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NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter for Retired SCS and NRCS Employees

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NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

John Stierna

Congress—Right now the majority in the House is trying to determine who will be their leader for the months ahead. It is likely to be **Paul Ryan** from the 1st Congressional district in Wisconsin—covering southeastern WI from south of Milwaukee to the Illinois border, and from Lake Michigan to Janesville. Once it is decided who will become Speaker of the House, then the Congress will need to move forward on appropriations (likely an omnibus bill, but could end up being a continuing resolution), raising the debt ceiling, enacting a highway bill, passing a number of other must-pass bills, and in the process, avoid shutting down the Federal government. The current leadership of both the House and Senate promised to avoid a government shutdown, but it remains to be seen if they are successful.

If an omnibus appropriation moves forward sometime before the current CR expires on December 11th, conservation funding will continue for NRCS, but will likely still take a hit because of the caps imposed on farm bill conservation programs, primarily EQIP, compared to levels mandated in the 2014 farm bill. The conservation operations account for NRCS may also have some cuts as described in the June and August issues of this newsletter. Now is a difficult time for NRCS and any governmental agency with pressing workload, but under significant funding constraints.

Flooding in the Carolinas—NRCS has been working to help farmers recover in the areas affected by the tragic flooding in South and North Carolina. The Farm Service Agency and NRCS are playing important roles helping farmers overcome not only the financial losses, but also to repair damaged agricultural land. Through the [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#) (EQIP), NRCS is providing financial assistance to repair and prevent excessive soil erosion that resulted from the heavy rainfall and flooding from this event. It is expected that applied conservation practices will protect the land and aid in recovery, build the natural resource base, and may help mitigate loss in any future event. Since South Carolina flooding was a declared natural disaster with a risk to life and property, NRCS can assist local government sponsors with the cost of implementing recovery efforts like debris removal and streambank stabilization to address natural resource concerns and hazards through the [Emergency Watershed Protection Program](#).

Honeybees—USDA announced up to \$4 million in financial assistance on private lands to improve food sources for honeybees, primarily in Midwestern and northern plains states. Honey bees pollinate an estimated \$15 billion worth of crops annually, including more than 130 fruits and vegetables. One out of every three bites of food in the United States depends on honey bees and other pollinators. But honey bee populations have suffered significant declines in recent years. This assistance, primarily through EQIP, is providing assistance to landowners for planting wildflowers, native grasses and cover crops like buckwheat, mustard, clover and sunflowers that provide high value food for honey bees.

Sage grouse—The September 22nd announcement by the Fish and Wildlife Service that the Greater Sage Grouse does not warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act has now been touted as a major success of voluntary conservation efforts by USDA and many partners in the west. For more information, go to

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/home/?cid=STELDEVB1027671>

Waters of the United States (WOTUS)—The legal process continues on this controversial EPA and COE rule that would define the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act. A court in North Dakota blocked implementation of the rule in the 13 states that filed suit in that region, but the rule was implemented for the rest of the country on August 28th. However, on October 9th, the sixth circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati issued an injunction blocking implementation of the rule in the rest of the country. The ruling said that the plaintiffs “had demonstrated a substantial possibility of success on the merits of their claims” and that a stay will not cause undue harm to either the states or the environment. Those opposed to the rule contend it greatly expands the authority of the EPA under the Clean Water Act. With the rule providing any expansion of jurisdiction under the law, farmers and

ranchers have expressed concern not only about EPA permitting, but also about citizen law suits that are authorized as part of current law. Expect for this issue to continue in the courts for some time.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)—In September, NRCS invited about 164 groups to submit full proposals to be considered for awards under the RCPP. These invitations are the result of NRCS review of hundreds of pre-proposals submitted in July. The program leverages the Federal investment in conservation implementation by coordinating with partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners to address priority resource concerns. In this round of RCPP awards, NRCS is committing up to \$235 million to improve the nation's water quality, combat drought, enhance soil health, support wildlife habitat and protect agricultural viability through the RCPP.

Soil Health—NRCS released another you-tube video in the soil health series. It can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XzffNG5mnQ>. Take a few minutes to watch Dr. Ray Weil discussing "The Science of Soil Health: Going Deeper."

Conservation Reserve Program—There will be an event on December 2nd to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Conservation Reserve Program. USDA officials, the Farm Service Agency, NRCS, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders will be participating. This is a good time to celebrate the multiple benefits of CRP over the years. For the many field people who helped implement the program in 1985 and the other early years of the program, thank you for your service.

COLA—There will not be any Cost of Living Adjustment for Social Security recipients for 2016. As determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there was no increase in the Consumer Price Index from the third quarter of 2014 to the third quarter of 2015. Therefore, under existing law, there can be no COLA in 2016.

Late breaking news

Budget deal—The budget deal between the White House and Congressional leadership announced this week would make changes to certain crop insurance provisions of current law. It would cap the rate of return for insurance providers at just under 9 percent, compared to the current 14.5 percent. This would be one source of budget savings. Other areas include cuts in spending for certain aspects of Medicare and Social Security disability benefits. The deal needs to be passed by the Congress, and that may occur this last week of October.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Cecil Currin

The board is still contemplating our next move for solving the ARCSE fiscal crisis. The response to questions raised in the last newsletter was minimal about going completely to an eNewsletter or charging a fee to those wishing to have a hard copy. With the exception of board members, I only received one letter concerning the proposed actions. Thank you Mr. **Robert S. MacLaughlan** of Lincoln, Nebraska for taking the time to write.

The response was certainly not overwhelming, but who actually reads the President's message anyway? Most folks go directly to retirees activities in states or regions of interest or maybe to the Notes from the Potomac. I may have even been guilty of skimming over a President's message or two in the past. My apologies to the past Presidents.

So, we still have the same problem before us. We will go broke if we fail to address the problem. An increase in dues, a charge for hard copy, or going to all eNewsletter distribution could cause a decrease in membership. How can we minimize the negative impact to our members and to ARCSE? The members need to tell us. Communication with each impacted member seems to be indicated. Since I can't have a personal conversation with all 321 members receiving a printed copy of the newsletter, I will send a letter to each of them. The information requested will be an updated email address, ability to receive an eNewsletter, willingness to shift to the eNewsletter, willingness to pay additional fees for printed copies, and whether we need to go to a less frequent newsletter to save printing costs. We will be guided by the responses to this individual mailing.

