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# NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter for Retired SCS and NRCS Employees

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

## NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

*John Stierna*

**Appropriations**—It is spring on the Potomac, and the cherry blossoms were beautiful again this year. Springtime also brings Congressional appropriations bills to the forefront—bills that fund the Federal government for the coming fiscal year. The committees are now deliberating on Fiscal Year 2015 appropriation bills. The President's Budget for FY 2015 proposes \$815 million for NRCS conservation operations, includes no funding for watershed and flood prevention operations, and proposes a cap on EQIP funding at \$1,350 million. We will have to wait and see what the appropriators will do.

One specific provision in the 2014 Farm Bill directs that funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Conservation Stewardship Program, and the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program "shall remain available until expended," making the annual funding for FY 2014 through FY 2018 able to be carried over to other years.

**Farm Bill Implementation**—NRCS is now working on the rules for implementing the various farm bill programs enacted into law on February 7<sup>th</sup>. Using temporary authority included in the law, NRCS is trying to implement the new or revised programs this year using the existing rules, with modest revisions where necessary to conform to the law. In other cases as rules are being developed, applications may still be received, but funding may not be obligated until the rule is published.

Implementation has included some listening sessions to enable NRCS to hear the thoughts and concerns of the many organizations that represent parts of the conservation constituency. A recent listening session here in Washington, DC concerns the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) that was created in the 2014 Farm Bill by consolidating four earlier conservation programs. RCPP promotes coordination between NRCS and partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. NRCS provides assistance to producers through partnership agreements and through program contracts or easement agreements. Through RCPP and the work with partners, NRCS is better able to focus conservation efforts on important resource concerns.

**RCPP Funding**—An announcement of program funding (APF) for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is expected in May. The announcement will also include the Secretary's selection of up to eight critical conservation areas for which project proposals will be solicited. For the RCPP, 25 percent of program funding will be awarded based on decisions at the state level, 40 percent will be awarded based on national selection of acceptable projects, and 35 percent will go to designated critical conservation areas. All awards will be made using a competitive process. The farm bill provides for \$100 million for RCPP directly plus 7 percent of the funding for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, the Environmental Quality Incentive Program, the Conservation Stewardship Program, and the Healthy Forest Reserve Program. Together, funding could amount to close to \$300 million for awards. [Technically, CSP resources are awarded as acres rather than dollars.]

**Waters of the United States**—On April 21<sup>st</sup>, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers jointly published a proposed rule that provides an updated definition of "waters of the United States." The proposed rule is, in part, in response to several Supreme Court decisions that created a great deal of uncertainty on what waters fall under the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act. The ruling maintains important exemptions for agriculture and recognizes the clean water benefits of voluntary conservation practices. If finalized, the rule should provide a greater degree of clarity for farmers and ranchers. However, some groups are opposing the rule, thus assuring that this issue will remain somewhat controversial.

**ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES**

**Happy Hour on the Farm**—For many years beer makers have donated or sold at low cost the barley and other grains left over at the end of the brewing process to local farmers to be used as feed for livestock. These “spent grains” have had all of the sugars removed during the brewing process, but are a significant source of protein for livestock and would otherwise just be disposed of as a waste product. A proposed rule by Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under the Food Safety Modernization Act could treat brewers like livestock feed manufacturers—in an effort to prevent food-borne illness in humans and animals. Under the proposed rule, brewers would need to do series of tests and studies on the grains and develop a recall plan for the spent grains. This issue has been the subject of hearings and other discussions between Representatives in Congress and the FDA. The FDA commissioner has indicated that it is not their intent to require brewers to have separate animal feed safety plans and controls to cover their by-products. It is expected that the issue will be satisfactorily clarified sometime this summer after FDA has reviewed all the public comments on the proposed rule.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

We hope you have survived the winter storms and are looking forward to meeting up with your former colleagues at your various state functions. I will be joining several of them in Kentucky en route home from Arizona for some golf and conversation at the annual gathering of many of our friends from the southeast.

We hope you will include in your summer travel and vacation plans to join us in the Chicago area for the ARCSE annual luncheon on Monday, July 28, 2014. ARCSE holds this annual luncheon in conjunction with the Soil and Water Conservation Society. They are meeting at the Hilton Lombard Hotel, 70 Yorktown Ctr., Lombard, IL 60148. Many of our members belong to both groups. Join in and stay informed. Check the SWCS website for details on hotel accommodations.

We continue to be in need of a web master. I know that many of you have the skills and talents to do an outstanding job. Give it a try if you have an interest. It allows you to maintain your skills, use your artistic talents, and keep involved with your former colleagues.

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

Nominations and appropriate documentation (no more than two pages) of the qualifications for the nominee for this award are to be made by the ARCSE state representative and sent to their 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, or 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 the 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, schools, youth organizations, SWCDs, NRCS Earth Teams, environmental groups, service organizations, or other units of government.

**Annual Luncheon:** Please remember that the ARCSE Annual Luncheon will be held on Monday July 28, 2014 in Lombard, Illinois. Arrangements are still being finalized. We will send to those members with email addresses the details and also post the information at [www.arcse.org](http://www.arcse.org)



If you have web editing and publishing skills and would like to help support a very worthwhile organization, please contact any of the following people who can provide more information. If you think that you, or another member, or a soon-to-be-retiree might be interested, please take a look at the web site, [www.arcse.org](http://www.arcse.org), to get a feel for its content and depth. If you have questions or recommendations, please contact either: **Warren Lee**, [wandblee@comcast.net](mailto:wandblee@comcast.net); **Ron Marlow**, [arcse@cox.net](mailto:arcse@cox.net); or **Jerry Bernard**, [jbernard.nrcsret@gmail.com](mailto:jbernard.nrcsret@gmail.com).

*A new Web Master is still needed  
for the ARCSE web site.*

## A BIT OF HISTORY

**Douglas Helms, Historian**

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

### SOIL MANAGEMENT SUPPORT SERVICES (SMSS) PROJECT 1979-1991

From October 1979 until September 1991, Soil Conservation Service staff managed the Soil Management Support Services. During much of this time **Dr. Hariharan Eswaran**, who died in Arlington on April 14, 2104, led the project. **Paul Reich**, hired by Hari, wrote an obituary for the Washington Post. The link to the obituary is

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/washingtonpost/obituary.aspx?pid=170741754>

The Agency for International Development in the Department of State funded Soil Management Support Services (SMSS). SMSS sought to assist less-developed countries to improve soil usage primarily through soil survey, soil conservation, and soil fertility and management. Among other things, Eswaran and staff promoted the understanding and use of Soil Taxonomy as a means of transferring agrotechnology from one location to another. Eswaran organized and taught 29 forums and workshops worldwide, each including a week of classroom instruction and a week of field instruction. By the end of the project, 92 countries were using Soil Taxonomy as their national system, whereas few had used it before. SMSS also collected soil samples, which were analyzed in the soil survey laboratory in Lincoln, NE, to develop national soil maps. Later, SMSS added another objective and converted the Food and Agriculture Organization world soil map to Soil Taxonomy.



*Dr. Hariharan Eswaran (third from right) organized and taught forums worldwide on Soil Taxonomy.*

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

*by Ron Marlow, Secretary Treasurer*

Please welcome the following new members to the ARCSE:

Davis, Marilyn	AZ
Andreucetti, Mary	CA
Walker, Beverly H.	GA
Weathersone, Mark	ID
Rock, Randal	KY
Butler, Valorie	MD
Smith, Horace	NC
Gerding, Jim	NE
Benedict, Paul	NH/QVA
Deaderick, Douglas	SC
Melven, William J	SC
Newton, Darwin	TN
Edmonds, Larry	WA
Johnson, Gary	WA

### 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



## ARCSE REPRESENTATIVES

**Ron Marlow**

I want to welcome a new state representative on board. Upon **Rachel Hollins'** retirement as the Representative for Virginia, I am pleased to report that **Ken Carter**, retired Assistant State Conservationist for Virginia, has agreed to replace **Rachel**. The Board extends its thanks to Rachel for her service to the ARCSE and the retirees of Virginia.

Complimentary membership: When you have retiree social functions or any other time that you see new retirees from NRCS, be sure to remind them that they are eligible for a one-year free membership if they retired on or after January 1, 2003. All that is required is that they submit a membership application. Previous members of ARCSE are not eligible for the complimentary membership.

## 2014 ARCSE Directory

The ARCSE Leadership recognizes the importance of protecting personal information. In the past, the ARCSE Directory has been distributed to members only as a printed hard copy in order to prevent unwanted spamming or other unauthorized use of names and addresses of members. This ARCSE Directory (May 1, 2014), however, is being distributed as follows, in order to save on printing and mailing costs, as well as to protect the privacy of our members:

- A **printed hard copy** will be mailed only to those members who receive the newsletter as a hard copy.
- A **digitally protected computer file** (secure PDF) will be emailed to members who receive the newsletter as an email attachment. The 2014 ARCSE Directory is attached to the email message that transmits the May/June edition of the ARCSE Newsletter.

Hints on how the digital version of the 2014 Directory can be used are included in the 2014 Directory.

## ARIZONA

**Karl Klingelhofer, ARCSE Representative**

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

*Editor's note: Karl is looking for someone to replace him as the AZ ARCSE Representative.*

**Chris Williams**, Chandler, Arizona—**Karen and I** escaped the warm, southern Arizona winter twice. Once to Olympia, WA at Christmas to celebrate with our youngest son and his family. We didn't get any snow but plenty of rain. Sure wish we could have brought some back to AZ with us. In January, we spent a week in Flagstaff where Karen taught 6 students at the Indian Bible College how to use the sketchboard for teaching Bible lessons, especially to children. As usual we went out to the Snowbowl to see the snow which was still able to be made, although somewhat limited. In March we spent a week at Utery Mountain Park just relaxing and hiking around the park. It was a good break from our routine of teaching four or five lessons each week to children at our church and other venues. This summer we will again be traveling to Olympia to help with the Vacation Bible School at the church our son attends. Our trip will be spiced up because our two youngest grandchildren will fly down here in mid-June and then travel back with us. We plan to stop at National Parks in AZ, UT and WY before arriving in Olympia. After the VBS we fly to PA to teach at three summer camps scattered around the state. Karen has left her car with a friend so we have transportation available. This sure helps keep the costs down.  
[cpaulwilly@gmail.com](mailto:cpaulwilly@gmail.com)

**Glen Johnson**—I made the trip back to the farm in ND with relative ease. A friend flew down to Phoenix and helped drive back. It's a beautiful drive through northern AZ, NM, CO (saw the first John Deere working in a field near Denver), WY, SD but the best is the "Welcome to ND" sign, which stands right next to an oil well. From the southwest border to Stanley the traffic was heavy with oil field traffic even on a Saturday afternoon. A bit cool here and maybe 1/2 inch of new snow on the ground this morning, makes me feel like I'm home again in ND. [GIJoh4@aol.com](mailto:GIJoh4@aol.com).

**Gordon and Carol Odell**, Tucson, AZ report that they have enjoyed the mild Arizona winter in Saddlebrooke, especially when compared to most of the country. We square dance and Gordon plays Pickleball, Carol reads, is in two book Clubs and is active in PEO. In February we went on our 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cruise in the western Caribbean. It was our 13<sup>th</sup> cruise. Yes, we like to cruise. One of our ports was Costa Rica where we had been the year before on a guided birding trip and saw over 400 birds. This summer we will be in our motorhome near Durango, CO at Vallecito Res. where we fish, enjoy the wildlife, read, relax, and enjoy the 7600-ft. elevation cool climate. [gocozy@q.com](mailto:gocozy@q.com).



**Gordon and Carol Odell, 2/15/2014**

**Galen Bridge**, Tucson, AZ, says he is about to leave Tucson for the Pacific Northwest and places beyond for the summer. I usually go to central Oregon but sold that home in December. So this year it will be central Washington. I spent several years in Spokane prior to moving to Washington, D.C. This will be a fun summer exploring the North Cascade Mountains. This time I may need a horse to help carry the stuff along. Plans also include a trip to the Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks with my grandson, a few weeks in Iceland and Scandinavia and a return to Coastal Maine in late September. Hopefully all will go well and I shall return to Arizona before winter sets in in the north. [potatopicker35@aol.com](mailto:potatopicker35@aol.com)

**Ken and Connie Cookson**, Tucson, AZ, were in Hawaii for 16 days in March. They were on Maui for a week, the Honolulu area for 2 days and on Kauai for a week. While on Maui they decided to take the drive to Hana. It was a rainy morning, and part way there they decided to take a side trip. It began raining harder and they decided to get back to the Hana road after a few miles. The water was coming down the roads with a few stones tumbling along. There are no road ditches, so water coming off fields just goes onto the pavement and follows it. During this drive on a narrow, curvy road they had a flat tire from one of the stones in the water. Quite an experience to have that happen with a rental car, out in the boondocks with poor cellphone connections.

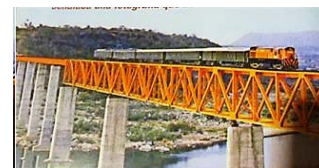
Aside from this, they had a good time doing whale watching, taking a trip on the Atlantis Submarine out of Lahaina, doing a Pineapple Planation Tour, and enjoying the beauty of the island.

Kauai was as beautiful as ever. The pace of life there is so much different than the hubbub of Honolulu and its millions of drivers. They were at a resort on the beach near Kapaa and had easy access to other parts of the island, both north and south. A highlight was the self-guided tour of the McBride Botanical Garden near the Poipou Bay area. [ckcookson@aol.com](mailto:ckcookson@aol.com)

**Albert "Bob" Addison**, Portal, AZ—Officially it is Albert, but I've gone by "Bob" for 96 years now. My wife's name is **Jeanne**. I didn't reply to your request as not much is happening in our lives. Jeanne has been in a nursing home for some years now and I'm pretty much confined to travel under 150 miles or so. Anyway it has been a good journey and with a lot of amenities along the way, and, hopefully a few more! All good wishes. [jbaddison@vtc.net](mailto:jbaddison@vtc.net)

**Karl Klingelhofer**, Tucson, AZ—I am still traveling as well as doing some volunteer work, tennis 3 times per week and flying a light sport airplane once or twice per month. Maybe I should retire again at 88.

