin, **Barbara Pajak**. In Rzeszow they were able to find the place where Tina's father was born on the family farm. Auschwitz/Birkenau was emotionally and physically draining.



*Tina and Ken Kaul on their trip to the Holy Land*

In February **Ken and Tina Kaul** joined a group of 28 on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The group had an outstanding local guide/historian and a priest/theologian from the Spokane area accompanying them. While there they visited many holy sites and shrines in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Ein Kerem, Bethlehem, Capernaum, Sea of Galilee, Cana, Jericho, Caesarea, and Tiberias. The pilgrimage changed many of their perceptions about the events that happened 2,000 years ago and enhanced their faith.

Snowbirds returning to Washington include **Larry and Karen Lenz, Gary and Elinor Johnson and Stefan and Kathy Fechter**. Stefan sent this note. "We're wrapping up our first season as snowbirds. We visited our sons and families in Vancouver, WA, and Vancouver, BC, in mid-October and headed south with our fifth-wheel in late October. We arrived at Pueblo El Mirage Golf & RV Resort in El Mirage, AZ, on Halloween. We had a great time during November and December joining friends who were returning to the resort and many new friends we've met here for many Holiday celebrations, dances, potluck dinners, and a steady stream of happy hours. I have been learning to lawn bowl and enjoy participating during frequent open bowling, visitations with other clubs, tournaments, and Saturday Fun Day game variations. We will be heading north in time for Easter and plan to do this again next winter".

## WEST VIRGINIA

**Peg Reese, ARCSE Representative**

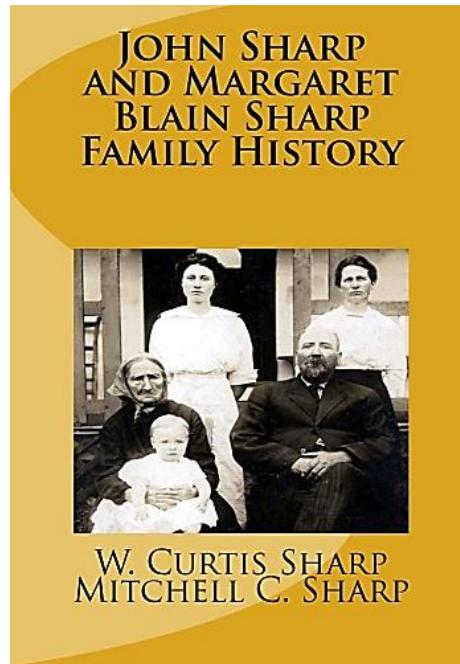
**Email:** [pegreesewv@gmail.com](mailto:pegreesewv@gmail.com)

**Joan Rose Hinkle**, former area clerk for SCS in the Philippi Area Office, passed away on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015. More information can be read in the Obituary section of this newsletter.

**Wynard (Wes) Morrow**, retired NRCS (WV) State Design Engineer, is amongst those being recognized during a three-day program celebrating pioneering African-American student-athletes at West Virginia University (WVU). Although Morrow earned a track scholarship to WVU in 1962, he elected to compete on the WVU Fencing (Club) Team, the first African-American student-athlete to compete for WVU. Despite the indignity of having to dress/shower in separate facilities than the rest of his teammates during the team's first "away" meet of his freshman year, Wes anchored the team to four undefeated seasons. He continued his athletic career after college, qualifying for the US Olympic Team Trials, winning the US Mid-Atlantic Championship, is a two-time National (Veteran's Age) Champion, a member of the 1996 US International/World Championship (Veterans Age) Team, and Bronze medalist (ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the world) at the 1996 International/World Championships (Veterans Age). Wes continues to compete on the US national circuit.

**W. Curtis Sharp** and his son **Mitchell** released a new book on April 1 about their ancestors. It is *John Sharp and Margaret Blain Sharp Family History*. The book tells of John and Margaret's migration, with their 12 children, from the Shenandoah Valley into what was known in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries as the "wilds of Pocahontas," later to become Pocahontas County. It chronicles their subsequent lives, ultimate passing and the environmental and community parameters into which the Sharp family settled, lived and prospered. The fully-indexed 480-page genealogical histories include 6,500 descendants and spouses of John and Margaret's children, punctuated with individual curiosities, accomplishments and downfalls.

Curtis was born in Frost, Pocahontas County on land passed down from John and Margaret. He retired from NRCS in 1993 after a career in the Plant Materials Program, publishing in 2013 *Conservation Plants, A USDA Success Story*. Both books are available from Amazon.



## WISCONSIN

**James Enlow, ARCSE Representative**

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

The Wisconsin retirees met for lunch on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at The Northwoods Brew Pub in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. **Vic Price** was the host.