We have not yet found a solution to our declining membership. Until we do, just ask! When you visit with other retirees, invite them to join ARCSE. If they are already members, they will tell you.

Thank you for your support.

A BIT OF HISTORY

Douglas Helms, Historian

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SOIL CONSERVATION COMES TO TOWN

Recently the **Washington Post** announced the death of **Robert E. Simon Jr.**, age 101. He was a resident of Reston, the visionary "new town" he founded and developed in northern Virginia. In the village clusters of shops and homes, residents relied less on the automobile for daily chores than did many other suburban dwellers.

Fortunately, the Northern Virginia Conservation District had already requested the Soil Conservation Service to assign a soil conservationist to work on these urbanizing areas. The county required that a conservation plan accompany the building permit application. The Reston developers were among the first to request district assistance. In a special issue of the **Soil Conservation** magazine (November 1966) **Glenn B. Anderson and Carolyn Johnston** wrote about the conservation measures in the new town of Reston:

After building a 35-acre lake, planned with SCS technical assistance, as a focal point for the new business and residential area, Reston developers went on to establish a number of other conservation measures. They include (1) a nursery to save thousands of plants that would otherwise be destroyed during construction; (2) the planting of some 30,000 tree seedlings on abandoned and eroded farmland; (3) an excellent water-disposal system ranging from elaborate storm sewers to simple grassed waterways; (4) bridle and fire trails with conservation features; (5) a comprehensive plan for the management of forest lands (Reston has a professional forester on its staff); (6) an elaborate irrigation system for the area; (7) nature centers and the improvement of wildlife habitat by planting special food and cover plants; and (8) a continuing lake management program.



Reston, VA . . . city with a conservation plan

The many tools developed over several decades of SCS's working on farms and in the watershed programs were adapted to the developing suburbs. Simon and his colleagues quickly recognized the wisdom using them in new town development.

Honorary Members

By Ron Marlow, Secretary Treasurer

The following members of ARCSE have celebrated or will be celebrating their 91st birthdays by the end of 2015. With this milestone, each of these members becomes an Honorary Member. As an Honorary Member, no dues are required for calendar year 2016 and thereafter. ARCSE currently has 61 Honorary Members.

| First Name | Last Name | State |
|--------------|-----------|-------|
| James D | Abbott | TX |
| Everette G | Barefoot | NC |
| H Glen | Buchta | NE |
| James O | Burkeen | KY |
| Joe B | Camp | TX |
| Harlan G | Collins | WA |
| Charles H | Dingle | NH |
| Ralph E | Gray | OH |
| Charles F | Lamborn | OH |
| Benny | Martin | SC |
| Fred C | Sisk | IN |
| M J (Whitey) | Spears | AR |
| Maurice | Stout | NE |
| Irwin | Ten Haken | WI |
| R Dale | Webber | UT |
| Don | Westom | OR |

Dues and Contributions for 2016

By Ron Marlow, Secretary Treasurer

2016 Dues Notice to Members receiving the newsletter by hard copy: A dues notice is included with the hard copy newsletter (**green page insert**). Please follow the instructions on the notice concerning the address label information to determine if your dues are due.

Please Note: Pending a future decision by the Board, it is suggested that all members (both life and annual dues paying) receiving hard copies of the newsletter make a minimal contribution of \$12.00.

This will help offset ARCSE annual costs of nearly \$22.00 per member to print and distribute the hard copy newsletter. (Reference the analysis below and the Sept/Oct newsletter for further explanation of ARCSE income and expenses).

2016 Dues Notice to Members receiving the electronic newsletter: A dues notice is not included with the electronic newsletter. Members receiving the electronic newsletter whose dues are due will receive a separate email from ARCSE with a dues notice attached (**WATCH FOR IT**). Life Members and members who have already paid their 2016 dues will receive an email assuring you that your membership dues are paid.

| | |
|---|---------|
| Average annual expenses, per member, receiving hard copy newsletter | \$31.08 |
| Average annual expenses, per member, receiving the electronic newsletter | \$ 9.12 |
| Average annual difference in expense (hard copy vs. electronic copy) (difference) | \$21.96 |

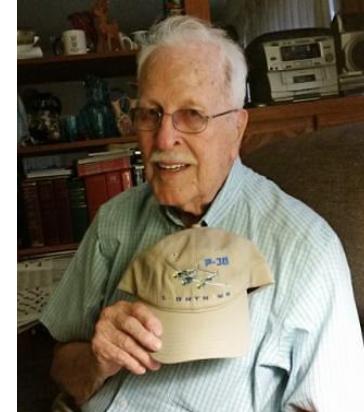
ARIZONA

Karl Klingelhofer, ARCSE Representative

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Gary Nordstrom, Prescott Valley, AZ—This fall **Jayne** and I attended my 55th high school reunion in southeast Minnesota. Following that get-together, we drove up to northern Minnesota and spent five days with nine of my college classmates from the college of forestry at the University of Minnesota class of 1964 and their spouses. It was fun to see everyone and learn of the different directions we all took following graduation.

Marion Strong, Tempe AZ—I don't have any exotic travels to report. Much of my time is spent making and keeping doctors' appointments. I am on dialysis now. The system I am using is called "peritoneal dialysis." If I travel, the machine goes with me. I have limited my driving to trips to the grocery, to church, and to restaurants. **Marcia** drives me to most medical appointments. I am quite fortunate to be able to do the things I do at my age. If anyone has an occasion to be in Tempe, I am inviting you to stop by and visit. **Karl Klingelhofer**, Tucson—I had to go to Phoenix on the 18th and called **Marion** to see if I could stop by and visit him for a half hour on my way home. He said "great," and we had a good visit. He met me at the door and I asked if I could take his picture, below. He is 97 years old. If you remember previous reports, he was a p-38 fighter pilot in North Africa during WW II and had to bail out once.