Recently returned from a 7-day tour in Mexico that went south to San Carlos, then to Alamos, then train along Copper Canyon, and then Casas Grandes UNESCO World Heritage Site; ancient ruins of the Pasquime. The **Cookson's** took this same tour a year ago and **Gayland Bridge** in January. It was amazing to see and experience the broad range of cultures on this trip; from sea port at San Carlos to intense agricultural crops including vineyards and orchards and then desert; canyons, etc. The margaritas were especially good. On May 20 I leave for the **Klingelhofer** name reunion in Germany and then down to Austria. The Reunion happens every 3 years and will take place in the town where my grandfather went to college and 15 miles from where my father grew up. I have attended about 4 before. [krklingel@aol.com](mailto:krklingel@aol.com)



**Copper Canyon Train, 4-hour ride--dramatic!**



**Karl Klingelhofer at Copper Canyon. "It is huge but not as picturesque as the Grand Canyon."**

## CALIFORNIA

**Bill Ward, ARCSE Representative**

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

Hello from California to all our fellow SCS and NRCS retirees across the nation. We have news of a California retiree who recently passed away, **Bob Miller**, former AC at Riverside who passed away on February 24, 2014 at the age of 89. A service was held for him Sunday, March 23, 2014 at the Grace United Methodist Church in Riverside. Following is a link to his obituary published in the Press Enterprise.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/pe/obituary.aspx?n=donald-franklin-miller&pid=170185650>.

Our California retirees continue to enjoy a first Wednesday of the month lunch and a third Wednesday of the month breakfast for folks to get together and catch up with the latest on what is going on in our group.

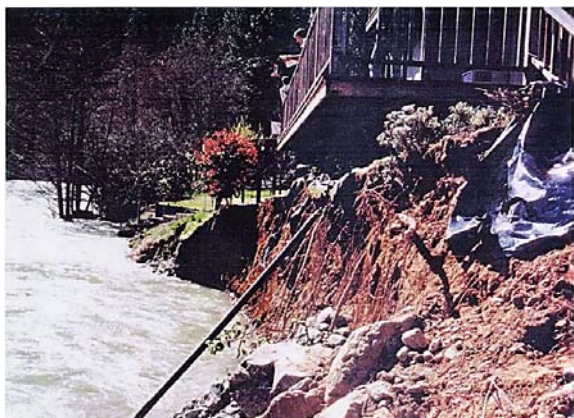
Visit to see **Mario Milani**. On Tuesday, March 18, **Ted Gerbaz**, **Walt Sykes**, **Danny Maxim** and I made a trip to Stockton to visit and have lunch with Mario Milani, Retired California State Construction Engineer, his wife **Gin**, and their son **Paul**. Mario has been dealing with a bad case of Shingles for a number of years now and is unable to travel up to Davis to our



monthly lunches. He misses seeing our retiree group every month but stays involved with phone calls to retirees as we determine who will be going and how many seats the restaurant will need to set up for our group. It was great for the 4 of us to be able to see Mario and his family and visit, enjoy a nice lunch, and recall many fond career memories. For those of you who may have worked with Mario via the tech centers or National Office, Mario always enjoys a phone call from old friends and can be reached at (209) 477-5336.

With our group primarily from the Engineering and Construction side, we talked a lot about engineering projects, and in particular EWP work, that many of us were involved in. We enjoyed looking at some old photos of this work, and here are a couple of those pictures of projects we reminisced about.

***After Trinity River flood, bank erosion threatens home in 1995, then 10 years later in 2005, after home-site was stabilized and bank re-vegetated.***

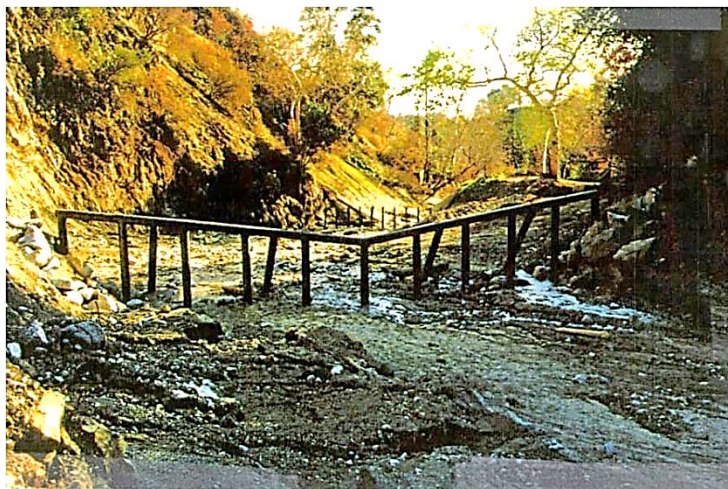


***Before: Trinity River erosion 1995***



***After treatment: Trinity River stabilized 2005***

***Southern California, debris rack before and after flood in a burned watershed***



***Before: Trash rack to catch boulders from burn area.***



***After: Trash rack full of boulders after storm event***

**Jim Chapman**, Design Staff Leader, retired March 31, 2014 after 37 years of service. He took an Engineering position with the Wood Rogers Engineering Firm in Sacramento right away. Jim will be sorely missed by the agency. It was my pleasure and privilege to have worked with Jim throughout much of our careers, including 22 years as his direct supervisor in Design. Here are a couple pictures from his last week in the office.

Thank you from **Danny Maxim**. Danny called me recently and asked me to send out a big thank you to all the many folks who called or sent cards with their condolences on **Joyce's** passing. Not only were there many contacts from California folks, but also many from other states he worked in, including New York and Arkansas. I have to tell you that he was somewhat overwhelmed but very grateful for the response he got from so many of the people he worked with in many parts of the Country. As he so often has described our agency, we are in many ways a family that enjoyed our times working together and takes care of and supports each other during difficult times like these.

Best Wishes from the California SCS/NRCS Retirees!





*Jim Chapman, retired Design Staff Leader, in his office 3/26/2014.*



*Jim Chapman with his Design staff, left to right: Dan Toan, Jim, Teresa and Carlos Velasquez, 3/26/2014.*

## GEORGIA

**Edward Ealy, ARCSE Representative**

**Email: [648epe@bellsouth.net](mailto:648epe@bellsouth.net)**

On April 24, 2014, twenty former SCS/NRCS employees and spouses met at Ryan's Steakhouse in Athens, GA, for the group's quarterly luncheon. Attending were **Andy Page, Pat Robison, Linda Dipetro, Gene and Cecil Martin, Judy and Jim Helm, Kitty Stevens, Marge Lucas, Evelyn and Donald Stewart, Bob and Frances Wilkes, Jimmy Dean, Edward Ealy, Carolyn Adams, Beverly Walker, Lorraine and Jack Hahn, and Talbert Gerald**

**Bob Wilkes** welcomed the group to the luncheon. Bob acknowledged recent NRCS retirees, **Andy Page and Beverly Walker**, as first time attendees and welcomed back **Lorraine and Jack Hahn** who were visiting from California. Bob informed the group that **George Norris** was recuperating from rotator cuff surgery from earlier this month. George's surgery went well, but he was still a little sore.

Bob reported that **Bill Player** recently suffered a stroke. Bill served as Soil Scientist, District Conservationist and Area Conservationist in Georgia. **Kitty Stevens** reported that **Edna Firor**, a regular attendee to luncheon, was also ill.

**Edward Ealy** made another pitch to increase membership to the National ARCSE. He provided a list of the active ARCSE members in Georgia. Applications for membership to the ARCSE were passed out.

## ILLINOIS

**Dale Benz, ARCSE Representative**

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

Retirees gathered in Champaign for lunch and visiting on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Attending were **Earl Voss, Elsie Campbell, Judy and Salvador Velazquez, Wiley Scott, Jim Evans, Lee and Nancy Bridgman, Dennis and Susan Beyer, Jim and Bonnie McQuilkin, Dave Dalzell, Dick Dickerson, Les Bushue, Nancy Phalen, and Dale and Nancy Benz.**

**Lee and Nancy Bridgman** stayed in the cold and snowy Illinois this past winter rather than enjoying the warm and sun of the south. To help keep the weather in perspective, they visited their son and family in North Pole, AK in December. The minus, or as the local TV weather people call it, negative, 44 degrees make Illinois seem like Arizona. Lee got so serious to conquer the Illinois winters that he bought a snow blower last winter. Lee's house is on the end of a long lane in the country, and I can see Lee running for road commissioner this year just so he can clean the rural roads of snow! Lee reported that they had a successful forestry field day on his farm in Pike County last fall, and he decided to do a timber harvest. The trees are sold and cut, and now there are 417 logs waiting in the corn field to be hauled away by the timber buyer. With the profits from this sale Lee will be able to buy a bigger snow blower this winter!

**Judy Velazquez** reported that it had been a slow winter for them. She did not reveal her intentions for the senior spelling bee, but we think she should go for it again. The National Championship is waiting for you, Judy! **Nancy Phalen** said she has a new grandson who is two months old. This will be a new chapter in her and **Bill's** life as they learn all the

things grandparents can get away with. Spoil away, Nancy. To be able to keep up with her grandson in a couple of years she is doing aerobic exercises. She also said Bill has an abdominal aneurysm, but it doesn't require surgery at this time.

**Earl and Barb Voss** took a one-week cruise to St. Thomas Island this winter. Earl has been on so many cruise ships that they could let him captain them. Can you imagine, a soil scientist on a cruise ship, in the middle of the ocean, and not an ounce of soil in sight! Barb got a pacemaker implanted last November and is doing fine.

**Les Bushe** told us about the passing of his son last fall. He said he is doing fewer soil investigations than he used to do. **Elsie Campbell** took a trip to Wisconsin with her sister last winter. Elsie is still singing in her church choir, enjoys playing bingo, and learning house maintenance 101. **Dick Dickerson's son** moved to Denver from London, so the trip to see him is much shorter and he can travel by car. **Dick and Jan** spent a month in Florida last January. Good January to be there, Dick--you didn't miss a thing here in Illinois except very cold weather and lots of snow!

**Jim McQuilkin** told about helping a friend clean up after the Washington tornado in November. He witnessed the kind of strange stories you hear after tornadoes. They found a car in a harvested corn field. The car was filled with corn stalks blown in by the tornado.

We are sad to report the passing of **Buck Morris**. Buck retired as District Conservationist in Benton. We extend our sympathy to his wife, **Ernie**, and their daughters **Debra** and **Rhoda** and their families. We also extend our sympathy to **Kathleen Darden** on the death of her husband, **Ron**. Ron worked with SCS in Illinois as the Public Information Specialist and retired as Area Conservationist in Cape Girardeau, MO. Their obituaries can be found in the memorial section of this newsletter.

Mark your calendars for our next retiree gathering in Champaign on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## KANSAS

**Deanne Lull, ARCSE Representative**

Email: [rlull2@cox.net](mailto:rlull2@cox.net)

Spring has sprung in the Salina area with many beautiful flowering trees. However, someone forgot to tell Mother Nature that April showers bring May flowers. Our region hasn't received a good rain for over a month; and with a late hard freeze and no moisture, the wheat crop is very much in jeopardy. After driving in heavy rain returning home from our Easter weekend in Oklahoma, we were very disappointed to see that once again the rains had missed Salina.

Timing is everything. While working in our yard my husband and I noticed that it was past lunch time. So we set out for some fast food, arriving at Burger King about the same time as **Roger Haberman** who decided he had time for a quick sandwich before going to an eye appointment. **Roger** lives in Larned, KS, and we had a nice lunch-time visit catching up on his news from southwest Kansas.

We have just a couple of retirements to report. **Barbara J. Coonrod**, Soil Conservation Technician, retired from the Hays Field Office on March 31, 2014. She started her federal career in 1984 in Colorado working in Akron; Burlington, CO; and Goodland, KS, before moving to the Hays Field Office as a technician in 1992. **Michael A. Debes** retired on April 3, 2014, from the Hutchinson Area Office. He was serving as a Resource Conservationist on the Technical Staff headquartered in Dodge City, KS.

Our sympathies are extended to the **Stinnett, Meyer, Walstorm**, and **Serrein** families.

**Dorothy M. Stinnett**, spouse of **Harold**, passed away on March 4, 2014. **Harold** preceded her in death in 2000. **Lawrence E. Meyer** passed away on February 23, 2014, in Hiawatha, KS, and **Jack W. Walstrom** passed away on February 24, 2014, in Lawrence, KS. Both spouses preceded them in death. **Celeta M. Serrien**, spouse of **Donald** who survives, passed away on April 12, 2014, in Minneapolis, KS.

Mark your calendars. The Kansas SCS/NRCS Retirees Association's annual meeting is coming up on June 27, 2014, at the Quality Inn in Salina, Kansas.

## KENTUCKY

**Billye M. Haslett, ARCSE Representative**

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

**George Chalfant (USFS), Don Henry** (former soil scientist), **Orville Whitaker**, and **Bill Craddock**.

**Billye Haslett**, retired SAO. Carl and I have been visiting historic and tourist sites within close driving distance. We toured the **Jack Jouett** historical site near Versailles, KY. Jack Jouett was the "**Paul Revere**" of the South. He traveled by horse overnight from Louisa, VA to Charlottesville, VA to warn then-governor **Thomas Jefferson** that the British were coming. The brick and stone home Jouett built in Woodford County is amazing for the time, as most everyone lived in log cabins. The tour is free, and the docents that work there are outstanding. You'll learn a lot about the Revolutionary War period and



the Jouett family. We traveled on down the road a few miles to Lawrenceburg, KY in Anderson County to tour the Wild Turkey Distillery. Wild Turkey has a new visitor center-- well worth the trip. I had visited more than 10 years ago and found this tour to be 100% better.