Those attending included **Bob Uhrig, Dave Vold, Ted Manning, Steve Rake, Keith Sengbisch, Bob Henrich, Del Thomas, Harlan Nelson, Olin and Jan Femreite, Louie and Kathy Barber, Stan and Marlene Dingle, Mike and Sally Schendel, John and Barb Donelan, Bob Plawski, Rodger Dahl, Tim Miland, Larry and Geri Natzke, Tim Meyer, Dave and Jane Hvizdak, Diane Sczipsanski, Vic and Mary Price and Don Baloun.**

The next luncheon is scheduled for June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at Wayne's Family Restaurant in Oconto, WI

**Melvin Wayne Swan** passed away on April 23, 2015, at home where we cared for him the last week and a half after leaving the hospital. He was 84 years old and will be missed. The last week or so, he was in such distress, gasping for each breath. I am accepting his death as part of life with the Lord taking care of him now. Bertha

**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.

### SENIOR CONSERVATIONIST CHRONICLE

**Marc Safley, Chronicler, Senior Conservationist**

**Senior Conservationist**

**Harry E. Potter**

Senior Conservationist Harry Potter was born September 2, 1927, in Caribou, Maine. His family moved to Sidney, ME, where he grew up on his family's farm. It was a small dairy and egg production farm. Harry attended elementary school in Sidney and

graduated from high school in Oakland, ME. Following graduation from high school, Harry enlisted in the Army Air Corps. He served in the Pacific area on Okinawa where he handled radio repair on the base. He attained the rank of Sergeant and was discharged in 1949 from the U.S. Air Force. He returned home and worked in various farm jobs until he enrolled in the University of Maine in the fall of 1950. While at the university, he was a member of Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity and was active in Ag Club activities (including the Ag Fair). Harry graduated in 1954 with a B.Sc. degree in Agricultural Engineering.

Harry's first work with SCS was during the summer of 1951 in Steuben County, NY. He returned to New York State for the summers of 1952 and 1953 in Cayuga and Wayne counties.

Following his graduation, he was assigned to Genesee County, NY, as a full-time employee at the Batavia Field Office as a Soil Conservationist. In January, 1956 he was transferred to Rensselaer County and located at Berlin, NY. Berlin was a field office for the Little Hoosic Watershed (one of four pilot small watershed projects in the state at that time). His work there included streambank cribbing and construction of debris dams to slow erosive stream currents and to retain sediment. He married his wife, **Sharon**, on September 8, 1956; they had met while Harry worked in Batavia.

In 1958 Harry was promoted to District Conservationist at Troy, New York. Troy has close ties to the nearby cities of Albany and Schenectady in a region popularly called the Capital District. Harry notes that general agriculture was typical and that the area was becoming more and more urbanized while he was working there. In 1967 he accepted the job of District Conservationist for Jefferson County located at Watertown, NY. The county is in the Saint Lawrence River Valley and presented Harry with new challenges. He notes that surface drains and land smoothing were being used on the clayey soils; he visited similar landscapes in Ohio during this time to learn conservation practices being employed there. Harry retired on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1982, at Watertown and has remained there since.

When Harry and Sharon moved to the job at Watertown in 1967, they bought a farmstead and 45 acres of land. He reports that it was "...great for vegetable and flower gardens and [had] adequate grass for pasture where we hobbied with a family flock of Hampshire sheep." There is also a hill that is great for sledding (which he still uses every winter). In retirement, Harry has served on his town's planning board in several capacities, including two extended terms as its chairperson. In 1996 he was appointed as a Soil and Water Conservation District supervisor. He served for 16 years as its chairperson until he retired in 2013.

Harry and Sharon have a daughter and two sons. They have six grandchildren and, as of the date he sent his information, were expecting their first great-grandchild "...any day now". They supported their children through school, 4-H, and church. Their children have moved away as they married and gained employment. Harry and Sharon travel to Nebraska, Illinois, Colorado, New Hampshire and Maine almost every year. He reports that "...to date we have attended 14 graduations for our grandchildren, beginning with 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and one wedding. Hopefully we will be able to make the last college graduation in 2016!"

In addition to his travels, Harry enjoys woodworking and bird watching. He remains active at his church where he has served as a laity member to Annual Conference for many years.

## 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 of 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).**

### Surname

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

Please email Ron Marlow at [arcse@cox.net](mailto:arcse@cox.net) to report recent notices for In Memoriam.