Marion Strong

Bob Addison, Portal AZ—Not much activity here but will comment on one item. A short time ago a number of retired military veterans developed a convoy of WWII vintage vehicles, some 60-plus, and starting in Wash. D.C., planned a trip across the U.S. ending in San Diego, CA, with various stops along the way for the entertainment of people along the way. One of the stops which I attended was here in Rodeo NM. I was one of four WWII veterans who were invited and recognized. I was the oldest of these four veterans. The stop was for lunch, organized locally and through contributions from both the areas around Rodeo, NM, and Portal AZ, just 10 miles apart. This was a gathering of some 250 to 300 people. Needless to say, I was impressed with the outpouring of people from this somewhat remote area for the convoy stop, the viewing of vintage vehicles, the recognition of WWII veterans, etc. (Bob is 98 years old.- K's note.) Best wishes and thanks for continuing as AZ's rep.

Glen Johnson, Glendale AZ—Another beautiful summer in North Dakota comes to a close with golden fall leaves and final stage of harvest. Now it's time to start packing the bags and get ready to head south again. I am having cataract surgery, which is going well, otherwise good health and remaining "active."

Ken and Connie Cookson, Tucson—Recently spent a week in the Washington, DC area. Their activities were limited because of the rain from the hurricane. They visited the **Ford Theater** and went through the renovated museum. This was of particular interest since Ken had just finished reading the book, **Manhunt** which was about the hunt for **John Wilkes Booth**. They visited the new **Air and Space Museum** near Dulles Airport. It is mammoth and contains the Concorde, Enola Gay, Discovery space shuttle, and the world's fastest plane (SR-71) along with numerous other planes from various periods. A great place to visit on a rainy day. They also went to the **National Archives** which is a fascinating place. It includes much more than the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, Bill of Rights, etc. Not enough time for one of the real jewels in Washington.



Bill Fobair at Ft. McHenry, hoisting the Colonial flag of the first thirteen colonies.

They also spent a week in **Colonial Williamsburg**. They listened to presentations by Patrick Henry, Martha and George Washington, George Wythe, and Edith Cumbo, a black free person. They were all in character and costume. Following their presentations, the audience could ask questions. The responses were always in character and very spontaneous. This required

the actors to have a great understanding about their character, and all of them did. They really made it much easier to visualize what it was like at that time.

They did a tour of the **Shirley Plantation**, about 10 miles west of Williamsburg, which has been in the Carter family since 1650. The 2nd and 3rd floors of the house are still occupied by Carter descendants. The original plantation had thousands of acres.

Lastly, they visited with their daughter and son-in-law in Gaithersburg, MD.

ARKANSAS

Robert Cantrell,
ARCSE Representative
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Submitted by Ralph Mashburn.

The Annual SCS/NRCS Retirees Meeting and Luncheon was held on September 24th in the Arkansas 4-H Center at Ferndale, west of Little Rock. We had 28 attendees (22 retirees, three spouses, an NRCS State Conservationist, two Attorney General's Office speaker and guest).



Back Row from Left to Right: Jim Thomas, Bill Townsend, Bill Garner, Ray Linder, Burthel Thomas, Ronnie Keener, Jerry McGary, Dick Babeu, Robert Cantrell, John Henry, Ford Thomas. **Second Row from Left to Right:** Helen Garr, Vickie Lamia, Susie Harris, Dru Cantrell, Rose Webb, *Kathy Linder, *Nancy Mashburn, Ralph Mashburn, Lori Babeu. **Front:** George Dahlke. **Not pictured:** Whitey Spears, Pat Clinton, Marion Mathis, *Treva Mathis, Mike Sullivan. *Spouses



Mike Sullivan, State Conservationist, gave a report on recent NRCS happenings. Whitey Spears, left (the past STC), listens with interest but, as all us retirees know, he has no worries about those things anymore.



Robert Cantrell agreed to be our Arkansas president for one more year. We all know that he was really agreeing for his wife, Dru, to do all the work as she has done this past year. THANKS!, Dru.

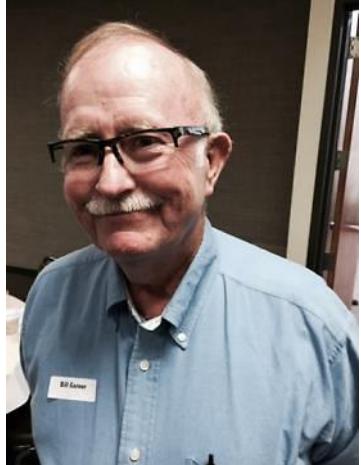
Swapping "tall" stories is what the guys seem to enjoy the most. **Ray Linder** won this year with a story of his granddaughter having a dog that sings, "I Wish You a Merry Christmas." **Ralph Mashburn** verified this by claiming he saw a recording of the dog singing sent on email. Years ago, Ray told a similar story about his dog that would smile at his jokes. No one could verify that story.



Dru Cantrell, Vickie Lamia, Susie Harris, Helen Garr, and, Kathy Linder added friendly beauty, a welcoming attitude, and more realistic and personal stories than the fellows could. Vickie volunteers at the NRCS state office. Susie volunteers at the Little Rock Police Department. She lives in town and still has her three chickens.



Bill Townsend (left) and **Bill Garner** (right) are still staying busy, each with some soil consulting, but they say they have no pressures to worry about.





Burthel Thomas has taken up farming in the southwest part of the state. That is an area famous for world record watermelons. He has eight acres of watermelons but none of record size as yet. He claimed to have made a good crop this year in spite of some dry summer weather.

Rose Webb Volunteers at the Little Rock Library with the Adult Literacy program.

She has two students, one working on a GED, and the other wants to improve her reading skills.

Rose also volunteers with AR Kids Read at Geyer Springs Elementary School where she reads to the children.



Marion and Treva Mathis have taken some interesting trips this year. In June they travelled to Alaska. During August they were in Ireland. They saw many dairy cattle and thousands of sheep. Marion said he didn't know exactly how many sheep. Every time he tried to count them, he fell asleep.



CALIFORNIA

Bill Ward, ARCSE Representative

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Hello to all our fellow SCS/NRCS retirees across the country! We continue to meet monthly for both a breakfast and lunch get-together for all retirees who can make it. Those who made it to our October 7th luncheon included **Helen Flach, Pat Grover, Stan Moorhead, Ron and Carolyn Schultz, Walt Sykes, Harold Honeyfield and Bill Ward**. Helen Flach recently enjoyed a three-week visit to Brazil. She is a member of Friendship Force, an international organization committed to furthering world peace by forming international friendships. She was hosted by Friendship Force families in Salvador, Bahia, and Sao Jose do Rio Preto, Sao Paulo, and also visited Rio de Janeiro and Iguazu Falls. Here's a photo of her at Iguazu Falls.