**Theoda Franklin** reports that he is on three boards: He's a Director on the Eagle RC&D Council and helping the council coordinate activities, just like he did before retiring. He's a Board member on the Carroll County Conservation District and also serves on the Carroll County Agricultural Development Council, which is part of the Extension Program.

*Photo taken by Carl Haslett, March 23, 2014 of Theoda Franklin, retired RC&D Coordinator pictured with his new Black and Tan Coon Dog, Midnight. Midnight is a rescue dog.*



**Fred Alcott**, retired DC reported: June and I traveled to Jamaica last Nov., 2013, with seven others from our church. We helped construct a kitchen and bath for a family. In Feb. of 2014 we traveled to Schladming, Austria, for a bible study and skiing. The sun shined all 5 days for skiing. (June retired from skiing in 2012. I'm still at it. Do not know how long?)

Retired Soil Scientist Meeting, March 27, 2014: **Bill Craddock**, retired State Soil Scientist reported that a group of retired soil scientists met March 27 in Danville, KY to reminisce and talk about how things had changed since they had retired. Fred Arms organized the meeting. Those attending: **Fred Arms, Jack Newton, Glenn Kelley, Jim Fehr, Harry Evans,**

**Joel Legris**, retired DC, reported that he and a group of old NRCS employees watched the UK, UCON game on Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. Wish that outcome had been different!

**Connie McKinney**, retired Contracting Officer is still waiting on a departure date to China to assist her daughter in picking up the son she is adopting. Connie expects she will be departing April 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Sue Stone**, retired Area Resource Conservationist wrote: I retired January 3, 2014 and have basically retreated to the farm. I have stayed busy working with my husband feeding the livestock and preparing for spring. I have two girls in college who play volleyball, so I have enjoyed getting to watch them play spring ball and can spend more time with my granddaughter.

**William (Brad) Thomas**, retired DC and Senior Conservationist wrote: 2014 has been a busy year so far for us. We celebrated our 64<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with a family dinner. I celebrated my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with a surprise family get-together given by our son and his family. I had carpal tunnel surgery on both hands. That slowed me down a little. Then came March madness. Our son **Brad III**, and his wife **Debbie** moved back to Bowling Green and opened a business here, so we enjoy having them near. We are both in great health for our age and still attend church, N.A.R.F., S.C.S. and 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne meetings. Don't do a lot of traveling except short trips and with the Senior Group at church. Enjoy the newsletter and looking forward to the next one.

**In Memory:** **Lola Heilman**, March 16, 2004, wife of **Rodney Heilman** retired RC.

## MAINE

**John J. Simon, ARCSE Representative**

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The retirees of AACSE in Maine have a 9 am breakfast on the second Tuesday of the every month at Dysarts in Hermon. Occasionally noon luncheons are held in the summer as interest demands.

**March 2014 meeting:** Those attending our March breakfast on the 11<sup>th</sup> included: **Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon, Charlie Boothby, and John Simon.**

Charlie is again teaching a gardening class this year. He is up to 14 attendees this year. His reputation is spreading! Charlie said he was in contact with **Bill Moulton**, and Bill's broken leg is healing well. I heard from Bill last week and he said he and **Pat** are still planning a boat trip down the Rhine later this month.

The snow is all gone—finally—in Bangor at least. The ice out of the rivers was thankfully much less than expected. Except for the upper 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of Maine, the rivers are fairly clean of ice now.

Talked to **Larry Long** recently. He has been diagnosed with Parkinson's but has found a doctor in Portland, ME who has him on medications that are making a real good impact. Larry and **Lois** are in an apartment in the Bangor area until the

summer when he indicates he will try to go out to his camp on Pushaw Lake. His phone is 207-941-8782. He would welcome any and all calls. He cannot drive now and his sight is suffering. Hopefully now that the snow is gone, he may be able to take short walks. If you know Larry, give him a call.

April 2014 meeting: On April 8<sup>th</sup> we had in attendance **Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon, Charlie Boothby, Ray Voyer, and John Simon**. We celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday of **Bruce Champeon** (actually Bruce's birthday was on the 10<sup>th</sup> but what is a couple of days). See the photo of Bruce with his birthday muffin and candle.



*Bruce Champeon celebrates his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.*

## MASSACHUSETTS

**Jim Wesolowski, ARCSE Representative**

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Well, it's been another quiet two months here on the fringe of the frozen tundra. The winter is now over; daffodils are in full-bloom; boy goldfinches have turned golden; boy cardinals are feeding seeds to girl cardinals (who knows what else they have planned); the last two-inch snowfall was two weeks ago; my lawn guy was here last week spreading poisons and nutrients, so it's official that Spring has finally sprung.

The only retiree news I can remember is the retirement of **David Clausnitzer**, Ecological Site Inventory Specialist in the Major Land Resources Area soils office in Amherst. **David** received his B.A. in music from Rutgers in 1975. He lived in the New York City area where he taught trumpet and piano. He played with The Four Tops, Little Anthony and the Imperials, and the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra. **David** also played trumpet between innings at Yankee Stadium, dressed in a baseball uniform, and played marches at an amusement park, dressed as a giant chicken. When in his forties, David made a big career switch, earning his PhD in ecology and coming on-board with NRCS. Immediately before coming to Amherst, **David** worked as Vegetative Ecologist in the Pacific Islands. He's now moved to a condo in downtown Portland, OR.

Not retiree news but you might be interested in the re-alignment of NRCS in Mass. The state has gone from seven to three District Conservationists; **Vince Snyder** is the D.C. heading up Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden counties. **Dan Lenthall** is D.C. for Worcester, Middlesex, Essex and Suffolk counties, **Mia Halter**, who recently transferred from the western New York area, is D.C. for Plymouth, Norfolk, Bristol, Barnstable, Dukes, and Nantucket. The other soil conservationists have organized into resource teams that can work throughout the state to meet planning needs.

## MINNESOTA

**Marlene Mechelke, ARCSE Representative**

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A group of retirees met for lunch on Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, at Pippins in Roseville: **Dave and Kay Breitbach, John Handler, Vic Ruhland, Susan Ploetz, Margy and Micki Gangl, Al Giencke, Ordean and Dorothy Finkelson, Sylvia and Ron Olson and Marlene Mechelke**. One of our regulars, **Bud Finney**, has not been with us for quite some time. He is recovering from a major surgery called "Reverse Shoulder Replacement," which he says is apparently caused by too many probes into MN's peatlands.

**Mary Jane Reetz**, retired DC from Brainerd, MN reports: I have stayed pretty busy since I retired; in fact, like many others, I wonder how I found time to work. I stayed active in the Nokasippi Watershed. After several years of testing, we found no major pollution problems that were fixable, but decided to keep it going in case of invasives like Zebra Mussels. I am on the Lake Association board and on the LID (Lake taxing district) where we mostly treat invasive weeds and have an educational program. I am a Master Naturalist and do a lot of programs with the Northland Arboretum here in Baxter. I am still a member of SWSCA. I am president of the NARFE chapter 0738 which takes in 5 neighboring counties. I make "walker bags" for the nursing homes here. I also repair clothing for the residents. I am pretty active in my church (Park United Methodist) and



have been president of the women's circles for a couple of years now. I am also on the District board (NE corner of the state). I run the book sale and the craft sale at church.

For my own enjoyment I paint (watercolor), quilt as much as I can and do all other sorts of needlework. I vowed to play the accordion and have taken 3 years of lessons. It is a fascinating instrument for me. If I can squeeze it in, I also play sax in a band out of Motley, MN. I help the neighbor milk cows when he is really busy.

Neither of my kids are married: **Victor** is a physical therapist, and **Raquel** is working for Walt Disney in Florida. My husband, **Tony**, fishes and hunts and helps out the neighbors and is in the VFW and Legion Color Guards. We have a border collie, Radar, who thinks he has to go for about 4 walks every day—and a cat who doesn't! I am so happy in retirement: no stress, good health, doing things I have wanted to do more of my whole life! Hope this finds you all happy and healthy also!

**Mike Appel**, retired AC from Marshall, MN is working as co-chair of the Lions Multiple Convention at Jackpot Junction the end of April. Wife, **Cheri**, and **Mike** are Co-chairs, which involves Lions from Minnesota, Manitoba and NW Ontario. At last count, we had over 400 registered. We are a little bit overwhelmed.

From **Vic Ruhland**: The tributes in the last Newsletter extended to **Justin Jeffrey** on his recent passing, including some background information by John Peterson, brought back memories to me of my time on the MN Watershed Planning Staff. I heard stories of youngsters working with **John Junck** conducting engineering surveys in pilot watershed projects. The "younglings" (**Jeffrey and Peterson**) were noted for playing pranks every now and then.

One incident I remember hearing was that the survey crew had stopped for lunch in a small town in Western Minnesota when the young ones were about to play another prank. After finishing their sandwiches and while the crew chief was still resting, the two slipped away and started running a survey down the town's main street and getting the attention of the local citizens. Before long, Junck had to come and use his best PR skills to explain to the citizenry that there was no pending project and that the youngsters were just having a little fun.

That's how I remember the story—Justin can't make any possible corrections, nor can **John Junck**. But maybe **John Peterson** may want to revise my version, or he may want to share other incidents he and Justin performed, or he may want to deny them altogether.

An update from **Pete Cooper** who retired in December: **Rina** and I moved out here to Kanab, UT in SW Utah at the beginning of March. Kanab is a small town of about 4,000 people that is about 3.5 hours NE of Las Vegas. I've been coming to hike and camp out here since the late 80's and have always loved the area around here (close to Bryce, Zion, N. Rim Grand Canyon, and Paria/Vermillion Cliffs Wilderness). Rina has a job where she can work from home, so this opportunity worked out perfectly.

We both started volunteering for the BLM as "site stewards." Rina and I have been assigned 3 archeological sites in the Grand Staircase National Monument to monitor occasionally for any vandalism, erosion, etc. There's only one archeologist for the 1.5 million-acre monument, so the volunteers pick up the slack. Most of the sites are Fremont/Anasazi cliff dwellings or granaries. Looting and/or any other type disturbance of these sites is getting more and more common. We get T-shirts and hats (I wanted a badge) for this duty.

We will be here until September and then need to decide whether to return to MN or set down some roots in MI, where much of the family is.

## MISSOURI

**Dave Rastorfer, ARCSE Representative**

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**Phyllis and Jess Eppe**, near Muskogee, OK, continue to have more Missouri great-grandkids. **James Hughes** (Columbia) had a boy in March, **Jessie Bruto** (K.C.), a boy in April and **Jenna Smith** (K.C.) will also have a boy in a few weeks. We spent Easter week-end in K.C., MO visiting with our Missouri families and concluded that great-grandkids are very special little people! Cattle prices continue to be decent, and we had a good spring calf crop. Our fall calves went to market in March and made us smile when we got the check. It did cover the feed bill! Remember, beef is high, but so are all of the farmers/ranchers costs. Beef continues to be your best protein source when consumed in a responsible manner.

From **Lane Thurman**: We had the Springfield NRCS-SCS retirees meeting today. I don't know what else was going on, but it had most of our people because they were not at our meeting. Only 5 retirees were at the meeting, but we still had some good conversations going, solved a lot of problems but still had a lot of questions. I don't know what to do to get more of our retirees to attend. Just another challenge, I guess. Our next meeting will be on July 17-- hope more people show up.

**Ted Utz** recently returned from a month long snow skiing trip to Colorado. During the month he skied on 26 of the 30 days, logging lots of miles at Copper Mountain, Keystone, Breckenridge, and A-Basin resorts. He rented a cozy little cabin and had visits from his wife, kids, and grandkids while they were on spring break from various schools and colleges. He set a new personal speed record of 65.8 miles per hour while skiing a black diamond trail at Copper Mountain. He fell only one

time during the entire trip. He hit the snow rather than an 18-inch diameter pine tree that looked pretty intimidating. To top off the trip, he was accepted as a volunteer ski race official for the World Cup Ski Championship to be held in Vail, CO next February.

After having the best ice fishing in 30 years, **Norm and Linda Klopfenstein** thawed out the last week in February in Puerto Morelas, Mexico, just south of Cancun: warm weather, good food, great people and cold beer. During the last week in March and early April they visited daughter, **Laura**, and family, who live in Austin, TX. **Norm** left for a three-day exotic species hunt on a ranch in west Texas. He harvested a very good Mouflan sheep which is native to Corsica. He also took a Blackbuck, native to India.

**Ed Smith:** not much news from the Smith household. Spent Jan and Feb in FL but came home early to attend a granddaughter's wedding in St Louis on 15<sup>th</sup> of March. Have my yard cleaned up and ready for spring, if it ever gets here. Had some snow yesterday but have a tee time on the golf course at 11 this morning! Health-wise, we both fared pretty well so far this year. **Judith** still has to get a shot in her eye every 6 weeks for Macular Degeneration, which seems to keep it stabilized. Here's hoping all our friends and past associates have a great year in 2014.

**Alton Taylor** (in Texas): Denton made the National news last week for its hailstorm. Some of those baseball-sized hail stones worked our house roof over; they had help from even more golf-ball-sized hail stones: I guess they were getting tired because it wound up pea-sized that seem to try to cover and hide those big boys. There wasn't a lot of wind, so no glass breakage. By the way, those baseball-sized stones will bounce as well as a baseball. Our grandchildren are getting scattered half way around the world. It seems they go where the pay check goes: that sounds like the second verse to our way of living.

**Dennis Shirk:** Hello Folks, Happy Easter--we serve a RISEN Savior. We had quite a snow squall yesterday. I built a nice fire when I came home from the senior center meal. **Lois** is recovering nicely from her broken arm. She is now in physical therapy. I have been sick with a spring head and chest cold. My horse has had new shoes for three weeks, and I haven't even considered putting on the saddle. We have a camping trip first week in May. I have some sad news to report about **Les Volmert**. He had an accident on April 11<sup>th</sup> pulling into his driveway at his home. He has been in the hospital with some neck injuries. I don't know the full extent of his injuries. He was hit very hard, damaging both sides of his truck. Hopefully spring will finally come. See ya down the trail.