#### Beck

**Louis Carson "Lou" Beck** (75) of Hawley, Pennsylvania passed away on March 6, 2015, at Geisinger-Community Medical Center, Scranton. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, the former **Beverly Ann Cushman**. Born in Plainfield, NJ, **Lou** was an Army veteran and served during the Vietnam War. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in agronomy from Delaware College of Science and Agriculture. He was an agronomist with the Soil Conservation Service and worked as the District Conservationist in Pike/Wayne Soil Conservation District until his retirement in 1994. However, he best loved to work at the Trading Post/Whatknots, the business he owned with his wife **Bev**. In addition to his wife, **Lou** is survived by two daughters, one son, and four grandchildren. To leave a condolence, visit [www.TeetersFuneralChapel.com](http://www.TeetersFuneralChapel.com).

#### Bridges

**Sarah T. Bridges** (68) of Falls Church, Virginia passed away on March 31, 2015. **Sarah**, a Cultural Resources Archeologist, was with Federal government for over 31 years and served much of that time as NRCS' National Cultural Resources Specialist and Federal Preservation Officer. She worked tirelessly ensuring NRCS programs and activities protected historic properties. **Sarah** was preceded in death by her husband, **Bert Salwen**. She is survived by a daughter, **Sarah** and her husband, **Max Prilutsky**, and two stepsons and their families. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Bert Salwen Fund Archaeological Research Fellowship.

<b>Cosby</b>	<b>Jasmine M. Cosby</b> (20) of Columbus, Ohio passed away on March 2, 2015. She was a member of Mt. Hermon Baptist Church, Anointed Ministries, and a junior at Ohio University in Athens. She is survived by her loving family, parents, <b>Terry</b> and <b>Brenda Cosby</b> ; and brothers, <b>Terrance</b> and <b>Cory Cosby</b> . <b>Terry</b> is the NRCS State Conservationist in Ohio.
<b>Cox</b>	Senior Conservationist <b>Arlie Ray Cox</b> (89) of Cuba, Kansas passed away on March 25, 2015. He was born in Haddam and grew up in that area. He attended the Crescent Country School and Haddam High School, graduating in 1942. After high school, he joined the army Oct. 14, 1944 as part of the U.S. Army Infantry stationed in Luzon Philippines. He served in WWII until Nov. 17, 1946. He married <b>Annemay Kennedy</b> Oct. 10, 1947. The couple made their home on a farm north of Haddam with two children <b>Lonnie</b> and <b>Kayleen</b> . He was a farmer. After a back injury, in 1954 he purchased a pool hall in Haddam, and the family moved to town. He sold the pool hall in 1959, went to work for Boeing Aircraft, and moved his family to Douglass, KS. While working for Boeing, the family lived in several states: Hagerman, NM, Caribou, Maine, and Douglass, KS. He began working for the Soil Conservation Service in August 1961 and moved to Ness City. After a short time in Ness City, KS, he was transferred to Meade, KS where he and his family lived for 37 years. He retired from the Soil Conservation Service Oct. 5, 1985 as a Soil Conservation Technician. His wife died in 1997. He married <b>Dorothy (Rott) Zenger</b> on Nov. 7, 1998 and moved to Cuba. He was a life member of the American Legion. He was instrumental in establishing the Avenue of Flags in the Haddam cemetery. He is survived by his wife, <b>Dorothy</b> ; son <b>Lonnie (Pattie)</b> , daughter <b>Kayleen and Clell Miller</b> , 14 grandchildren; 12 great grandchildren; 5 great-great grandchildren, two step sons, and a step-daughter. Memorials to the church or Meadowlark Hospice.
<b>Crowner</b>	<b>Daniel Jaynes Crowner</b> (65) of Harrisonburg, Virginia passed away on April 4, 2015 at his home. He was born in Columbus, Ohio. <b>Dan</b> graduated from Ohio State University and was a Soil Scientist and IT Support Specialist for the USDA-NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service). He also was a graduate and took many classes/seminars with Landmark Education. He is survived by his wife, <b>Judith Nance Ligon</b> of Harrisonburg and brother, <b>David Brent Crowner</b> of Ohio. A sister, <b>Diana Lenzmeier</b> preceded him in death. A time for a Harrisonburg and Ohio Celebration of his life will be announced in the near future.