Helen Flach at Iguazu Falls, Brazil

I (Bill Ward) continue to keep busy playing music as a member of the Western Lights Trio. We had a very special performance in September providing music for attendees of an international conference on food production hosted by UC Davis. We were the featured entertainment for their Social Night and Gala Dinner at the very prestigious California Railroad Museum. Here are two of our pictures from the event.



The Western Lights Trio playing at the California Railroad Museum



The Western Lights Trio at the California Railroad Museum

Following is a link to the University website describing all aspects of the week-long conference. From this site you can go to "Event Photographs" and see many university photographs from the entire week-long conference, including their photos taken on the night we performed at the railroad museum.

<http://fresh-cut2015.ucdavis.edu/>

We learned a number of new train songs for this event at the railroad museum. Unfortunately we could not record any of our music at the event, but here is one of those new train songs from a practice session before the event.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=88poy6x-EJU>

The Ballad of Casey Jones

My wife **Dana and I** became grandparents for the 4th time with the birth of our grandson, **Liam James Ward** born on October 2nd, 2015. Everything went well, Liam coming into this world a healthy baby boy at 9 lbs, 14 oz. He is doing well as is his Mom and Dad.



My Son Jimmy with his "new Son" Liam



Mom and Dad with their new baby Boy

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

FLORIDA

Submitted by Ida Cuthburton

Email: idacuth23@comcast.net

A Sunday School Lesson

The thought comes to me Thursday evening, August 27th: **Jimmy Carter** may indeed teach Sunday school on the 29th, since it is the last Sunday of the month. Of course, only he will know that, and perhaps not until Sunday. I want to be there if he teaches. But hurricane Erika threatens Florida. Should I leave? The Plains, GA website provides valuable information about arrival at the church. Some clothes go into my suitcase. Apparently my decision is made.

Saturday morning I drive to Americus, then to Plains. Even before reaching the first welcome center I see campaign-style signs along the roadside:

“Jimmy Carter for Cancer Survivor.” The first stop in town is the former high school, now a National Park Service historic site. Here one can see and photograph the President’s **Resolute** desk, Nobel Peace Prize, portrait (and Rosalynn’s, too), along with many interesting exhibits. Here I learn about Archery, the farm community where Jimmy grew up.

Archery, three miles west, is the next stop. On the way I pass the present Carter home, but it is hidden by the trees. The Secret Service shelter stands at the property’s corner, the only clue to the location. The Carter farmstead also is a national historic site: house, barn, chicken coop, windmill – all here, along with the farm store that **James Earl Carter, Sr.** established. Across the road lie the railroad tracks that young Jimmy walked to reach Plains to sell small bags of peanuts.

Returning to Plains, I find Maranatha Baptist Church. The few cars parked alongside no doubt belong to parishioners who ready the place for tomorrow’s service. There is no custodial staff. Members serve in that capacity. “Downtown” I visit the Depot, which had served as the campaign headquarters, with more videos and exhibits, and spot **Billy Carter’s** gas station across the way. The block of brick buildings that formerly were businesses and warehouses now offer antiques and souvenirs for visitors.

Promptly at 10am **Rosalynn** and two companions enter through the door on the left, while **Jimmy** enters from the right. Cameras go up, people stay down. Then he asks what state people are from. He moves from his left to center to right sections, then announces 27 states.

He begins by mentioning his health and the medical regime of boosting his own immune system to address the brain cancers. About 10% of his liver had been resected. Then to his lesson. He spoke for about 45 minutes without notes, on forgiveness as the first step to reconciliation. He gave examples from his actions as President, including the Camp David Accord and signed treaty with mainland China, and the post-Presidential agreement, US-North Korea.

After a 15-minute pause, the regular church service began. **Rosalynn** and **Jimmy** sit down front. At the end the traditional Baptist call goes unanswered. As I approach them during the photo session, I say, “Mr. President, that was a wonderful speech.” (I had rehearsed silently, saying “lesson,” but “speech” is the word that came out, unfortunately.) He responds, “Thank you,” and puts up his fist for a fist-bump.

The annual Captain **Ernie Todd**’s Steinhatchee, FL fishing event was held again this year in October. What started out with four hardy fishermen planning to brave the elements for a week on the water ended with three old guys fishing for three days in beautiful weather. Due to family illnesses, sick pets and a variety of other reasons, **Ernie** (AL) was joined only by **Billy Milliken** (KY) and **Bob Halstead** (FL) for a great fishing experience. During the trip the trio caught a large variety of salt water species, enjoyed great meals, and spun many a yarn about the good old days in SCS. Plans are now being laid for next year’s event.



Ida Cuthburton, President Jimmy Carter, Rosalyn Carter



Ernie Todd (AL), Billy Milliken (KY), Bob Halstead (FL) with one day's catch.

ILLINOIS

Dale Benz, ARCSE Representative

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Fifteen retirees and guests attended a lunch and enjoyed visiting in Champaign on October 1st. Attending were **Elsie Campbell, Jim Evans, Wiley Scott, Jim and Bonnie McQuilken, Dave Dalzell, Bob McLeese, Ray Coombes, Ben Mingo, Frank and Barb Carroll, Leo Downing, Don Smith, Dale and Nancy Benz**.

Dale Benz discussed the 2016 FEHB Plan rates and the potential Medicare rate increase for non-Social Security recipients. He received a note from **Lee Bridgman** that he and **Nancy** were going to a school reunion and couldn't be with us. **Judy Velazquez** called and said that they would be in Miami and wouldn't be back in time for the gathering.

Leo Downing retired in 1985 and has traveled to Alaska, Hawaii, Germany, France, Belgium, and taken three Caribbean cruises since retirement. He also has volunteered at the Danville hospital. We are sorry to hear of Leo's wife, **Esther**'s passing in June. Leo's daughter has moved in with Leo, and he said her cooking is great.

Bob McLeese said he and **Rosie** were going to Hawaii for a ten-day trip. Bob is still refereeing basketball games, and Bob also does some soil investigations. He thinks business is picking up since **Les Bushue** quit doing soil investigations, and **Earl Voss** does fewer than he used to. At 88 years of age why not slow down a little!