**Jack Schneider:** The big news recently was that our son **Keith** married **Ginna Dahliwhal** in Toronto, Ontario on April 11<sup>th</sup>. It was a Sikh ceremony, all in the Punjabi language. The reception was at a chalet on the Georgian Bay of Lake Huron, which is quite beautiful. Lots of ice still on the bay and there were skiers still on the slopes. Quite an experience.

**Lane Thurman:** I am down on Tablerock Lake. I came down yesterday since I already had my reservations at the campground, so had to use them. I did stay warm last night because I had plenty of blankets on the bed. I have the darndest luck on picking dates to go fishing--just can't seem to get a good one. But I am going out anyway; maybe I will even catch a fish.

## MONTANA

**Dick Gooby, ARCSE Representative**

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Montana Big Sky Report

**Gordon Watson Report:** **Joann's** sister and her husband joined us for a snow coach ride into Yellowstone Park this winter. It is sure a much different scene than a summer trip. The falls of the Yellowstone River in the Grand Canyon are most dramatic. And then getting our snow coach stuck in the ditch was also exciting. Thank goodness there was a very large trail groomer close by to jerk us out. Then the buffalo, of which there are just way too many of. They are just devastating the Park. This is most noticeable to see in the summer. It would be nice if the Park Service would recognize this and do something about it.

**Scott Hoag Report:** I don't have anything to report for this newsletter - just the same old stuff.

**Gooby Ranch Report:** We live in an area where about the only thing you hear at night is an owl hooting or a wolf howling. A few nights ago, after watching the basketball tournament, we got to bed late and were looking forward to a good night's sleep. Then about 1:30 am the yard was alive with cows mooing and carrying on. **Mary Ann** woke up and after figuring our cows must have gotten out, she woke me up. Sure enough, it sounded like every cow in the county was in the yard.

It was a dark and dreary night and since we don't have any yard lights, we couldn't see anything. Mary Ann got the flashlight and shined it out in the yard, and there were cows everywhere. She went out to see how they got out of the field, and she couldn't see how they got out. She came back to let me know, and on the way in she looked at their ear tags and they weren't our cattle.



By then I was wide awake, so I got dressed in case Mary Ann needed my help. Since we only have one flashlight, I wouldn't be much good and probably would trip over something and break my neck, so I stayed in the house so I wouldn't be in the way. Mary Ann went out and chased the cows down the road out of our place, which is over a mile. In the meantime, I turned the TV on and I couldn't believe it there are TV programs on at three in the morning. I thought all the stations went off the air at 10:00 pm.

About 5:00 am Mary Ann came back in the house and woke me up. She got the cows out on the county road and the gate closed. The next morning we went out to see all the damage the cows had done and there was still one cow in the back yard. Needless to say we have lots of hamburger in the freezer.

## NEBRASKA

**Norman Kempf, ARCSE Representative**

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Breakfast was held on March 19<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was called to order by President, **Gus Dornbusch**.

The spring banquet was held on April 10<sup>th</sup> with 41 attending. **Gus Dornbusch** asked everyone to introduce themselves and tell how many years they had been retired. Don Manley reported that he had been retired 34 years and had worked 34 years before retiring. **Tony Varana** reported that he had been retired 33 years. **Bob Engel**, a former Soil Scientist in the MNTC, attended the breakfast. Bob said he retired in 2007 and had come to breakfast once at that time.

**Neil Dominy**, State Soils Scientist, was the guest speaker and gave the group a short introduction to the changes in the Conservation Programs in the proposed 2014 Farm Bill. **Steve Stover** reported reaching  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a century in February.

**Paul Smith** read the names of the NRCS employees and their spouses who have passed away since the last spring banquet: **Margie Turner**, widow of **Bob**, on April, 24, 2013; **Sherry Jefferson**, wife of **David**, on August, 17, 2013; **William Patterson** on September 15, 2013; **Don Stearley** on January 14, 2014; **Richard Patterson** on January 14, 2014; **Leslie Deboer** on February 14, 2014; **Ron Bishop** on February 14, 2014; **Dave Langemeier** passed away peacefully at home after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer on March 20, 2014. A moment of silence was observed in their honor.

The following people attended the spring banquet: **Arnold and Agnes Mendenhall**, **Bob Engle**, **Charline Woodside**, **Chris Chapman**, **Clint and Imogene Johnson**, **Don Manley**, **Francis King**, **Gary and Nancy Muckel**, **Gus and Donna Dornbusch**, **Harold Ullsperger**, **Jan Eno**, **Jim Culver**, **Joe and Flo Calder**, **Keith and Maryalice Sheets**, **Louie and Evelyn Buller**, **Margaret Hitz**, **Neil Dominy**, **Norm and Linda Helzer**, **Norm and Sylvia Kempf**, **Paul Bartlett**, **Paul Smith**, **Roger Hammer**, **Steve and Jan Stover**, **Steve and Sandy Scheinost**, **Tony and Elaine Vrana**, **Val Bohaty**,

**Dave Camper** went to Steamboat in Colorado to ski with friends. Dave said that although there was good snowpack on the slopes, snow between here and there was sparse.

**Steve and Jan Stover** spent time in Rochester with **Justin and Jan Murray**. Justin was a former economist in the MNTC and asked to be remembered to his Lincoln friends.

**Don Manley**, **Paul Bartlett**, **Clint Johnson**, and **Joe Kuenning** reported that they were a part of veterans' groups who enjoyed a trip to Washington, DC to spend a day touring the War Memorials and other sights. A great time was had by all.

**Russ Shultz** reported again on efforts to gain tax breaks for retirees. He distributed lists of members of the revenue committee and urged everyone to contact them regarding such legislation.

## NEW YORK

**Nancy Lee, ARCSE Representative**

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Some bad news to pass along0 **Dottie Boehlert** notified us that her husband, **Ed**, former SCS Purchasing Agent for SCS in New York, passed away in February in Florida of pancreatic cancer. **Judy Baker**, former New York SCS employee who had worked for 28 years as an administrative officer for NRCS in various locations in the Northeast, Western United States, Great Plains and Washington, D.C., died on April 11, 2014. Judy returned to the Canandaigua area after her retirement to be closer to family.

**John and Gail Dickerson** have a new address: 125 Falcon Lake, Lexington, VA 24450 and would welcome any SCS/NRCS visitors to their new area in Virginia.

**Don Pettit**, current State Conservationist, will join the ranks of the retired after 38 years of service in various states for SCS/NRCS. Welcome Aboard, Don! **Mike Welshko**, District Conservationist in Morrisville, Madison County, will also be joining our ranks soon.

Mark your calendars! The annual retirees' picnic will again be at Dorchester Park in Whitney Point, NY on July 16, 2014. We would love to see you and hear what you have been doing since your retirement.

## NORTH DAKOTA

**Robert "Bob" Bird, ARCSE Representative**

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

We are welcoming back the snowbirds, even though the weatherman likes to throw out the snow word once in a while. **Jeannie and I** spent a couple months in Texas where they said it was their worst winter in quite some time. Houston was amazed at seeing snow which was probably gone as soon as it hit the ground, and Texas was befuddled by several freezing drizzle events which turned the roads into skating rinks. We spent time north of Houston at Lake Conroe, north of San Antonio at Canyon Lake, west of Austin at Lago Vista, and visited our son at Austin. We got together with **Bill and Kelli Stokes** from my days at the St. Paul, MN, State office. Bill and Kelli are building a house at Killeen, TX, and will be moving later in the year from New Braunfels. **Wes and Mary Ewine** spent part of the winter at Mesa, AZ. **Ron and Karen Sando** just returned from southern California, and **Bruce and Liz Clark** are back to Fargo from Corpus Christi, TX. We are having coffee with the Ewine's, Sando's, and Clark's tomorrow to catch up.

Just talked to **Neal McClure** who reported that he had been in the hospital, and they put in a pacemaker. Other than that he was doing well. We lost a couple more retirees or wives: **Trudy Reisenauer** who had worked in the State office and **Myrle Warren, Dunc's wife**. When Dunc and Myrle lived on the banks of the Missouri River, we had several of our annual retiree reunions at their house where Dunc set up a Steak pitchfork fondue. Here's hoping everyone survived the winter and is healthy, wealthy and wise.

## OHIO

**Larry Tornos, ARCSE Representative**

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We had a message from **Niles McLoda** and Jane's daughter, **Nancy**, today (from **John Peterson**). Niles fell and fractured his hip in three places. He will be in rehab for 8 weeks and would appreciate cards, so I'm passing this along. Although they have been out of the area for a number of years, probably some still remember Niles. (Some called him "Jim"). His address is: Niles McLoda, The Laurels of Bon Air, Room 112, 9101 Bon Air Crossings Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23235.

*Editor's Note: I worked with Niles briefly in 1972 when I was hired as a soil scientist. I remember that Niles had fashioned a motorcycle with a hydraulic ram mounted on the side to push tubes into the ground to retrieve soil samples. This was advantageous when the ground was too soft for vehicles and minimized mapping distances on foot.*

## OREGON

**Don Stettler, ARCSE Representative**

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Twenty six braved the threat of heavy rain to attend the spring quarter lunch at The Old Spaghetti Factory at Clackamas. Fortunately, the strong Pacific front waited until most of us got home before the forecast deluge arrived. Attending the lunch were **Clifton and Marva Deal, Roy Fox, Leland Hardy, Jack Kanalz, Lowell and Marian Kenedy, Jon Lea, Roy and Linda Mann, Chad McGrath, Terry Mitchell, Bruce Newton, Jeff Repp, Leland Saele, Pat Smith, Pat Straka, Dick Sylvester, Kathy Sylvester, Elenda VanderZanden, Ralph Wadleigh, Jim Marron, Rose Loehr, Joe Sahlfeld**, and yours truly, **Don Stettler**.

A number sent me their regrets. **DD Kido** told me that she and **Howard** were getting ready for a three-week trip to Japan. SAYONARA! **Kay Denfeld, Gail Voge, Bobbie Hart, and Shirley Boothby** inadvertently scheduled a get-away at the beach. **Dick Verboort** told me he could not come but asked me to tell everyone "Hi" for him. He also hopes to make the July lunch. **Beth Zetter** who faithfully attends the quarterly lunches said she would be busy nursing her husband **Butch** who would be recovering from shoulder surgery. **Pat Willey**, who is as taken with his first granddaughter as I am with mine, said he would be babysitting. My first granddaughter, on the other hand, along with her husband and my nearly one-year-old great grandson recently moved to Zurich, Switzerland.

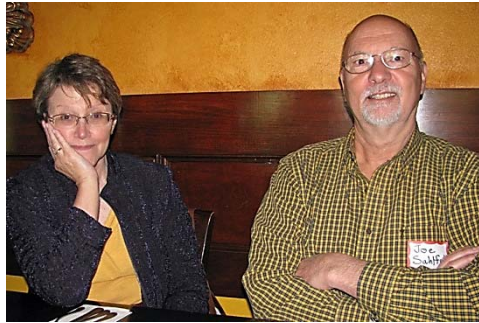
**Jack Kanalz**, who usually misses the spring quarter lunch because of fishing priorities came to our lunch. He reported that he recently netted three salmon over twenty pounds. It's often said that ten percent of the anglers catch 90 percent of the fish. Obviously, Jack has the technique down and is in the ten percent.

The summer quarter lunch will be held on July 23<sup>rd</sup> at The Old Spaghetti Factory at Tanasbourne.





**Linda and Roy Mann**



**Eldena VanderZanden and Joe Sahlfeld**



**Pat Straka and Don Stettler**



**Leland Hardy, Leland Saele, and Roy Fox**



**Dick Sylvester and Marva and Clifton Deal**



**Stefanie Aschmann, Rose Loehr, and Kathy Sylvester**



**Marian Kenedy, Jack Kanalz, and Ralph Wadleigh**



**Terry Mitchell and Pat Smith**



**Bruce Newton, Jon Lea, and Lowell Kenedy**



**Jim Marron, Jeff Repp, and Chad McGrath**



## PENNSYLVANIA

**Frederick E Bubb, reporting for Bill Bowers**

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

I am sorry to inform you of the sudden death of **Wayne Ray**. He suffered a massive heart attack on March 15<sup>th</sup> as he was getting off a cruise ship. Wayne's last position was coordinator of the Endless County RC&D. Wayne was well known across the state in the RC&D, SCS, and NRCS family. Condolences may be sent to **Phyllis Ray**, 5765 Main Street, Kingsley, PA 18826. A memorial service in June 2014, to be announced later.

A dual retirement party will be held on May 17th for **Joel Myers and Barry Isaacs**. Location is Joel's house in Spring Mills. The party will run from 1 PM to 6 PM with dinner served at 4 PM. Checks for the meal should be made payable to Tim Emenheiser and mailed to: Dan Dostie at One Credit Union Place, Suite 340, Harrisburg, PA 17110-2993. RSVP by May 9th!

From **Carl DuPolt**: Farm Energy Success Stories

<http://farmenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/FarmEnergySuccessStories2014-FINALweb.pdf>

The Environmental Law and Policy Center this week released its new Farm Energy Success Stories report. The report offers an analysis of the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) between 2008-2012 and offers details of 16 projects from across the nation where REAP assisted in advancing biomass, biogas digesters, energy efficiency, geothermal, hydroelectric, solar, wind, and hydroelectric, technologies.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

**Byron Thompson, ARCSE Representative**

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



**South Carolina Retirees. Left to right: Jimmy Sanders, Dory Reeves, Dan Guy, George Comer, Luke Nance, Ethel Comer, Laurely Nance, Niles Glasgow, Carolyn Glasgow, Shirley Melven, Bill Melven, Mary Thompson, Ellis Morrow, Byron Thompson, Hugh Caldwell, James Williams, Tommy Stone, Walt Douglas, Al McNeill, and Linda McNeill not shown.**

**Tom Patton** was our guest speaker. He covered several issues related to forestry, but his main point was the importance of forestry to the economic health of South Carolina and the damages caused by the recent ice storm.