<b>Dunn</b>	<b>Sheila Beth Dunn</b> (70) of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania passed away after a short battle with cancer. She is survived by two brothers, a niece and her 3 nephews. While at Camp Hill High School, <b>Shelia</b> was a star athlete and a member of her championship basketball team. After graduating high school she attended Lock Haven University. <b>Shelia</b> worked most of her life on watershed projects for the Soil Conservation Service. She was an accomplished and meticulous drafts person. To leave an online condolence to the family please visit us at <a href="http://GeigleFuneralHome.com">GeigleFuneralHome.com</a>
<b>Hall</b>	<b>Sherwood E. "Woody" Hall</b> (84) of Richmond, Virginia passed away February 28, 2015. He was preceded in death by his wife, <b>Mary Hume Hall</b> . He is survived by his sister, Jean Edwards Hepp, and many loving nieces and nephews. He retired from the U.S. Soil Conservation Service in 1985 as a Contracting Officer. <b>Woody</b> was an Air Force veteran and long-time member of Southminster Presbyterian Church. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a memorial donation to Southminster Presbyterian Church.
<b>Higgins</b>	<b>Robert Joseph "Bob" Higgins</b> (82) of Salina, Kansas passed away on March 24, 2015. His career had spanned 30 years with the Soil Conservation Service when he retired in December 1989 as a Biologist on the Resource Conservation Staff in the Kansas State Office in Salina, Kansas. He rose in two years to Army sergeant with his innate leadership during the Korean War. <b>Bob</b> was a proud member of Sacred Heart Cathedral, Knights of Columbus, Audubon Society, and Jolly Mixers dance group. He was preceded in death by his wife, <b>Ann Cecilia Hutton</b> in 1988. They raised six children, <b>Amy, Michael, Gabriel, Patrick, Kate and Luke</b> . He had five grandchildren. He enjoyed many years of retirement with his second love, " <b>Lady Pat</b> " <b>Storey</b> . In lieu of flowers, donations in Bob's name may be made to Heifer International, an organization he supported and believed in deeply.
<b>Hinkle</b>	Senior Conservationist <b>Joan Rose Hinkle</b> (93) of Philippi, West Virginia passed away on February 18, 2015, in Mansfield Place, following an extended illness. She was born July 30, 1921, at Washington, D.C. On Sept. 14, 1957, she was married to <b>Franklin Lee "Bulldog" Hinkle</b> , who survives at their home in Philippi. Also surviving are one brother, Neil (Betty) Irvine of Philippi; one sister, Connie Payne of Houston, Texas; and several nieces and nephews. <b>Joan</b> was a homemaker and retired in 1984 as an Area Clerk from the USDA's Soil Conservation Service. She was a member of Crim Memorial United Methodist Church where she had long served as organist and pianist. She was a proud member of James Barbour Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Online condolences may be posted at <a href="http://www.stempleforman.com">www.stempleforman.com</a> .
<b>Hodges</b>	Senior Conservationist <b>Franklin T. Hodges</b> (85) Dobson, NC, passed away on January 12, 2015. <b>Frank</b> retired as Soil Conservation Technician in Stanly County. He began his career with SCS in 1946 as a part-time technician in Surry County. In 1958 he assumed a full-time position in Davidson County. He was transferred to Rowan County in 1959 and then to Stanly County where he worked and made his home in the town of Richfield for 35 years. He was a member of Richfield Baptist Church where he served as Deacon, Sunday School Director, Church Secretary, Sunday School Teacher, Youth Sunday School Teacher and Royal Ambassador Leader. He was active in his community having served as secretary and president of the Richfield Civitan Club, member of the Richfield-Misenheimer Fire Department for 20 years and was a member and Secretary of the Richfield