Wiley Scott told us he has joined the "bone-on-bone club," that is, in the knee joint. He is checking out his options such as do nothing or join the knee replacement club. Good luck, Wiley. He told us that his oldest grandson in Nashville, TN, has a degree in music engineering and was completing his last quarter of school in Nashville. He was hired to pull a 1964 Airstream trailer for **Miranda Lambert** for her tours across the country. His wife has a degree in marketing, and they also hired her. So they got to go coast-to-coast touring with Miranda Lambert for a year!

Jim McQuilken said he is adding on to his woodworking shop. Be careful, Jim, this woodworking may become a career! Jim is going to Colorado in October to visit his daughter and granddaughter and do some "jobs" for them. Jim is taking the train to Colorado so that eliminates carrying a lot of tools for these jobs. Clever thinking, Jim.

Jim Evans said he is cancer-free after having a tumor in his bladder a year ago. Jim told of his treatment with the TB virus. Most of us had not heard of this, but two other retirees also had bladder cancer, and the TB virus treatment was also used on them. Apparently it works, as all of them said they were cancer-free.

Dave Dazell said he had a vertigo attack about three months ago but is doing fine now. He said with vertigo the whole world spins around you. Sounds like the days you played softball, Dave, you just kept going in circles!

Elsie Campbell explained what golf-ball-size hail can do to your home. A hail storm hit the town where Elsie lives in April, and most roofs and gutters had to be replaced in her neighborhood. I guess that is why we carry insurance.

Ray Coombes spends a lot of time with his grandchildren at sporting events all over Illinois. He attended his first pro-basketball game last season in Indianapolis. Does that make you a Pacers fan, Ray?

Dale Benz described what a large dairy farm is these days. He and **Nancy** toured the Fairoaks Dairy in Indiana recently. Fairoaks Dairy is the umbrella organization of 11 dairy farms, with each farm milking 3,000 cows three times a day. They milk 24 hours a day in a carousel milking parlor that holds 72 cows. The carousel is slowly turning and when a cow is finished milking, she steps off and another cow steps on the carousel. Each farm digests the waste (manure) from the herd and burns the methane to produce enough electricity for the whole farm. This was a very impressive operation and appeared to be well managed and very clean.

The next gathering in Champaign for retirees is April 7th, 2016. Put the date on your calendar and join us in April.

IOWA

Mark Jensen, ARCSE Representative [NEW]

Email: amjens1@gmail.com

The Des Moines Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI) was held on July 19-24. A group of conservation partners including SWCS, NRCS, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (Division of Soil Conservation and Water Quality), Conservation Districts of Iowa, local Soil Conservation districts, and the IDOT Roadside Program Staff hand out free water, bananas, and postcards to riders along the route. **Duane Miller**, along with his daughter **Jill** and grand-daughters **Tabitha** and **Samantha**, participated in handing out these items on Monday of the ride (July 20) for at least the 11th year! In addition, Duane and Tabitha served Wednesday through Friday as "Van Masters." The Van Masters haul all the gear from site to site for each day of the ride. In addition, the Van Masters pick up 560 pounds of bananas to be handed out each day! As more and more people communicate electronically, one might think postcards would be an outdated idea. However, this year riders sent 7,500 conservation postcards, a project record. Duane said, "It is truly amazing as riders look for our tent site every day and actually from year to year! It is a great way to get the conservation message out and chat with folks from all over the world. A minimum of 10,000 registered riders are on the route every day along with many daily or unregistered riders which may expand the total to 20,000 or more!"

The week before RAGBRAI, Duane Miller, Jill, Tabitha and Samantha participated in Project AWARE (A Watershed Awareness and River Expedition), where more than 430 folks in canoes float down a different river in Iowa each year and pick up trash. This

year, 30.1 tons of trash was removed by the group from the Wapsipincon River in eastern Iowa. This project is primarily sponsored by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and many private sponsors.

When **Eldon Weber** retired from NRCS, his interest in conservation and education didn't end. During his years with SCS/NRCS, he gained firsthand experience in recognizing that many kids did not know where our food came from or the importance of protecting our soil and water resources. Eldon authored a program called Pizz-A-Thon while working at Iowa State University from 1995–1998. Since then, he has spent hundreds of hours perfecting the program at schools in Cedar Rapids, the Quad Cities, and Ames. The Pizz-A-Thon program focuses on teaching kids where their food comes from. It does this by having teams develop what they think will be the best selling pizza of the future. They research the ingredients back through processing, to jobs on the farm, to the livestock, and finally into the soil where they experiment to find the value of using conservation practices to protect our food producing resources. In competition, teams bake their pizzas and present a marketing report where sponsors judge the results and determine winners. Eldon reports that this is an ideal conservation education program for soil and water conservation districts, partnering with the NRCS Earth Team program, where kids have fun learning math, science, art, and language arts in a "real world" mock business. In August, Eldon conducted a Pizz-A-Thon Workshop for selected NRCS staff from Iowa and Kansas. He is hopeful that this will become a nationwide program that is used by soil and water conservation districts to help educate kids around the country. If you are interested in this program and would like to learn more about it, you can go to the Pizz-A-Thon web site at www.pizz-a-thon.com.



ISU student showing Pizz-A-Thon kids the various stages of corn growth and the importance of soil and water conservation.



ISU Dairy Farm tour where kids saw a 400-cow milking operation and learned how cheese on their pizza was processed from milk.

Eldon and Jeannie Weber recently had a family picture taken with the Iowa State flag. It was special for them to get the picture which included four ISU family alumni. The family members had quite an age spread with Jeannie's mother from Ames who is 95 to Brad's baby, **Brody**, who is 11 months old. Brad's family lives in Dallas, TX.

A retiree coffee group in Ames meets every other Wednesday. The group meets at the west HyVee store on Lincoln Way at 9am. After solving many of the world's problems over coffee, this group becomes a lunch group as they head on over to Hickory Park for lunch. Some of the folks who make up this group are **Robin Wisner**, **Herb Wilson**, **Chuck Fisher**, **Ron and Mary Kuehl**, **Roger Greenough**, **Roger Link**, **Tom Fenton**, **Sterling (Sam) Shreve**, and **Eldon and Jeannie Weber**. **Sam Shreve** tells me that all retirees and spouses are more than welcome to join them. You may contact either **Sam or Robin Wisner** to find out when the next Wednesday coffee is scheduled. It is my understanding that when a regular member misses a Wednesday they must bring an excuse from their Geriatrician!