**Hugh Caldwell and wife Patsy**, along with family members, enjoyed a week at Orlando, FL during spring break. Hugh said the grandkids had a great time while they people-watched, and the weather was great all week.



**Tom Patton and Byron Thompson. Tom is the Deputy Director for the SC Forestry Commission for South Carolina.**



## TEXAS (NORTH AREA)

**Arnold King, ARCSE Representative**

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

**Marie Garsjo** presided over the February business meeting. New retirees taking advantage of the newly approved free first year membership include **Bill Kuenstler, Sue Brooks, and Douglas Seibel**.

Twenty-three persons were present for the February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting: **Earl Blakley, Dennis Gaster, Elaine and Billy Don Davis, Joe Nichols, Bernie and Maxine Owen, Mary Mattinson, Bill and Rita Kuenstler, Jim and Jerre Rickman, Barb and Dave Stockbridge, Betty Sisson, Anita Plummer, Morris Lobrecht, Dave Drennan, Arnold King, Dennis Erinakes, Bernelle Baxley, Douglas Seibel, and Marie Garsjo**.

**Marie Garsjo** gave a terrific Power Point presentation and shared her experiences with our club members about her geology trip to Cuba. We all learned a great deal about the culture, scenery, and geology of that island country. The men in the audience had a lot of fun identifying the year and make of all those 50's era automobiles. Marie diligently took notes in order to change the captions of mis-identified cars. Marie said that many of the old American cars have Russian engines.

**Dennis Erinakes** has been keeping busy as a board member of the Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District representing Johnson County. There is a lot of concern about all of the waste water from fracking operations being disposed of through injection wells and whether or not they are increasing the number of earthquakes. Of course there are many concerns about groundwater pollution too. He said that whereas in the year 1900 you could get water at a depth of 100 feet, now that depth is around 1,000 feet. Dennis also made a monetary donation to cover six months' rent on our meeting facility. Many thanks Dennis.

**Maurice "Whitey" Spears** wrote: I enjoy the newsletter, even though I do not recognize many names. I am afraid I am one of those "old timers" associated with the likes of **Leon Alexander, Rocky Rockenbaugh, Bill Vaught, Bugga Moon, R.C. Barnes, Bob Daniels**, etc. – all great people, but some are deceased. **Leon** and I started our work with the SCS in 1949 in the Rio Grande Valley under **Wilson Moon**. I have such fond memories of these and many others with whom I worked. Best wishes and keep up the good work.

**Patsy Hocker** wrote: **Jimmie** (her husband) has had four treatments and has handled them o.k. Makes him tired, but he keeps going. Thanks to everyone for all their prayers.

**Judy Twitty** reports that she is feeling much better this year, but the recent siege of cold weather has been very hard for her back. **Judy** and **Ken** were at the credit union annual meeting along with their granddaughter **Julie Parr**. Their great granddaughter helped draw names for the cash prizes.

**Mabel Arfman** wrote: I had a very bad fall last spring and am having a lot of problems with it and another fall last month. I am unable to come to the meetings now so I guess just drop me off after all these years. Tell my friends hello and I miss them. I drive very seldom now. I send God's Blessings to all of you.

**Dennis Gaster** reports that the third grandchild coming in July is going to be a girl. He also got a great 70<sup>th</sup> birthday gift--a good annual checkup report from his cardiologist!

**Jim** and **Jere Rickman** will be giving a presentation on their trip to Ecuador at the April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. **Arnold** and **Willeene King** took a trip on February 28<sup>th</sup> to Guadalajara, Mexico, with friends who have a beautiful home in a nearby resort community. They go with there once or twice a year.

It was great to see so many of our members at the 76<sup>th</sup> Annual NRCS Federal Credit Union dinner on March 6<sup>th</sup>. As usual, the barbecue was great and the drawing for cash prizes is always a highlight.

**Marie Garsjo** presided over the March business meeting.

Twenty-two persons were present for the March 21<sup>st</sup> meeting: **Earl Blakley, Dennis Gaster, Elaine and Billy Don Davis, Joe Nichols, Bernie and Maxine Owen, Mary Mattinson, Betty Sisson, Anita Plummer, Arnold King, Bernelle Baxley, Douglas Seibel, Marie Garsjo, Joyce Petty, Barbara Gillum, Don Kapalka, Harland Dietz, DeWayne Williams, Bonnie McKee, Sue Brooks, and John Massey**.

A special thanks to **Maxine Owen** and **Morris Lobrecht** for calling members who have not been contacted for some time. The 2014 Alumni Directory will be sent with the May Newsletter instead of April this year. If you have moved or changed your e-mail address please let Dennis Gaster know immediately so you will receive your Newsletter each month.

**Sue Brooks** was in attendance for her first meeting of the club and it was so good to see her. She retired on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. She has been enjoying her grandkids. **Sue** has been a part of a support system for **Marsha Reed** (former Cartographic Staff employee) whose husband is battling cancer.

**Mary Mattinson** has been enjoying watching her grandkids play sports. She gets good exercise going up and down the stadium stairs and has literally worn out her stadium chair. Mary helps in her church and provides taxi service to church members.

**Joyce Petty's** 97-year-old mother-in-law recently passed away. **Joyce** serves as a Court Appointed Special Advocate. **Barbara Gillum** recently attended her mother's 94<sup>th</sup> birthday. Barbara is also a long time CASA volunteer and stressed how much they miss seeing the children following a long term advocacy. **Bonnie Mckee** is doing well after her surgery. It was good to see her at our March meeting.

**Elaine Davis** keeps busy with church work in the library. **Billy Don** enjoys playing dominoes even though the trips to the games are some miles away. **Maxine Owen** reported that their granddaughter who is a high school junior has started doing makeup for photo shoots and other special occasions. Their oldest granddaughter is substitute teaching while attending college online. She is graduating from Mountain View community college on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Betty Sisson** welcomes spring. She got tired of covering, uncovering, covering, uncovering her plants. **Bernie Owen** is very busy with his clients during this income tax season.

It was great to see **DeWayne Williams** at the last meeting. His wife, **Abigail**, recently broke her wrist, and **DeWayne** chipped two bones in his ankle. He was on crutches and now a boot. Their 11-year-old grandson, **Cutter**, lives with them and was quite concerned that they would not be able to get to the grocery store. He said he could ride his bicycle over to the store, and **DeWayne** said he was probably concerned that they would be running out of snacks!

**Don Kapalka** reported that he had a good health check-up. He has been involved with the Arlington Independent School District finance committee. He said funds are being spent wisely, and he encourages Arlington residents to vote for the AISD Bond Election in May. **Harland Dietz** reported that they had three sets of house guests in one week.

**Arnold King** reported that he will be going to the Annual Texas SCS/NRCS Reunion in New Braunfels and the national ARSCSE meeting in Chicago. **Willeene** is due for knee surgery.

**Doug Seibel**, although recently retired, is still checking in at the office periodically. His wife, **Jane** is dealing with several health issues. **Joe Nichols** is feeling good and brought some really good snacks for the last meeting. **Marie Garsjo** lost her agaves in the freezing weather, but did enjoy the fragrance of tequila. It was great to see **John Massey** at the last meeting. He enjoys helping his granddaughter who is in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade and attending her many activities.

**Wayne Weaver** wrote on March 27<sup>th</sup>: Other than **Mary** and Princess Patches, the cat, getting the stomach bug in the same week, the car going to the repair shop, having the carpets cleaned where the cat made her mess, and my blood sugar going out the roof, last week was a pretty fair week. We are forthright, up-standing, and moving forward this week. Things must have gotten better. PS. I don't need a paper copy of the Newsletter. E-mail will suffice. Their son, **John** is the Human Resource Director for the Good Samaritan Boys Home at Springfield. Their daughter, **Kate** is still teaching in Spearfish, SD.

**Dennis Gaster** keeps busy with Boy Scout activities and is in his 29<sup>th</sup> year with Troop 68 where his son earned his Eagle Scout award some 22 years ago. **Dennis** is in his third year as National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) chapter president in Arlington and plans on attending the NARFE National Convention in Orlando in August.

**Billy and Liz Johnson** have had quite a year. **Liz** said that **Bill** had seven falls during the past year. One of the falls forced a vertebra against his spine, creating problems. He is now using a wheelchair, and **Liz** said they are busy with doctors and healthcare.

**Diann Wilmart** passed through Deshler, NE a few weeks ago and enjoyed a good visit with **Donnel and Mary Stelling**. **Diann** is still going to school but has changed her major. She is thoroughly enjoying learning.

**Marie Lane** is still enjoying her home in Austin, close to her son. This year has brought a major change as she is no longer driving and has recently put her car up for sale. It was a difficult decision, but she is fortunate to have a good bus service close to her condo. **Marie** said to tell all of her friends hello and she misses them!

**Paul Kirkland** said his wife **Betty** is doing well. She is living at the Trail Lake Nursing and Rehabilitation Center on Trail Lake Drive. She is enjoying the people there, and they are enjoying her smiling personality and mirth. **Paul** spends most of every day with her and is very happy with her care.

**Bob Fronk** said he has been doing a lot of traveling the past few years. With five children and 14 grandchildren there is always an event to attend---this year the last of the grandkids will graduate from high school. The past two years the family has visited **Bob's** oldest son in Idaho then made the scenic drive from Boise to the Oregon Coast.

**Marcia Delucchi** had such good fortune with her first back surgery two years ago, she expected her second back surgery six months ago to go as well. She said it is not going as well. Her doctor said it often takes a full year to heal and it has only been six months, so she is trying to be patient.

**Larry Butler** has been traveling constantly from one area to another researching and preparing his television shows (Out On the Land). He said he is working to establish a shoot near New Braunfels in order to spend the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Texas Annual Alumni meeting.

**Bill and Emma Adams** have been keeping their dentist busy lately. He said it is nothing painful, just time-consuming! Their main joy and activity is caring for their 8-month-old grandson, **Nolan** while his parents are at work.

## VIRGINIA

**Ken Carter, ARCSE Representative**

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

Welcome, **Ken** as the new Virginia ARCSE Representative. We are sad to report the passing of **Mrs. Helen Connelly Button**, wife of former State Engineer **Louis Stanley (Curly) Button** on April 9, 2014. Curly and Helen have been living at Westminster Canterbury, 1600 Westbrook Ave. Richmond VA 23227.

## WASHINGTON

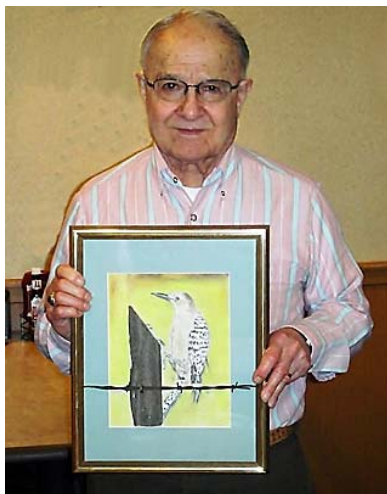
**Gerald Richard, ARCSE Representative**

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, Joe Carmack, Ralph Schmidt, Tim King, Larry and Jean Edmonds, Gary Johnson, Hans and Kathryn Krauss, Jerry and Phyllis Richard, Carl and Paula Vennes, Carolyn McClane, Phil Schauble, Lennie Husa and Ken Kaul**. Photos of the group and of **Hans Krauss** were taken by **Jud Melton** (Thanks Jud). **Ralph Schmidt** has continued to volunteer his afternoons preparing tax returns for seniors under the AARP tax help program. As the April 15<sup>th</sup> deadline approached, the difficult and more complex returns became the norm. But again, they are very appreciative for his help, especially when they get a refund!

**Joe Carmack** reports a good winter for skiing at the different ski areas in Washington and Idaho. He usually goes skiing a couple of times a week. At the April luncheon Joe had just returned from a group biking trip in the Canyon Lands National Park area in Utah. The trip was on an old uranium exploration jeep road a little more than 100 miles long with many hair pin turns. Joe drove his 4-wheel-drive pickup as a support vehicle and alternated between biking and driving with his nephew. Joe's next trip is to the family farm in Tennessee to help prepare the soil for the spring planting season.

**Hans Krauss** was recently credited by the Spokesman Review newspaper with a photo of a moose that was part of an article by **Rich Landers** (staff writer) about the life cycle of moose or winter ticks. The life cycle of these moose ticks was fascinating, with interviews involving the state wildlife veterinarian and Idaho Game Department specialists. Bottom line: Don't get close to moose with winter ticks – because the moose is really irritable from the ticks and can be more aggressive than usual.



**Hans Krauss holding his 3-D pastel of Gila Woodpecker using Larry Edmonds' barbed wire and locust "fencepost."**



**Spokane, Washington Retirees at April luncheon**

**Carolyn McClane** is still active with the South Hill Serenaders, with the group singing at different retirement homes throughout the area. **Jean Edmonds** showed us some of her recent photography, mostly wildlife, with some outstanding pictures of ducks and geese on their pond at the ranch. **Jerry and Phyllis** spent some time in Mesa, AZ in February with **Rob and Leana Kudlacek**. We all had worked together in Lashkar Gah, Afghanistan and Kathmandu, Nepal and enjoyed reminiscing about our experiences there.



**Bob Olson** had notified our group that **Lew Kehne** had passed away March 26<sup>th</sup> (See Memoriam Section). He had been a member of our retiree group for many years. Lew's stories about serving in the Army during WWII in Tunisia, Italy, France, Germany, and Austria were most interesting. After his retirement, **Lew and Edna** retraced his military movements throughout the European Theatre. He and Edna were dedicated to fishing, especially at Lake Roosevelt, and kept detailed records about their fishing experiences. Lew liked to make things work better and had developed a unique tilting boat trailer for his many fishing trips. And he had this trailer invention patented through the patenting process, doing the correspondence and drafting diagram plans himself. Lew was a very positive person, a great leader, and will be remembered for his favorite saying "Every Day a Holiday." We will miss Lew.