Planning Board. After retirement, **Frank** and his wife returned to Surry County in 1996. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, **Vernelle Wood Hodges**; sons, **Larry Franklin Hodges** and **Dennis Nelson Hodges**.

**Jorgensen** Member and Senior Conservationist **George N. Jorgensen Jr.** (88) of Troy, Kansas passed away on April 18, 2015, at a nursing home in Highland, Kan. He graduated from KSU. **George** served in the U.S. Army during WWII. He farmed, was a stockman and worked for the Soil Conservation Service at Troy, retiring as a District Conservationist in 1984. He is a member of the First Baptist Church, Lions Club, and American Legion Post#55, all of Troy. **George** had also served on the Doniphan County Library Board, Troy Fire Department, RC&D, NARFE, Courier Richey Cemetery Board and had been involved in other endeavors too numerous to mention. **George** is survived by his wife of 64 years, **Charlene**. Additional survivors include sons, **Eric (Carol) Jorgensen**, of St. Joseph, **Mark (Loretta) Jorgensen**, of Leavenworth, KS; three grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials to Troy Ambulance, Doniphan County Historical Society, Doniphan County Library District or donor's choice.

**Kidney** **Matthew "Matt" Scott Kidney** (35) of Belgrade, Montana passed away on April 1, 2015. He was the son of **Kim** and **Sharon (Beaupre) Kidney** who retired from NRCS in 2006. He graduated from Rocklin High School and earned associates degree in both accounting and marketing from Sierra College in Rocklin, California. He moved back to Bozeman with his family in 2002. He had worked in Human Resources for the USDA, NRCS since. Survivors include his wife **Jennifer "Jen"** and his two sons **Hunter** and **Gavin** all of Belgrade; his parents **Kim** and **Sharon** of Green Bay, Wisconsin; his brother and sister-in-law **Keith** and **Brietta**. Condolences and memories may be shared with the family at [www.dahlcares.com](http://www.dahlcares.com).

**Kirby** Senior Conservationist **Robert M. Kirby** (91) of Greenville, North Carolina passed away on December 10, 2013. He was a WWII veteran (1941-1946) serving in the Merchant Marines in the Atlantic and Mediterranean Theater where he was a Navigation Officer on the SS Gabriel Duvall with the rank of Lt. Senior Grade. The Merchant Marines primary job was delivering weapons and ammunition and other supplies to allied troops. After the war and nearly five years of service with the Merchant Marines, he enrolled at the University of Maryland, where he met his wife **Bonita**. After graduating with a degree in Soil Science, **Robert** began a career with Soil Conservation Service as a Soil Scientist. He retired in 1984 with over 30 years of service after working in Maryland and North Carolina. **Robert** was a member of Oakmont Baptist Church, Greenville, NC. He is survived by his daughters, **Meghan Kirby Hope** and husband **Ray**, of Washington and **Heather Kirby Couch** and husband, **Joseph**, of Havelock; three grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

**Klee** **Gerhard Klee** (84) of Walton, New York a resident since 1959, passed away at home on January 26, 2015. **Gary** was born immigrant parents and was one of five siblings... a sister **Renate** of Edmeston, NY and **Gottfried, Traute and Rosemarie** who predeceased him. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, **Jeanie**, son **Gary** and partner **Jean Ann**, and two beloved granddaughters. He graduated from Brooklyn Technical High School and was in the Coast Guard for three years as an aviation mechanic. **Gary** received an Agricultural Degree from Cornell University. He then became a Soil Conservationist that led him to stops in Binghamton, Walton, Glens Falls and Canton, NY. He retired in 1988 and returned to Walton. He also became an avid hiker and member of the Catskill 3500 Club. Any contributions may be made to Delaware Valley Hospital, 1 Titus Place, Walton, New York 13856.

**Larsen** Honorary Member **James Christian Larsen** (93) of Rapid City, South Dakota passed away on July 6, 2013, at his residence. **Jim** was born in Laramie, WY, and the early years of life were on a ranch with his family. He attended rural school on the ranch then graduated from Laramie High. He graduated from the University of Wyoming with a B.S. in Agronomy. Interrupting his college attendance, he served four years in the Army and at the end of these years served in the U.S. Army Air Force as a medic. He participated in many rescues. **Jim** received a letter of commendation for his outstanding service as a member and the medic of the most difficult mountain climbing expedition ever attempted in Alaska, spanning two months on Mount McKinley. He worked for the USDA in the Soil Conservation Service in Pinedale, WY, Sundance WY, and then as the Resource Conservation and Development Project Coordinator in Rapid City from 1968 until he retired in 1980, spanning 40 years of service. He was a founding member of the Black Hills Regional Food Bank and served years as Chairman. He was the School Board President in Sundance, and active in the Lions Club. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, **Mary Ellen**; his children five children: **John Larsen**, Rock Springs, WY, (**Terri**, deceased), **Patricia Kocher (Charlie)**, Evanston, WY, **Dr. James Larsen (Linda)**, Bozeman, MT, **Dr. Jerry Larsen (Colleen)**, Casper, WY, and **Jeanne Blalock (Clint)**, Sturgis, SD; 14 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren. Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.kinkadefunerals.com](http://www.kinkadefunerals.com).

**Laughlin** **Senior Conservationist Arthur W. Laughlin** (90) of Ashland, Nebraska passed away on February 28, 2015 at Tabitha Heath Care in Lincoln. **Art** loved his country and following graduation from Ashland High School, he reported for duty to the U.S. Army Air Corp in February 1943 for pilot training where he was awarded his silver pilot wings. He served in WWII, stationed in Nuthamstead, England where he was a co-pilot of B-17's with the 398<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group, flying 26 combat missions over Germany. He was honorably discharged on October 3, 1945 from active duty and then served until April 25, 1955 in the Air Force Reserves. **Art** returned home from the war to work on the family farm until 1960. He worked for 25 years with the Soil Conservation Service as a Civil Engineering Technician at the Soil Mechanics Laboratory in Lincoln. Upon his retirement in 1985, **Art** continued to work on the family farm and participate in numerous organizations. He has been a member of the

Congregational Church in Ashland for over 75 years, serving as a board member and church treasurer. **Art** also served as Master of the Ashland Grange #386 and Master of the Lodge. He has been a member of the Masonic Lodge for over 64 years. **Art** is survived by son and daughter-in-law, **Wes and Connie (Reinke) Laughlin** of Weeping Water, three granddaughters, two great-grandsons, and a very special friend of over 20 years, **Fern Hauschild** of Ashland. He is preceded in death by his wife of 45 years, **Esther (Leikam) Laughlin**; sons, **Terry** and **Jim Laughlin**.