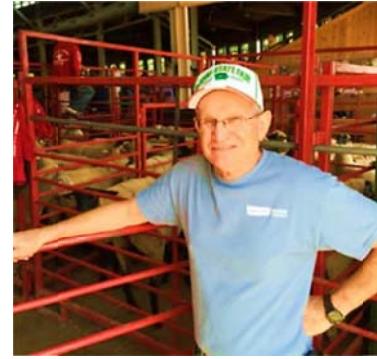


Eldon and Jeannie Weber's family picture showing their Iowa State colors.

Last January **Denny Peterson** underwent a successful cornea transplant. On July 9th, he had a second transplant to fix up the other eye. It is in the process of healing. Denny says that he can see better than he's been able to for many years. As a result of

his successful corneal transplants, the Ankeny Lions Club asked him to give a talk at their September 4th meeting about his experiences, both about his professional life and the surgeries. Denny started working for SCS as a draftsman in 1958 and retired in 1994. In 1985 he started working part time for some patent attorneys. After retiring, he continued that job and is still doing some drafting for them. He estimates that he has prepared the drawings for around 500 patents. It's no wonder that his eyes developed problems! In addition to doing drafting, Denny has done a lot of volunteering. He volunteered for the Des Moines School District for 14 years. In 1998, he was awarded the Volunteer of the Year from the Des Moines Education Association.

Everyone, well at least most everyone in Iowa, knows that Iowa has one of the biggest and best State Fairs in the country. The Fair always has a lot of livestock, both from 4-H members and from producers around the state and country. The Pavilion has been the home of thousands of livestock judging events and shows over the years. **Art Bryant's** uncle became the Superintendent of the Pavilion in the 1950s, and the family has been involved with the operation of the livestock events ever since. Art retired in November of 1997 and began helping at the Fair in 1998 as part of the Livestock Pavilion Crew. I call his crew the Pooper Scooper Crew, although perhaps they don't really do much of that. This is his 17th year of being part of that group. He told me that he has met a lot of politicians, celebrities, and livestock owners over the years. One of many highlights came when **John McCain** was running for President. Art had a good visit with Mr. McCain and later was interviewed by some television folks. As a result of that discussion, Art got his 15 minutes of fame when his interview aired on some TV programs. Art said he works a lot of 12 to 15-hour days during the fair. This starts a couple of days before the fair starts as there are so many events that a lot of 4-H judging begins early. Then the fair goes for 11 days. He then has 50 weeks to rest up for the next one! While Art keeps busy at the livestock show rings, **Mary Jane**, Art's wife, works at the fair also. She works at one of the fair entrance gates selling and taking tickets.



Art Bryant behind the chutes getting ready for the Mutton Busting competition.



Draft Horse competition at the Iowa State Fair.



And later in the day working one of the entrances to the Draft Horse Show.

The annual Iowa NRCS golf tournament was held on August 28th at the American Legion golf course in Marshalltown. Usually there are a few retirees who participate in the tournament, but **Lynn Betts** was the only retiree who dragged out his clubs this year. After about a two-hour rain delay, the golfing started. It was interrupted several times by short downpours throughout the day. Lynn and his partner, Jason Johnson, won second place. **Dana Holland and Rick Trine** won the tournament. Lynn pointed out that this course is Dana's "home" course. I'm not sure if that mattered, but ...? After retiring, Lynn and his wife **Candy** started a company called Publication Services to do freelance writing and photography work. This work has kept them quite busy over the years. Lynn has done some writing and photography for **Our Iowa** magazine and for farm publications like **Wallaces Farmer** and its sister magazines. A couple of other well known magazines that he has done work for are **Progressive Farmer** and the **Corn and Soybean Digest**. Some of the photography work that Lynn has done for various individuals and companies has been published in books. He said that it is very rewarding to have some of his work published. Lynn has also contracted to do some video work. He has worked on projects for Iowa, California, and the NRCS National Office. Even with all the work that Lynn and

Candy do, their most fun activities are with their two kids and 5½ grandkids who all live in the Chicago area. The ½ will become number 6 early next year!



Dana Holland (left) and Rick Trine, winners of the annual NRCS golf tournament.



Lynn Betts with his golf “uniform” at the very wet NRCS Golf Tournament. He said this rainsuit would have fit better if he was a foot or so taller, but he kept dry!

In mid-October, **Volney Smith** and his daughter, **Kathy**, travelled to Denver, CO, to attend Volney's grand-niece's wedding reception and a family gathering. On the way home, they took a break from driving and stopped to enjoy the Archway near Kearney, NE. The Archway spans 310 feet over Interstate 80. It presents 170 years of transportation history through many interesting displays and stories.

Our retiree Christmas party will be on Thursday, November 12th, at the Machine Shed Restaurant by Living History Farms. We will gather at 11am and begin eating at 11:30. The Machine Shed is located just east of I35/80 on Hickman Road (Exit 125) in West Des Moines. Please join us. We look forward to seeing you!

KANSAS

Deanne Lull, ARCSE Representative

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How quickly one's life can be changed. Since I was diagnosed with breast cancer early in August, it has been a flurry of tests, doctor appointments, and surgery. I have been very blessed. The cancer was caught early. I am now on the last leg of this journey by receiving radiation treatments into December.

Daniel Denneler turned 90 years young on July 27th, 2015. His career as a civil engineer had spanned 35 years when he retired in 1987 from the Hays Area Office Technical Staff. At that time he was a civil engineer headquartered in Colby. He and **Margaret** have remained in Colby where for the past 25 years **Dan** has been the volunteer caretaker of the Catholic cemetery.