## WASHINGTON DC NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

**John Peterson, ARCSE Representative**

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

**Warren and Barb Lee** are joining **Gordon and Betsy Klostad** on a cruise thru the southern Caribbean over Easter week, en route home to Virginia from their winter place in Mesa, AZ.

Six old friends renewed their friendship over St. Patrick's Day by spending a week together at Hilton Head Island (HHI), SC. They were **Niles and Carolyn Glasgow**, **Don and Jo Gohmert**, and **John and Blanche Peterson**. **Niles, Don** and **John** all worked together in AZ in the 1970's, became friends, and then, as most of us did, chased each other all over the country with SCS. While at HHI, the men had lunch with **Art Holland** who now lives just off the island on the mainland. They toured Hilton Head, visited Savannah, GA, and found time for some green beer and oysters.

*"Four old SCS friends met for lunch on Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at the Crazy Crab Restaurant on Hilton Head Island, SC. They were Don Gohmert, Niles Glasgow, John Peterson, and Art Holland. Art lives in the Hilton Head area. Niles lives in Columbia, SC. Don traveled from LA and John from VA. The four shared many fond memories and enjoyed the time together."*



**Carl Bouchard** sends, "I have been photographing the National Cherry Blossom Festival since 2007. This year I was again the Official Photographer for the National Conference of State Societies that sponsors the Cherry Blossom Princesses program. We had Princesses representing 43 states and territories, 5 Countries plus the US, and Japanese Queens. The week long activities started on Sunday, April 6 with the Japanese Lantern lighting and finished on Saturday, April 12 with the Cherry Blossom Parade. The blossoms were at about 80 percent of peak on Sunday, and by Thursday, they were at 100 percent. You can follow the week's activities through my photos at <https://2014cbfprincesses.shutterstock.com/>."



**Carl Bouchard with some of the Cherry Blossom Princesses**

Your reporter can testify to the crowds in DC during the festival. **Blanche and I** were trying to get to the DC United Soccer Game on April 12<sup>th</sup>, and it took about 20 minutes just to get through the traffic at the USDA South Building. Carl's pictures are really good. He says he has sold some of his pictures, so probably is no longer considered an amateur.



### ***Cherry Blossom Princesses***

The National Capital Area retirees held their spring luncheon on Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at Phillips Flagship Restaurant on Maine Avenue for what is probably the last time. The entire waterfront area that contained the fish market, Phillips, Hogates (remember Hogates?), and The Channel Inn is being completely developed, and many of those old landmarks will be gone. The waterfront makeover will take up to 2 years. If I remember right, at one time economist **Glen Johnson** (now splitting time between ND and AZ) had a yacht that he lived on at the marina.

Those attending the spring luncheon were **Paul Benedict, Jerry Bernard, Carl and Janet Bouchard, Valerie Butler, Plater and Faye Campbell** (and Plater celebrated his 86<sup>th</sup> birthday the day after the luncheon), **Tom Iivari, Bob Kohnke, Ross Lahren, Lennie Losh, Jim and Lorraine Maetzold, Ron and Ann Marlow, Diana Morse, John and Blanche Peterson, Dave and Margie Ralston, Frank Resides, Linda Sargent, Lee Shields, Peter Smith, John Stierna, and Roger Thomas. Roger Cronshey and Jim Hannawald** were to come but at the last minute could not.

**Diana Morse** served as MC, and every attendee talked a bit about what was going on in their lives. As it worked out, that reminiscing was a lot of fun. Hope to see you on Oct. 2– someplace to be announced. Since **Wayne Maresch** stepped down as the organizer and moderator of these luncheons, **Diana Morse and Barbara Osgood** have stepped in to make those arrangements. The luncheons are always the first Thursday in May and Oct. Other retirees who happen to be visiting in the DC area are always welcome to stop in and join us. Just let **Diana** or **Barbara** know.

For the first time in a long time, we were not able to have someone from NRCS attend and give us an update. Hopefully they will join us again next Oct. 2. In the meantime, we are all looking for another place to hold our spring and fall luncheons. We would like to stay in or very close to DC to make it more central for people from MD, VA and PA who attend regularly.

We will again check the Officer's Clubs at Ft. McNair and Ft. Meyer, and hopefully access will be quicker than it was right after 911, when we decided to move from Ft. McNair. If anyone knows of a restaurant in DC that has parking and a private room seating 40, and where we can eat for about \$20, let us know. That may be hard to find.



*Lorraine and Jim Maetzold at the retirees' luncheon*





*Washington, DC, National Capital Area ARCSE retirees' luncheon, Phillips Flagship Restaurant, Wash., DC.*

*Back Row, L-R: Jerry Bernard, Peter Smith, Tom Iiavari, Lennie Losh, Cart Bouchard, Paul Benedict, John Peterson, Plater Campbell, Faye Campbell, Lee Shields, John Stierna, Roger Thomas, Ron Marlow, Frank Resides, Ross Lahren.*

*Front Row, L-R: Diane Morse, Valerie Butler, Barbara Osgood, Janet Bouchard, Bob Kohnke, Blanche Peterson, Linda Sargent, Ann Marlow, Margaret Ralston, Dave Ralston.*

*The following picture was sent by John Peterson: ConExpo 2014 Las Vegas. One of the largest "Big Iron" shows in the world. 150,000 attendees.*



John noted the following: The brains of older people only appear to slow down because they have so much information to compute, much like a full-up hard drive, scientists believe. Elderly people have so much information in their brain that it takes longer for them to access it, scientists believe.

Older people do not decline mentally with age, it just takes them longer to recall facts because they have more information in their brains, scientists believe.

Much like a computer struggles as the hard drive gets full up, so to do humans take longer to access information, it has been suggested. Researchers say this slowing down it is not the same as cognitive decline. "The human brain works slower in old age," said **Dr. Michael Ramscar**, "but only because we have stored more information over time."

"The brains of older people do not get weak. On the contrary, they simply know more."

Here are a couple pictures from George Mason University as Mother and I (**John Peterson**) were recognized as Fans of the Game during the GMU vs. St. Louis U. basketball game on Feb. 19. Unfortunately that was the same time as **Kathie** was having her gall bladder problems and Mother had gone to the hospital with her that afternoon, so I represented both of us. Kathie had her surgery a day later, and all went well. We were recognized for being fans since 1978, and our Patriot Club contributions since the early 1980's.





*John Peterson accepting GMU "Fan of the Game" award*



**Glen Black** sent a message that **Dick Wenberg** was going on Hospice. His condition is terminal and that they may not have much time left. Some of the family members are coming in this week. Please be in prayer for Dick and **Mary** and for the rest of the family. To send a card or telephone: 211 Claremont Drive. Belton, TX 76513; 254-780-2322 (home), 703-336-2593 (cell).

**Dottie Hofstad** says, "My wonderful 96-year-old husband (**Wes**) seems to have a lot more years ahead---and we have many plans for the future, so we'll have to live a long while yet!"



*Carolyn and Niles Glasgow, Jo and Don Gohmert, and Blanche and John Peterson taken at their recent get-together at Hilton Head Island. This picture was taken at Forsyth Park in Savannah when they visited there on 19 MAR. These 6 friends met in AZ when they all worked there in the mid-1970's, and became close.*

**DEADLINE FOR  
JULY/AUGUST 2014 NEWSLETTER  
CONTRIBUTIONS IS JUNE 25**

**John Peterson** reported on the death of an old rancher acquaintance. **Leonard “Bud” Purdy**, one of Idaho’s most beloved and respected ranchers and conservationists who died Monday at his home on Silver Creek in Picabo, ID.

Purdy, 96, led the ranching industry into rest and rotation grazing on public lands that both protected the range and improved cattle production. He duck-hunted and skied with **Ernest Hemingway** and hosted **Jimmy Stewart** and **Gary Cooper** at his Picabo Ranch.

He helped start the Idaho Cattle Association, led the University of Idaho Foundation as president and was chairman of the Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry. In addition to the ranch, he and his late wife **Ruth** owned the Picabo Store, the Picabo Elevator and Silver Creek Supply, a seed business.

“Bud Purdy was the very embodiment of the Code of the West – someone whose life was a lesson in cowboy ethics, common sense, stewardship and the value of hard work and perseverance,” said Idaho **Gov. Butch Otter**. “I don’t know whether Bud was a religious man, but there was nobody with as much faith in his fellow man.”

Purdy donated a 3,500-acre conservation easement on all of the ranch along Silver Creek in the 1990s to the Nature Conservancy, adjacent to its own Silver Creek Preserve. Purdy didn’t even take the tax break on the easement valued at \$7 million.

He was inducted into the Idaho Hall of Fame in 2013 and was grand marshal of the 2013 Ketchum Wagon Days Parade.

He loved the cattle business, he explained to writer, producer and author **Steve Stuebner** in an article in 2012 for the Idaho Rangeland Commission (which he co-founded). “Every morning, you get up and do something different,” he said. “You turn out on the range and ride a horse every day. Even now, I go out and make sure the water is OK, check the fences and make sure the gates are closed.”

“It’s just a constant going out there and doing it,” Purdy said. “I was never a cowboy, but I’ve ridden a million miles.”

Purdy was born in Beatrice, NE Jan. 2, 1918. He spent the summers on the ranch of his grandfather, **W.H. Kilpatrick**, who established the ranch along Silver Creek. He graduated from Washington State University and returned to take over management of the ranch in 1938.

He is survived by his sister **Margaret Struthers** of Twin Falls, his three sons, **Nick**, **Mark** and **Gordon** and his daughter **Kris Wenslawski**. His wife **Ruth** died in 2006.

His burial will be private, but a celebration of his life is set at the Limelight Room in the Challenger Inn at Sun Valley, May 4 at 3 p.m. In lieu of flowers, friends are asked to contribute to the St. Lukes, University of Idaho, or the College of Southern Idaho foundations.

“His passing is a loss for all of us, but it’s an even bigger loss for the next generation who won’t have the benefit of his wisdom and good will,” Otter said.



**Leonard “Bud” Purdy, Idaho rancher**

## WEST VIRGINIA

**Peg Reese, ARCSE Representative**

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

**Barbara Broxterman**, Agricultural Engineer, retired on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Alan Staddon and Lynn Shutts** were invited to visit Parish Florida to visit SCS employee **Darrell Schreckengost** and his wife, **Jeanie**.



**Allan Staddon fishing in Tampa Bay, FL.**



**Darrell and Jeanie Schreckengost**





*Lynn Schutts fishing in Tampa Bay, FL*

Alan shared that "Darrell called me back in late January to see if I could convince Lynn to fly to Tampa International Airport where he would pick us up and host us for a fishing trip. Lynn wasn't sure at first, but after the continuing cold weather and snow after snow, he finally decided that a little 70-degree sun, relaxation, and fishing in Darrell's boat in Tampa Bay wasn't a bad idea.

We arrived on March 17<sup>th</sup> and had the next three wonderful days to fish and renew our friendship. We caught several fish and had a fish fry. Darrell and Jeanie were great hosts, and I hope we can do it again next spring."

**Jim Bennett**, retired State Conservationist, wrote "When I was working in the West Virginia State Office, I often encouraged our employees to join ARSCSE and to write letters to the ARSCSE newsletter. Since my retirement, I still enjoy reading about "what's going on everywhere." After searching years for an "ARCSE logo," I feel honored to have helped select the one that we are still using.

My West Virginia friends might also find interesting "where I was and my exact location" when the U.S. Air Force dropped the first A-bomb on Hiroshima. My engineering squadron was constructing an air field on top of a mountain in Okinawa and planning to bomb Tokyo from there two weeks later. My unit was in tents located down the airfield. On August 7<sup>th</sup>, while in my tent asleep, the U.S. B-29 bomber flew from Guam right over my tent area and proceeded to drop the bomb on Hiroshima. What a surprise that we came home alive."

## WISCONSIN

**Jim Enlow, ARCSE Representative**

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

The Wisconsin Retirees met for lunch and fellowship on April 10, 2014 at The Northwoods Brew Pub, in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. **Vic Price** was the gracious host.

The following retirees and spouses were in attendance: **Emeron and Phyllis Christensen**, Onalaska; **Vic Price**, Fall Creek, WI; **Bob Henrich**, Eau Claire, WI; **Keith and Dottie Behling**, Richland Center, WI; **Bob and Jeannine**, Black River Falls, WI; **Stanley and Marlene Dingle**, Verona, WI; **Keith Sengbush**, Springbrook, WI; **Kent Wabrowetz**, Shell Lake, WI; **Dave Vold**, Spooner, WI; **Dave and Jane Hvizdak**, Chippewa Falls, WI; **Roger Dahl**, Chippewa, Falls, WI; **Tim Meyer**, Eau Claire, WI; **Louis and Kathy Barber**, Siren, WI; **Larry and Gerri Natzke**, Eau Claire, WI; **John Langton**, Neillsville, WI; **Olin and Jan Fimreite**, Whitehall, WI; **Roman and Bea Statz**, Baraboo, WI; **Hugh Eddy**, Alma, WI; **Harlan Nelson**, Eau Claire, WI; **Steve Rake**, Black River Falls, WI; **Del Thomas**, Eau Claire, WI; **Mike and Sally Schendal**, Menomonee, WI and **Jim and Lynnette**, Enlow, Madison, WI.

The group enjoyed eating lunch with fellow retirees and fellowship before and after lunch. We found out that two of our retirees qualify as Senior Conservationists. **Harlan Nelson** is 86 years old, and **Del Thomas** is 92 years old. Congratulations to both. Jim Enlow will contact the National organization regarding their inclusion.

**Judy Pulvermacher** is retiring May 30<sup>th</sup> with a dinner in her honor the same evening at Rex's Innkeeper, 301 N. Century Ave., Waunakee, WI. Please contact **Shawn Nameth** before May 16<sup>th</sup> if you would like to participate or provide letters, stories, or photos for Judy's memory book ( [shawn.nameth@wi.usda.gov](mailto:shawn.nameth@wi.usda.gov) 608-662-4422 x257).