**Loyd**

**Billie Joe (B. J) Loyd, Jr.** of Oxford, North Carolina passed away on August 26, 2014. **B. J.** retired in 1990 as Soil Conservation Technician, Oxford Field Office. After retirement, he worked part time for the Granville Soil and Water Conservation District from 1991-2009. In November 2013, he was appointed to the Granville Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors. **B. J.** was a native of Granville County. He is survived by his wife, **Henrietta Callis Loyd**, daughter, **Mary White** and son-in-law **Brian**, and two grandchildren.

**Maddy**

**Wilma Weston Maddy** (97) of Des Moines, Virginia passed away on March 1, 2015. **Wilma** was the wife of the late **John Maddy** who retired from the Soil Conservation Service as the State Agronomist. She attended Iowa State College where she studied home economics and worked in the botany department. During WWII, **Wilma** worked in the Office of Army Camp Post Exchanges and later for the Secretary of the City Clerk in Ames when **John** was overseas. In later years she worked for several churches, insurance and architectural companies. She is survived by three children, two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, **John**.

**Mapes**

**Carolyn "Carol" Jane Mapes** (74) of Powell, Ohio passed away on March 23, 2015 surrounded by her family. She was the wife of Member **Rex Mapes** who retired as a soil scientist with the Soil Conservation Service in 1994. She is survived by her loving husband of 53 years, **Donald Rex Mapes**; children, **Linda (Tim) Ellis** of Westerville; **Ron Mapes**; Columbus, **Steve (PollyAnn) Mapes**; Columbus, and **Valerie (Matt) Scheibeck** of Lewis Center. She is also survived by 10 grandchildren. She attended Western Illinois University, where she met her husband. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital or The Harlem Road United Methodist Church. Visit [www.schoedinger.com](http://www.schoedinger.com) to send online condolences to the family.

**Martin**

**William Paul (Bill) Martin** (86) passed away on March 28, 2015 in Williamsport, Maryland where he had lived since 2010. **Bill** was born in Bottineau, ND. He grew up on a farm in Benton County, IN. He was a graduate of Otterbein High School in 1947, and Purdue University School of Agricultural Economics in 1951. While at Purdue, he was in the Military Band and a member of FarmHouse Fraternity. **Bill** served two years in the army during the Korean War, with service in Korea. He was the District Conservationist in Rush and Tippecanoe Counties in Indiana for over 30 Years. **Bill** is survived by two daughters, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife **Colleen**.

**McCann**

**Elizabeth (Betty) Ruth McCann** (96) of Urbana, Illinois passed away on April 13, 2015 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. She graduated from Cambria High School and Brown's Secretarial School in Milwaukee. She met her future husband, **Wesley McCann**, while they were both employed by the Regional Office of the Soil Conservation Service in Milwaukee. They were married June 2, 1945. **Wes** retired as the State Administrative Officer of SCS in Champaign. **Elizabeth** was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Urbana for more than 60 years. Survivors include her daughter, **Janet Lynn (Lee) Mears** of Bloomington; three grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, **Wesley**; and her daughter, **Phyllis Siems**. Memorial contributions may be made to First Presbyterian Church of Urbana and the American Brain Tumor Association, 2720 River Road, Des Plaines, IL 60018. Condolences may be offered online at [www.HeathandVaughn.com](http://www.HeathandVaughn.com).

**McGrane**

**Janet L. McGrane** (58) of Lincoln, Nebraska passed away on March 25, 2015. She was the wife of **Pat McGrane** who retired as Information Officer for NRCS in NE. **Janet** was employed with the Department of Homeland Security as an immigration officer. She attended Zion Lutheran church in Harbine. She attended Zion parochial school and graduated from Tri County High School in 1974. **Janet** is survived by her husband, **Pat**; parents, **Darold and Lillian Schmidt** of Harbine; daughter and son-in-law, **Christina and Jeff Swenson** of Lincoln; three step children, eleven grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. Condolences may be left at [www.bmlfh.com](http://www.bmlfh.com).