Kansas retirees stay busy with volunteering, traveling, hobbies, and family. Here are a few highlights. The **Badgers**, Manhattan, are very active in the little church where **Tom** and **Elaine** were married and are busier than they want to be. Both volunteer at the Burlingame Historical Museum and continue to be active in the Lions Club, in which they hold state and district responsibilities. Last fall **John** and **Linda Ourada**, Salina, went to Italy with a Catholic Church group and visited many cathedrals and other interesting places. They have just returned from a pilgrimage to Portugal and Spain, covering 1,300 miles by bus, seeing some magnificent countryside. **Harley Heskett**, Emporia, has gotten hooked on the lathe in his shop. He warns us that it can be very addictive, and one can quickly fill the house with bowls and various turnings. **Joan Gienger**, St. Francis, relates that her daughter, **Jody**, who was a soil scientist in the Kansas State Office, is at the Discalced Carmelite Monastery in Arlington, TX, and seems to be at peace with her decision to become a Nun.

Bud and **Terry Davis** are retiring from their store, Forever Oak, in Salina. For 26 years they have been offering quality hardwood furniture. They say that it is now time for them to pursue other passions in life.

We only have one new retiree. **Darrell Beougher** retired on October 3rd, 2015. Darrell was the District Conservationist in the Field Office in Colby, KS.

Condolences are sent to the **Feltes** and **Qualls** families. **Deanna K. Feltes** passed away September 18th, 2015 after a six-year battle with cancer. She worked as a Budget Analyst in the Kansas State Office in Salina. Her husband, **Allan**, survives. **Bill "Billy" T. Qualls**, passed away September 10th, 2015. He retired in 1987 as the District Conservationist at the Iola Field Office. His wife, **Lillian**, preceded him in death.

We were also sorry to learn that two spouses recently passed away. **Marjorie M. Fuller**, spouse of **Robert H. Fuller**, passed away July 16th, 2015. She had been residing in Garden City. **Maxine Oshel**, spouse of **Loren Oshel**, passed away May 31st, 2015, in Sierra Vista, AZ.

Although not a Kansas retiree, we were saddened to read that **Kenneth R. Corpstein**, New Albany, MS, passed away on October 7th, 2015. Ken worked as a Hydraulic Engineer on the Watershed Planning Staff in the Kansas State Office during the 1960s, leaving Kansas in the late 1970s.

KENTUCKY

Billye M. Haslett, ARCSE Representative

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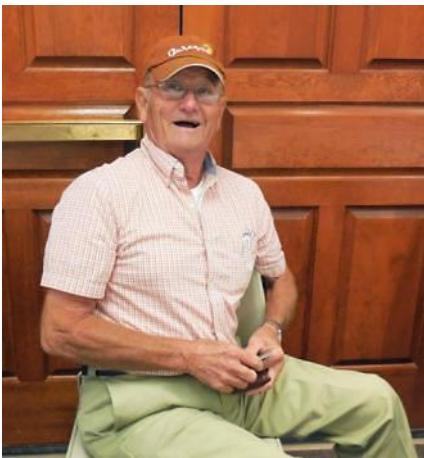
The fall Soil Scientist meeting was held at Salvisa, KY on 9/24/15. Those attending are shown below.



KY Soil Scientists' meeting participants. Seated: **Thelma Haagen and Scott Aldridge.** Standing: **Steve Blanford, Jim Haagen, Glenn Kelley, Harry Evans, Jerry Richardson, Jim Fehr, Bob Eigel, George Chalfant, and Steve Coleman.** Photo by Bill Craddock, retired State Soil Scientist.

The KY SCS/NRCS Retiree Association met October 6th, 2015 at Pennyroyal State Forest Park in western KY. There were 29 retirees in attendance plus several spouses. **Karen Woodrich**, KY State Conservationist, presented a very informative NRCS update. **Steve Crabtree**, retired GIS Specialist presented a program on financial management. **Gary Reckner**, Area Conservationist, addressed the group and let everyone know that he will be joining the retiree ranks in December, 2015. We welcome Gary.

Billye Haslett and **Connie McKinney** announced that they were resigning as Co-Recording Secretaries for the group. They advised the group last year. The group is looking for a replacement or multiple people to share the responsibility as Billye and Connie have done. **Billye Haslett** is also resigning as the ARCSE representative effective November 1st, 2015. A replacement is needed. The group decided that the next meeting will be held at Lake Cumberland State Park on October 4th, 2016.



Gerald Hart, retired Area Conservationist



Greg Stephens, retired SC and Gary Reckner, Area Conservationist



Charles Turner, retired RC&D Coordinator

Joel Legris, Secretary/ Treasurer reminded everyone that this year during the Federal Employee Health Benefit Program (FEHBP) open season that for the first time we have a Self+1 option for our health care coverage. This option could save many of us money in 2016 compared to continuing with a family health care plan, if we do not have additional dependents other than our spouse. **Ira Linville**, retired Area Conservationist, promoted NARFE as our best lobby for maintaining our benefits as federal retirees. Ira encouraged everyone to join if they are not already a member.

Four of **George and Elodie Letourneau**'s great-great-grandchildren and their spouses came to visit the Letourneau Home/Museum on Thursday and Friday October 1-2. **Claudia, Michele**, and the twins **Joel and Jean** are four of **Harvey and Anna (Rose) Legris**'s six children. Harvey was the son of **Alphonse Sylvester Legris** and **Eva (Letourneau) Legris**. Eva was one of three children of Phillip and Mary (Lesage) Letourneau. Phillip was the fifth born of George and Elodie Letourneau's eleven children. Phillip was born on April 20, 1860 and died in 1932. He was a neurosurgeon graduate of Northwestern Medical School and served as a doctor in the lumber camps of Chippewa Falls, WI area before moving to Iowa where he died. During their visit, the Letourneau great-great-grandchildren donated several family heirlooms and artifacts to the museum. The BGHS was grateful to receive these precious items: a field cradle (see below), charcoal portraits, lace collar and handkerchief, piece of wedding dress, will of Joseph Legris witnessed by George Letourneau, letters, photographs, christening gown, baby bonnet, needlepoint purse, cooking items, prayer books, and ivory fan.

George Ballard, retired District Conservation has email now. You may contact George and his wife **Betty** at the following email address: georgeandbettyballard@gmail.com. George and Betty attended the meeting at Pennyrite and then headed to Florida to visit family.