Conservation Partners Spring Golf Outing, May 16, Evergreen Golf Club, Elkhorn, WI, (262) 723-5722, [www.evergreengolf.com/](http://www.evergreengolf.com/). Contact **Mark Steinfest** or **Tom Oasen** ([mark.steinfest@wi.usda.gov](mailto:mark.steinfest@wi.usda.gov), [oasen@wi.usda.gov](mailto:oasen@wi.usda.gov)) by May 10, 2013, for registration.

The next luncheon is scheduled for June 12, 2014 at the Tuscumbia Country Club, Green Lake, WI. **Erv Lesczynski and Steve Prissel** will be the hosts.

**NEW SENIOR CONSERVATIONISTS:** We welcome four new Senior Conservationists since the last Newsletter. They have reached the minimum age of 83 years and have completed the Senior Conservationist Questionnaire. Congratulations! The new Senior Conservationists are:

<b>John W. Adams</b>	<b>Lyons, GA</b>
<b>Robert C. Brown</b>	<b>Temple, TX</b>
<b>Harold Rex Honeyfield</b>	<b>Davis, CA</b>
<b>Helen Walker</b>	<b>Somerset, KY</b>

See IN MEMORIAM for the Senior Conservationists who 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.

**Erratum:** In the July/August 2013 edition of the newsletter, the following Senior Conservationist was listed as *Franklin T. Hughes* but should have been **Franklin T. Hodges, Mount Airy, NC.**

## SENIOR CONSERVATIONIST CHRONICLE

*Marc Safley, Chronicler*

**Harold R. Honeyfield**  
**Senior Conservationist**

**Harold R. Honeyfield** was born December 28, 1930, on his Grandfather's homestead, near Raton, New Mexico. He was raised on that small farm where teams of horses were the source of power for all farming, and a few dairy cows provided the money for groceries. He graduated Raton High School, then enlisted in the US Navy, and served 3 ½ years. He entered the US Naval Academy and attended for two years, after which he transferred to New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts (now New Mexico State University) where he received a BS in Agricultural Engineering in 1956. He then enrolled at Purdue University majoring in soil mechanics and hydraulics; there he conducted a model study of the hydraulic jump in pipe for his thesis. He received an MS degree in January 1958.

His career with Soil Conservation Service started in the summer of 1955 when he was an engineering aide at Bernalillo, NM, doing surveying and soil testing for the construction of the dam known as Pilot Site #1. This was just prior to the program known as PL 566. During the summer of 1956 he was assigned as a Field Office engineer at Las Vegas, New Mexico. In January 1958 he became Head of the Design Section (aka: State Design Engineer) at the SCS State Office at Albuquerque. Harold was the first State Design Engineer in New Mexico.

During his time in New Mexico, he was the Charter President of the New Mexico Chapter of ASAE, and became a member of the ASAE sub-committee for Design. When took the job of State Design Engineer in 1958 Engineering Memo #3 contained the design criteria for dams and was 3 pages long. Over the next 18 years of his career criteria for dam design were revised many times and increased in complexity. Harold was noted for finding solutions for problems by using some US Bureau of Reclamation structures, such as: impact basins for principal spilling discharge, and baffle chutes for grade stabilization. During the same period of time, contract construction specifications received major changes. In New Mexico, 74 flood control dams were designed by Harold and reviewed by either the Ft. Worth, TX Engineering and Watershed Protection Unit, the Portland NTC, or the Ft Worth, Texas NTC. He made acrylic models of hydraulic structures for teaching aids.

In 1975 Harold was assigned to the first SCS technical team to go to the Helmand Valley Drainage project in Afghanistan; there he taught Afghan engineers drainage procedures to reclaim saline soils. In 1977 he returned to the United States and was assigned to the Portland NTC. While there he evaluated performance of a hydraulic model of a side channel chute for its use as an emergency spillway; he also was on temporary detail to SCS in California for flood restoration work. In November 1978 he became the Assistant State Engineer for California, served as Acting State Engineer for the 1978-1980 EWP flood restoration project. Harold retired in September 1989.

He was a Registered Professional Engineer for State of New Mexico, and a Registered Professional Civil Engineer for the State of California.

After his retirement, he accepted a position with Harza Engineering in Pakistan to plan and design drainage projects and large sediment debris basins in the Northern Frontier Province. He served one year as the Resident Engineer for an international contract for the D. I. Khan Drainage project.

During his time in California, he became the 'host' family for three Afghan refugee families. He is the author of several technical papers for ASAE and for International Drainage Symposia. He has made his home in Davis, CA, with his wife, **Valma**, who is a noted quilter and has earned her fair share of ribbons. He has three sons, Holin, Keith and Jason. Harold is a devoted genealogist, and enjoys 'tinkering' in his workshop. He is a prostate cancer survivor, and is a charter member of the local prostate cancer support group.

## Surname

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

- Abbott** **Norman P. Abbott** (96) of Boulder, Colorado passed away on May 17, 2009. He worked on the Watershed Planning Staff for the Soil Conservation Service in Kansas.
- Baker** Member **Judith K. "Judy" Baker** (65) of Canandaigua, New York passed away on April 11, 2014, at the House of John in Clifton Springs after a brief battle with cancer. She is survived by her brother, **John G. (Sandra Fleisher) Baker, Jr.**; a nephew, a niece, five grandnieces and a one grandnephew. She was a graduate of the University of Rochester. **Judy** worked for 28 years as an administrative officer for USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in various locations in the Northeast, Western US, Great Plains and Washington, D.C. In 1999, **Judy** settled in Canandaigua and worked part-time at the Wood Library from 2000-2013. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church where she served as Treasurer of the Board of Trustees. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Canandaigua Chapter and the Friends of Wood Library. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Wood Library, 134 N. Main St., Canandaigua, NY 14424. Condolences may be offered at [www.johnsonkennedy.com](http://www.johnsonkennedy.com)
- Boehlert** **Edward Boehlert** passed away in February, 2014 in Florida due to pancreatic cancer. **Ed** was a former Purchasing Agent for the Soil Conservation Service in New York.
- Bozeman** **Sara Helen Bozeman** (92) of Plains, GA, passed away on March 4, 2014, just 4 months following the death of her beloved husband, the late **David E. Bozeman**, a retired USDA Soil Conservationist. They were married for 58 wonderful years having two daughters, **Lynn (Marvin) Griggs** and **Diane B. (Roy) Worrell**, 4 grandchildren, and 7 great grandchildren. She was a member of Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains, GA.
- Button** **Helen Connelly Button** (85) of Richmond, Virginia passed away on April 9, 2014 after a second battle with cancer. **Helen** graduated from Longwood College in Farmville, VA and was a retired school teacher. She was predeceased by her son, **Louis Stanley Button III** of Richmond. **Helen** is survived by her husband of 62 years, **Louis Stanley (Curly) Button Jr.**, former State Conservation Engineer, of Richmond. Also surviving are her daughter, **Helen Rebecca (Thomas) Cournow** of Stevensville, Md; sons, **John Connelly (Rosemary) Button** of Madison, NC and **Thomas Robert (Heather) Button** of Millford, VA; a granddaughter and three grandsons. Memorial contributions may be made to the Fellowship Fund at Westminster Canterbury.
- Cooper** **Walter F. Cooper** (80) of Morganton, NC, passed away on March 5, 2014. **Walter** retired in 1988 as Area Conservationist in Waynesville, NC. Prior to transferring to North Carolina in 1979, **Walt** worked in Missouri and several locations in Ohio. He was a native of Kentucky and graduated from Berea College in 1954 with a B.S. degree in Agriculture. On his college graduation day, he married his wife, **Emma**. He served in the U.S. Army in Korea, and upon his return he began his career with the Soil Conservation Service. In addition to having a passion for bluegrass music, Walter was a postmark collector with a collection of over one million postmarks from all over the world. He spent many volunteer hours with the Postmark Collectors Club and at the Postmark Museum in Bellevue, OH. As a result of his hobby and his love of rural places, he visited all 3,144 counties and equivalents in the United States and six continents, including Antarctica. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, **Emma**; daughter **Amy Cooper (Tony) Outlaw** of Atlanta, GA; son **Alan (Janet)** of Great Mills, MD; and four grandchildren.
- Czartoski** **Bernie Czartoski** (71) of Ney, Ohio passed away on April 20, 2014. **Bernie** is survived by his wife of 49 years, **Ruthann (Bittaker)**, four sons and nine wonderful grandchildren. **Bernie** graduated from The Ohio State University College of Agriculture where he was also a flight instructor at Don Scott Field. After graduation, he started the Vocational Agricultural program at Conotton Valley Schools in Sherrodsville, OH. For 31 years he was employed by the USDA, Soil Conservation Service, serving the Area Conservationist for Northwest Ohio and as the Maumee Valley Resource Conservation and Development Coordinator. Charitable donations may be made in Bernie's memory to the following organizations: Defiance Area Foundation to the grandstand fund or Fairview High School. <http://www.defianceareafoundation.org/>, 507 Fifth Street Defiance, Ohio 43512; Tel: 419-782-3130. Cards may be sent to Ruthann Czartoski – 04087 Behnfeldt Road, Ney, Ohio 43549
- Darden** **Ronald Anthony Darden** (72) of Cape Girardeau, MO passed on March 25, 2014, at his home, following a courageous battle with cancer. He earned a bachelor's degree in 1966 and a master's degree in 1973, both at



Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville. **Ron** retired as an Area Conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Survivors include his loving wife, **Kathleen Walch Darden**. He was preceded in death by two unborn children. In lieu of flowers, donations in Ron's memory for the loving and nurturing care of Southeast Hospice in his final days would be appreciated. Mail to 10 Doctors' Park, Cape Girardeau, MO 63703. Online condolences may be made at [fordandsonsfuneralhome.com](http://fordandsonsfuneralhome.com).

- Dilsaver** Honorary Member and Senior Conservationist **Millard F. "Pete" Dilsaver** (98) of Greeley, Colorado passed away on March 1, 2014 at his home at Grace Pointe Assisted Living in Greeley. He was born on a dry land farm three miles northeast of Athol, Kansas. There he attended grade school in a one room school house and graduated high school. Following high school, he enrolled in Kansas State College majoring in Agricultural Engineering. In his junior year, there was a flu epidemic and he was confined to the college hospital. There he met his wife **Agatha Hermon** who was a nurse. Upon completing college, **Pete** was employed by the Soil Conservation Service. He was drafted into the Army in September 1943 and received a 10 day leave the following March before being deployed. Their first child **Evelyn Marie** was born during that leave and both she and **Pete** were baptized together in the Catholic Church. **Pete** was part of the 79th Infantry Division that was in a battle to end the war in Europe where he received the Bronze Star for his services. While in Greeley, **Pete** became a member of the American Legion, VFW, Knights of Columbus Council 2160 and Elks Lodge #809. He served as Grand Knight in Greeley and in Littleton, CO and also District Deputy and was in the 4th Degree of the K of C's. He is preceded in death by his wife, **Aggie** and sons **Michael** and **Roy** and daughter **Judy O'Neill**. He is survived by daughter **Evelyn (Bill) Burke**, son **Ben (Linda)**, daughter-in-law **Jonnie Dilsaver**, son-in-law **Steve (Mari Ann) O'Neill**, and eight grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren, and a great-great grandson. In lieu of flowers Memorial contributions may be made in care of Stoddard Funeral Home, 3205 W. 28th Street, Greeley, Colorado 80634, to St. Mary's Catholic Church in Greeley, Colorado or the Purple Stride Pancreatic Cancer Walk, for Team Dilsaver. Please visit [www.stoddardsunset.com](http://www.stoddardsunset.com) to sign online guestbook.
- Eswaran** **Hariharan Eswaran**, 73, Arlington, VA, died Monday, April 14, 2014 in Virginia Hospital Center, Arlington. A private memorial service will be held at a later date in Malaysia. Hariharan (Hari) Eswaran was born in Kluang, Johore, Malaysia. Hari graduated from English College, Johore, Malaysia and the University of Malaya, Malaysia. He earned a Master's degree and PhD in Soil Science from Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium. He retired from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington D.C., in 2010. As National Leader, World Soil Resources, USDA NRCS, Hari led an international effort providing technical assistance in soil survey, soil conservation and soil fertility. During his 30 year career, he worked with scientists in over 100 countries helping to promote better land management in support of sustainable agriculture world-wide. The Soil Science Society of America made him a Fellow in 1993, and in 2012 he was honored by the International Union of Soil Science with the Guy Smith Medal for Soil Classification. He was the son of the late, E. Harihara Iyer and leaves behind his beloved mother Gomathy Mangalam, four sisters, brothers-in-law, nephews, nieces, and their respective spouses, grand nieces and nephews to mourn his loss.
- Freeman** Member and Senior Conservationist **Theodore George Freeman** (85) of Anchorage, Alaska passed away peacefully on September 10, 2012 at his cabin on the Kenai River in Sterling, Alaska. A long-time Alaskan, he retired from the Soil Conservation Service in 1981 as a District Conservationist. He had also served as a Snow Surveyor.
- Heilman** **Lola Heilman** (82) of Louisville, Kentucky passed away on March 16, 2014. **Lola** was the wife of **Rodney Heilman**, retired SCS resource conservationist. She was a native of Henry County, KY and a member of Westport Road Baptist Church. She is survived by her husband of 59 years, **Rodney Heilman**; daughter, **Anne Veno (Tim)**; a granddaughter, and a great grandson. Memorials may go to the American Cancer Society or charity of your choice.
- Kehne** Senior Conservationist Lewis (**Lew**) **F. Kehne** (96) of Spokane, Washington passed away on March 26, 2014. **Lew** grew up in Winnetoon, Nebraska, attending a small one-room country school and graduating as one of eight seniors from Winnetoon Public High School during an era of Nebraska drought and severe economic depression. He was a veteran of WWII with most of his time spent in the European theatre. He attended Biarritz American University in Biarritz, France for a quarter while waiting to be transported home. **Lew** graduated from the University of Nebraska under the G. I. Bill. In 1950 with a degree in Agricultural Engineering he was employed by the Soil Conservation Service for the next 25 years. He retired in 1975 as Assistant State Conservationist for Watersheds in Spokane, Washington. During his career he also worked in various locations in Nebraska and in Hawaii. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Edna. Lew** and **Edna** had 3 children, **Jon (Peggy)** of Colfax, WA, **Mary (David) Menard** of Spokane, and **Jay (Rita)** of Omak, WA. They had seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.
- Langemeier** Life Member **David L. Langemeier** (71) of Lincoln, Nebraska passed away peacefully at home on March 20, 2014 after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. **David** graduated from the University of Nebraska, receiving his bachelor's and master's degrees in agricultural economics and his Ph.D. in economics. **David** spent his career as an economist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, retiring in 1997. He was an avid golfer and gardener and enjoyed collecting hostas and daylilies. He gave generously of his time as a volunteer, especially to his church and the Nebraska Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, **Sandra**; children, **Matt (Linda) Langemeier** of Littleton, CO, **Beth (Kevin) O'Farrell** of Austin, TX; and four grandchildren. Memorials are suggested to American Bible Society or Lutheran Hour Ministries. Condolences, [www.bmlfh.com](http://www.bmlfh.com).