**Otte**

Member **Karl F. Otte** (80) of Springfield, Virginia passed away on April 8, 2015. He was receiving care from Halquist Impatient Care Center after enduring a long battle with pancreatic cancer. **Karl** was born in Staples, MN. He was a graduate from Coloma Michigan High School in 1953. He furthered his education through Michigan Tech University for an engineering degree and the University of Washington for a Master's Degree in his governmental related field. After 39 years of service, **Karl** retired from the Soil Conservation Service in 1994 as Assistant Director of the Watershed Division and then worked as a consultant for the state of Delaware. **Karl** and **Mary Jane Otte** were married for 56 years. They have 3 daughters: **Kimmerly Martiniz**, **Kathi Laakso**, and **Karin Otte**. He also leaves 7 grandchildren ranging in age from 12-23. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made online to the Humane Society of Fairfax County. **Karl** was a pet lover and felt they touched many lives with their innocence.

**Schmelzer**

Member and Senior Conservationist **George L. Schmelzer** (90) lifelong resident of Bremen, Ohio passed away on March 23, 2015 in Lancaster. George was a veteran of the United States Army proudly serving his country in

WWII. He was a graduate of The Ohio State University and a true Buckeye fan. He retired in 1980 after 35 years from the Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service as District Conservationist in Perry County, Ohio. George was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church and St. Vincent DePaul. He was involved in the local schools and community activities of Bremen, a 4-H leader for 25 years and a 50 year member of the Rushcreek Grange. He, along with his wife, **Joan**, delivered Meals on Wheels and was instrumental in bringing this service to Bremen. **George** is survived by five sons, **George (Judith) Schmelzer**, **Lawrence (Jacqueline) Schmelzer**, **James (Donna) Schmelzer**, **Donald Schmelzer** and **Richard (Nancy) Schmelzer**; two daughters, **Margaret (Jackson) Muchoki** and **Mary Ann (Steve) Reichley**; daughter-in-law, **Kathi Schmelzer**; 15 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, **Joan**; sons, **Harry and Thomas Schmelzer**. Online condolences at [www.morganfuneralhomeohio.com](http://www.morganfuneralhomeohio.com)

<b>Shrode</b>	Member <b>Howard Thomas "Tom" Shrode</b> (83) of Columbus, Ohio, formerly of Chrisney, passed away on February 27, 2014. <b>Tom</b> was a civil servant for the USDA Soil Conservation Service, during which time the family lived in Indianapolis, Madison, Wis. and Athens, Ga. <b>Tom</b> retired in 1986 as an Assistant State Conservationist. He earned a bachelor's degree in public administration from Upper Iowa University in 1975. After retiring from government service in 1986, <b>Tom</b> and <b>Bea</b> built a home in Chrisney and spent many wonderful years in retirement. He was active in Cornerstone United Methodist Church, Masonic Lodge, York Rite and the Knights Templar. <b>Tom</b> loved shopping for antique tractors, rebuilding farm equipment, machining his own tools and parts, and competitive skeet shooting. He fulfilled a lifelong dream by taking flying lessons and receiving his pilot's license in 2011. <b>Tom</b> was preceded in death by loving wife of 60 years, <b>Bea Shrode</b> , in 2009. He is survived by a son, <b>Paul Shrode</b> , of Tyler, Texas; a daughter <b>Karen Shrode</b> of Columbus; five grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter. His intellect, wit, generosity and spirit of adventure will be missed.
<b>Smith</b>	<b>Ray Smith</b> (89) of Bozeman, Montana passed away peacefully, surrounded by loved ones on February 26, 2015. <b>Ray</b> was born in Ririe, Idaho. Before graduating from Idaho Falls High School, his innate patriotism led him to lie about his age in order to enlist in the Navy in March of 1943. He was sent to boot camp in Idaho Falls and electrician's school in Minnesota. After boot camp, <b>Ray</b> was assigned to the USS Coolbaugh, a destroyer escort, stationed in Norfolk, Virginia. While the fleet was in the South Pacific, he was selected from the squadron to attend Officer's Candidate School. He returned to Helena, MT and attended Carroll College. While in Helena, <b>Ray</b> met and fell in love with <b>Nina Jones</b> . The two hitchhiked to Townsend, Montana, and were married in the preacher's backyard on August 4, 1945. The war ended before he could finish Officer's School and he was honorably discharged in 1946. After being discharged from the Navy, <b>Ray</b> worked for his father on the farm outside of Ririe, Idaho, for two years before moving to Forsyth, Montana, to farm with Nina's family. A few years later, he moved the family to Sidney, Montana, where he joined the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) as a technician. In 1959 the family moved to Bozeman, Montana, so <b>Ray</b> could obtain his Engineering Degree from MSU and continue working for the SCS. Throughout the next 27 years in his career with the SCS, he was promoted from Design Engineer to State Design Engineer and eventually to State Conservation Engineer. He retired in June 1986, but continued to do private consulting work for the next 9 years. <b>Ray</b> was preceded in death his first wife, <b>Nina</b> in 1989 and second wife, <b>Dorothy</b> in 2007. He is survived by his wife, <b>Shirley</b> ; a daughter, a granddaughter, five step-children, and numerous step-grandchildren.
<b>Swan</b>	<b>Melvin Wayne Swan</b> (84) of Spooner, Wisconsin passed away on April 24, 2015, at home of complications of dementia. He graduated from Spooner High School in 1948 and married <b>Bertha Vallem</b> of Hayward on March 28, 1950. They recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. <b>Bertha</b> retired from the Soil Conservation Service. His surviving family includes wife, <b>Bertha</b> of Spooner; sons <b>Dale</b> of Spooner and <b>DuWayne/Jeana Jarvis</b> of Stratford; a granddaughter; a grandson; and two great-grandsons. Online condolences may be left at <a href="http://www.scalzo-taylor.com">www.scalzo-taylor.com</a>
<b>Teschke</b>	Member and Senior Conservationist <b>Edgar H. Teschke</b> (84) of Faribault, Minnesota passed away on November 30, 2014 at his home. He graduated from Morristown High School in 1948 and served in the U. S. Army during the Korean Conflict in Germany from 1951 to 1953. <b>Edgar</b> worked at the USDA Soil Conservation Service as a Certified Civil Engineering Technician from 1953 to 1986. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, <b>Jane</b> of Faribault; son, <b>Daniel</b> of Minneapolis; daughter, <b>Paula (Bill) Hicks</b> of Eden Prairie; and two granddaughters. He was preceded in death by son, <b>Craig</b> in 2013.
<b>Vennes</b>	<b>Paula M. Vennes</b> (76) of Spokane, Washington passed away on March 17, 2015 due to complications from surgery. She is survived by her husband of 22 years, <b>Carl Vennes</b> , who retired as Spokane District Conservationist. Other survivors include her four daughters, and her three stepchildren, her 10 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren; two nieces and three grandnephews. An online memorial may be viewed by visiting. <a href="http://www.hennesseyfuneralhomes.com">www.hennesseyfuneralhomes.com</a> .
<b>Wadsworth</b>	<b>J. Roland Wadsworth</b> (88) of Battleboro, North Carolina passed away on August 12, 2012. <b>Roland</b> retired as Soil Conservation Technician in Tarboro, NC. He was a World War II veteran. <b>Roland</b> served on USS Storis, Ice Breaker in North Atlantic escorting ships from St. John to army bases in Greenland. He encountered numerous enemy submarines and airplanes during his service. <b>Roland</b> is survived by his wife of 68 years, <b>Kathleen S. Wadsworth</b> ; daughter, <b>Yvonne W. Forbes</b> and husband <b>Charles of Leggett</b> ; son, <b>Johnny R. Wadsworth, Jr.</b> ; four grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

**Wilimek** Member **Frank E. Wilimek** (81) of Tempe, Arizona passed away January 12, 2015. He was born and raised in Iowa. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration at the University of Colorado. He served his country in the Army Security Agency with the 6th Infantry Division in Korea. **Frank** was employed with the Soil Conservation Service for 30 years working in Wyoming, West Virginia, and Arizona. He worked as a Contract Specialist in West Virginia and retired as Assistant State Administrator in Arizona. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, **Ruth** of Tempe AZ; a son **David** of Tempe, AZ; a son **Steven** of Chandler, AZ; and one sister. Memorials may be sent to the American Cancer Society – 4550 East Bell Road, Suite 126, Phoenix, Arizona 85032.

**Zutz** **Vincent Earl Zutz** (90) of Winner, South Dakota, passed away on February 17, 2015. He was born in Burke, SD and served in 10<sup>th</sup> Armored Division, US Army, in Europe during WW II, discharged in July 1945. Earl attended Iowa State College and South Dakota State College under the GI Bill. He served as Work Unit Conservationist, later as District Conservationist, USDA Soil Conservation Service, Burke, SD, until 1965 when he transferred to Gettysburg, SD, as District Conservationist. In 1976 he transferred to District Conservationist position at Winner, SD, where he retired in 1981. He obtained his real estate salesman's license and remained active for many years. Earl was active in several veterans and community organizations. He was especially proud of the many Great Plains Conservation Program participants assisted. Survivors include two sons, Jerry and Darin, a daughter, Sandra, and their spouses and children.



*Reflection Pond, Denali National Park, Alaska.*



*Male Mallard on Virginia Lake, Nevada*



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