- Larson** **Member Ewald Joseph Larson** (87) of Venice, Florida passed away on December 9, 2012. He retired from the Soil Conservation Service in 1986 as Chief of Media Services.
- Madden** **Robert (Bob) Joseph Madden** (79) of Kennewick, Washington passed away on December 16, 2013. He graduated from Couer d'Alene High School, Idaho in 1953. He was employed briefly with the National Guard, the Bureau of Public Roads and the USDA Forest Service before joining the Soil Conservation Service with a long career as an Engineering Technician. **Bob** worked in the Columbia Basin area of Washington earning many honorable citations for his engineering skills. He retired from the SCS in 1993. His wives **Carla** and **Eileen** preceded him in death. He is survived by a son, **John Madden**, of Portland, Oregon, and a daughter, **Susan Hottel**, of Kennewick, Washington; three grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.
- McPherson** **Grover "Mack" C. McPherson** (83) of Winston Salem, NC, passed away on April 1, 2014. Grover retired as District Conservationist in the Winston Salem Field Office. Prior to this assignment, he served in several locations in North Carolina including Yadkinville, Brevard, and Salisbury. He was reared on a farm in Columbus County and enlisted in the Army after graduating from high school. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant after graduating from Officers Candidate School (OCS). In 1953 he enrolled at NC State University and graduated in 1957 with a degree in Agricultural Education. **Grover** continued to serve in the Army Reserves from which he retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. After retiring from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, he was appointed to the N.C. Erosion and Sediment Control Commission. **Grover** was a Forsyth County Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor and also served in 2004 as State President of the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. He enjoyed farming with his peach orchard, Christmas tree farm and the family garden. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, **Betty Frances Poindexter McPherson**; daughter **Laura Jane McPherson (John Joseph) McCaskey** and son **John Alexander McCaskey**; son **David Wayne (Vanessa Wrenn) McPherson** and his son **Miles David McPherson** and stepsons **Kyle** and **Joel Shimonaka**.
- Meyer** **Lawrence Edward Meyer** (96) of Muscotah, Kansas passed away February 23, 2014 at Maple Heights Nursing Home, Hiawatha. He graduated from Effingham High School in 1936. **Lawrence** was a U.S Navy veteran serving as a C.B. during World War II. He was a farmer and worked for the Soil Conservation Service for over 22 years, retiring in 1977 as a Construction Inspector at the Overbrook Project Office for the Upper and Lower Wakarusa Watersheds. He was preceded in death by his wife of 74 years, **Gloria Mae Handke** on November 25, 2013. Survivors include a daughter, **Carol Joy (Jeff) Hanson**, Muscotah, a son, **Richard E. (Janice) Meyer**, Overbrook, six grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions are suggested to Trinity Lutheran Church, Holton.
- Miller** **Donald Franklin Miller** (89) of Riverside, California passed away on February 24, 2014 following a stroke on Christmas Eve. **Don** was born in Los Angeles on May 21, 1924, and raised on a Kansas farm and educated in a rural one room school. Don attended Ft. Hays State College for one year before signing with the U.S. Navy and attending Officers School at Northwestern University in Chicago. **Don** was commissioned as an Ensign and made many trips across the Pacific during World War II. Following his Navy career he graduated from Kansas State University, while playing catcher for the Wildcats, earning a degree in Agricultural Engineering and began working for the SCS. In 1961 **Don** advanced to area conservationist in Sacramento, California and retired in 1969. He leaves behind **Betty**, his wife of sixty six years; three sons, a granddaughter, and a grandson.
- Morgan** **Elaine Morgan** (72) of Richmond, Kentucky passed away on April 25, 2014. She was the wife of Taylor Morgan, Jr., a retired SCS engineer. Elaine was preceded in death by a son, **Danny Morgan**. She is survived by her loving husband of 55 years; one daughter, **Robin (Mike) Foley** of Richmond; one son, **John Morgan** of Somerset; three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.
- Morris** Honorary Life Member and Senior Conservationist **William "Buck" Andrew Morris** (92) formerly of Benton, Illinois, passed away on March 29, 2014. **Buck** was a proud WWII US Navy veteran. Upon his return from the war, he taught Agriculture to other returning GI's. He retired as the Franklin County District Conservationist in 1987 after 32 years of service with SCS. He was an active member of his community, serving on the Benton Booster Club. He was also a life member of the VFW and SIU Alumni Association. In addition to his wife of 65 years, **Emma Ernestine "Ernie" Kimmel Morris** is survived by: two daughters and a son-in-law, **Debra & Bill Fleming** of Appleton, WI and **Rhoda Gail Morris** of Tucson, AZ, and three grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Hospice of Southern Illinois.
- Nesser** **David Nesser** (88) of Bellefontaine, Ohio, passed away on March 22, 2014, at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center in Columbus, Ohio after suffering a massive stroke. He is survived by his loving wife of sixty eight years, **Waneta (Bowers) Nesser**; three children; twelve grandchildren; and twelve great grandchildren. **Dave** was a United States Navy WWII Veteran and a graduate of The Ohio State University. He was a soil conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service for thirty years. He had also worked for the Logan County Health District for several years.
- Piowar** Member **Thaddeus "Ted" Piowar** (78) of Allegan, Michigan passed away on August 24, 2013. He graduated from Michigan State University in 1957. He was a veteran of the United States Army, serving as a captain. He was a member of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus for the past 48 years. **Ted** worked for the USDA Soil Conservation Service for more than 38 years, retiring in 1991 as a District Conservationist. During retirement he worked for the Michigan Wildlife Conservancy for 20 years. Surviving are his



wife, **Dolores**; his four children, **Regina, John, Matthew, and Teresa**; three grandchildren; and two great grandchildren

- Poindexter** **Larry Dean Poindexter** (62) of Sallisaw, Oklahoma passed away on March 19, 2014. Larry attended Murray State College and then attended Oklahoma State University and received a bachelor's of science degree in agriculture education in 1973 and a master's degree in agronomy in 1975. Beginning in 1975, **Larry** went to work for the USDA Grain Inspection in Washington, D.C. as a grain inspector. In 1977, he began his lifelong career with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service. This career took him to Arkansas, Texas and Oklahoma. **Larry** retired in January 2008 as water quality/nutrient management specialist from USDA NRCS after 34 years of service. Larry was an active member of Kiwanis Club and Highland Park United Methodist Church in Stillwater. He leaves his wife of 26 years, **Roena**.
- Ray** **Wayne Ray** of Kingsley, Pennsylvania passed away on March 15, 2014 after suffering a massive heart attack as he was getting off a cruise ship. Wayne's last position was coordinator of the Endless County RC&D. Condolences may be sent to **Phyllis Ray**, 5765 Main Street, Kingsley, PA 18826. A memorial service in June 2014 to be announced later.
- Reisenauer** **Trudy R. (Markham) Reisenauer** (69) of Bismarck, North Dakota, passed away on March 31, 2014 after a lengthy battle with respiratory complications. **Trudy** worked for various agencies of the federal government for a career of 31 years, retiring from SCS in April 1994. She is survived by her sister, **Roberta "Bobbi" Campbell**, Seattle, WA; and her brother, **Wally Markham**, Bismarck. She was preceded in death by her husband, **John T. Reisenauer**.
- Serrien** **Celeta M. Serrien** (79) Minneapolis, Kansas passed away on April 12, 2014 at the Good Samaritan Society -Minneapolis. Survivors include her husband of 59 years **Donald**, who worked in the Kansas State Office in Salina, Kansas, before transferring to a field office in the early 60's and retiring in 1985. Other survivors include two sons, two grandchildren, six step-grandchildren, and seven step-great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the V.F.W. Auxiliary Fair Stand Fund or the American Heart Association.
- Smith** **Judy Ann (Ernst) Smith** (71) of Chelan, Washington passed away on March 15, 2014. She was married to Member **Dan Smith** who retired from NRCS as a Team Leader in 2000. **Judy** was a bank branch manager and a homemaker. Survivors include her husband; her sons, **Jeffrey Smith** of Richmond, B.C. and **Scot Smith** of Pocatello, Idaho. A memorial service will be held at a later date.
- Smith** Life Member **Beverly A. Smith** (67) of Lincoln (Prairie Home), Nebraska passed away on February 24, 2010 at her home in Lincoln. She retired in 1997 as a budget analyst for the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service after 36 plus years of service. Survivors include soul mate, **Bob Smith**; daughters and sons-in-law, **Melinda and Leon Igo, Deborah and Jeff Searcey, Theresa and Jason Vanwormer**; son and family, **Phillip Smith**; and eight grandchildren. Memorials in lieu of flowers to St. Patrick's Catholic Church or the American Cancer Society.
- Stinnett** **Dorothy Mae Stinnett** (93) of Fort Scott, Kansas passed away on March 4, 2014, at the Fort Scott Presbyterian Village. She was preceded in death on Nov. 14, 2000 by her husband, **Harold Russell Stinnett**. **Harold** was a soil conservation technician for the Soil Conservation Service at the Mound City, Kansas Field Office, retiring in 1973. During WWII Dorothy worked at the Army Ordinance Plant in Parsons, KS, as an inspector and also in Kansas City for Boeing, inspecting the B29 Super Fortress. **Dorothy** is survived by her daughter-in-law, **Sandy Stinnett** of Fort Scott; a granddaughter, and two great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Good Samaritan Fund at Presbyterian Village and left in the care of the Konantz-Cheney Funeral Home, 15 W. Wall St., P.O. Box 309, Fort Scott, KS 66701. Condolences may be emailed to [expressions@konantz-cheney.com](mailto:expressions@konantz-cheney.com).
- Stroesenreuther** Member **Neil William Stroesenreuther** (82) of Baraboo, Wisconsin (formerly of Lansing, Michigan) passed away on October 3, 2013. **Neil** retired from the Soil Conservation Service in 1989 as the State Soil Scientist in Michigan. He proudly served in the U.S. Navy for 38 years and retired with the rank of CWO4 after serving time in Korea. **Neil** was a member of the American Legion and VFW in Baraboo as well as St. John's Lutheran Church and Shepherd of the Hills in Lansing. Survivors include his children, **Patricia (Martin) Strobel** of Baraboo, **James (Veronica) Stroesenreuther** of Tarzana, CA; and five grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife **Jeannette** and daughter, **Jean**.
- Walstrom** **Jack W. Walstrom** (88) of Salina, Kansas passed away on February 24, 2014, in Lawrence. During World War II, he served with the U.S. Army Air Force, and during the Korean War, he served with the U.S. Air Force. Jack was a member of Christ the King Lutheran Church, Salina. For many years, he worked as a biologist for the Soil Conservation Service and retired in 1986 as a plant materials specialist. He was preceded in death by his wife of 58 years, **Margie Walstrom** (in 2009); a son-in-law, **David Garcia**; and a grandson, **Kevin Howell**. He is survived by three daughters, **Claudia (Rod) Howell** of Haysville, **Jan (Virgil) Dean** of Lawrence, and **Heidi Garcia**, of Lenexa; four grandsons, and five great-grandchildren. The family suggests memorials to Christ the King Lutheran Church, Presbyterian Manor Employees Scholarship Fund or the Salina Animal Shelter.
- Warren** **Myrle (Townsend) Warren** (86) of Mandan, North Dakota passed away on February 17, 2014, at the Baptist Health Care Center, Bismarck, ND. She was the wife of the late **Duncan Warren**, a long-time SCS-er who retired in 1976 as an RC&D coordinator and passed away on March 19, 2010. She is survived by her children, **John (Rebecca) Warren**, Mandan, ND; **Jo Warren**, Santa Fe, NM; **Jeff Warren**, Larkspur, CO; and a granddaughter. She was preceded in death by her husband and an infant son. Memorials may be made to Central Dakota Humane

Society, 2104 – 37<sup>th</sup> St., Mandan, ND; Dakota Woodturners, PO Box 243, Bismarck, ND; or Mandan United Methodist Church, 610 – 12<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Mandan, ND.

## Wilson

Senior Conservationist **Donald V. Wilson** (91) of Greencastle, Indiana, passed away on March 16, 2014. **Don** graduated from Trafford High in 1940 and enlisted in the Navy in 1941. He spent 4 years as a Mechanist Airman 2nd class in the Navy and was honorably discharged in 1945. Afterwards, he attended Utah State University for 4 years where he received his BS in Agronomy. His first position with the USDA was in Miles City, Montana where he met his wife, **Donna**. He spent 30+ years with the Soil Conservation Service, retiring an Area Conservationist in 1987. After retiring, **Don** became an active member in the V.F.W. Local 1550 where he served as Commander in Chief from 1996-98 and as a member of the Honor Guard where he gave back to the servicemen by honoring their deaths. Surviving family members include his wife **Donna**, children **Donna Lee**, **Duncan**, **Janice**, **Scott**, eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



*Male Cardinal bids goodbye to winter.*



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