Steve Crabtree reported that he wasn't sure what he was going to do after retirement. He hired Benefit Planning Inc., in Shelbyville, KY to assist him with some financial planning. BPI specializes in assisting federal retirees and agencies with financial planning. Turns out Steve was quite good in this area, and a new career was born. BPI offered Steve a job. Steve has a flexible schedule, and travels all over the country conducting FERS/CSRS seminars. He's had rigorous training and has passed certification tests. He cautions all retirees to make sure of the qualifications of anyone that is providing them with financial planning advice. Steve may be reached by email: scrabtree@benfit-planning.colm.

Betty Prows, retired Area Clerk has a new email address: betty5355@att.net.



From left to right above are Claudia Legris-Isenhour, Paul Isenhour, Michele Legris, Joel Legris, Jean Legris-Pekoc, and Roy Pekoc Photo was taken in Kankakee, IL, Joel's ancestral home place. The family home is operated as a historical museum in Kankakee, and is known as the Letourneau Home/Museum.

During their visit, the Letourneau great-great-grandchildren donated several family heirlooms and artifacts to the museum. The BGHS was grateful to receive these precious items: a field cradle (see below), charcoal portraits, lace collar and handkerchief, piece of wedding dress, will of Joseph Legris witnessed by George Letourneau, letters, photographs, christening gown, baby bonnet, needlepoint purse, cooking items, prayer books, and ivory fan.



Steve Crabtree, retired GIS Specialist

Marvin (Bo) Renfro, retired DC: **Jimmy Marcum**, retired DC reports: Several of the men from the "neighborhood," as country folks are from miles around, meet for breakfast in Berea, KY every Tuesday morning. Bo Renfro is one of those men. Jimmy invited Bo to attend the October 6th retirement meeting. Bo couldn't attend this year, but intends to make it next year. Bo asked to be included on the retiree distribution list. So if you'd like to contact Bo his email address is: Marvinarenfro@gmail.com.



Jimmy Marcum, retired DC and wife Cil Marcum

Fred Arms, retired soil scientist passed away September 25th, 2015. Fred was 97 years old. He was predeceased by his wife of 60 years, **Enola Belle Foley Arms** and is survived by two children **Eric Arms**, Lexington, KY and **Laura (Jason) Craven**, Louisville, KY. Fred lived in Danville, KY and was buried in Russell Springs City Cemetery with full military honors by the Russell County Honor Guard. Fred was a World War II veteran. We express our sympathy to the family.

MAINE

John Simon, ARCSE Representative

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The 2015 July breakfast at Dysarts on the 14th was blessed with six happy souls. They included **Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon, Judy and Charlie Boothby, Bob Lagassey, and John Simon**.

Art is still working on doing the plastering of all the joints on the drywalls of his house. Quite a job. Charlie said that his dwarf apple trees have a good set and hopefully a good crop this year. Judy indicated that Charlie has his trees pruned to a shape easy to care for and harvest. Bob discussed the saga of his basement water problem during heavy rains. John spent the afternoon walking the site of Bob's Condo and after some surveying is done will be able to confirm his assessment for a reasonable solution.

The annual Southern Main retirees' luncheon was held on July 15th at Cole Farm in Gray, ME. Ten retirees attended: **Tom Smith, Art Taylor, Geoffery Coombs, Therese and Paul Hersey, Gary Hedstrom, Beverly and Steve Blodgett, and Noreen and John Simon**.

Geoffery looked well and reported that he is enjoying his retirement very much. He and his wife moved from Alfred to Cumberland Center close to the fairgrounds (within walking distance). **Paul** indicated he works several days a week for NRCS, and enjoys the hands-on work. **Bev and Steve Blodgett** are old friends of John's (John and Steve went through grammar school at Holy Cross School in South Portland together). They haven't seen each other in years--not good to lose track of old friends. All of those present looked well, although each has their own health issues-- some minor, others not so much.

Gary and John spent the summer of 1961 in Presque Isle with the gang of 10 surveyors on the flood control dams. **Galen Bridge was leader, and Bob Shaw, Phil Christensen, Gary Hedstrom, Jerry Bowie, Pete Mosher, Linwood Holmquist, Ralph Jennings, John Simon and #10** (whom I have forgotten). What a summer we had!

The August second Tuesday of the month regular breakfast on August 11th, 2015, had nine attendees: **Joe Bertolaccini, Bob Lagassey, Bruce Champeon, Judy and Charlie Boothby, Art Taylor, Audrey and Norm Kalloch, and John Simon**.

Norm always schedules his annual eye exam in Bangor on the second Tuesday of the month, so he can have breakfast with his old co-workers. It was good to see **Audrey** and **Norm** again. They were at Paul's retirement last winter, January 2015. Norm and Audrey no longer do the west carry pond stay in the dead of winter any more, but still see several Celtics games a season. **Art Taylor** is on the second coat of plastering all the seams in the drywall in his new home but progress is slow. Joe and John agreed that the best part of the morning newspaper is the comics section. John particularly likes the "Tundra" section. They both agreed that reading the obituaries before going to breakfast is a good idea. Charlie is going to have a good crop of apples this year. It seems like yesterday that Charlie told all of us his plans for planting the trees. Boy does time fly!

John and Bob did some surveying of the local stormwater catch basins along Husson Drive in Bangor at Bob's condo location to try and figure out the cause of backwater into the cellars during heavy storms. John has not reduced his survey notes or analyzed the data but will do so by next month. John thinks he has the answer but needs solid data to prove the point to the city engineer. More on this later.

John and Noreen had a pleasant vacation in the Ogunquit area with their son and his family. Weather was perfect until Friday's rain and fog. On Tuesday the 18th John had the pleasure of being saved from drowning by his daughter-in-law **Kristin** at Wells beach and is able to write this report because of her. She has given her children several more years with Grampy as a result. Kristin is trained in life saving and said that John exhibited all the standard behaviors that drowning people show. If Kristin had not been close by, you would probably now be reading my obituary. If you combine a swimming skill of 1 on a scale of 10, add 76 years of age, and neuropathy on the right leg and arm, along with aggressive waves, and you have a receipt for disaster. Lack of common sense was also a factor on John's part. If anyone wants more detail, come to next month's breakfast. By the way, in just

the month of August 2015 the beach at Old Orchard recorded 24 records, so a lot of us do not appreciate the power of waves and undertow.

As you know from last month's report, we had a good turnout for our summer luncheon at Cole farm in Gray. It is good to see co-workers socializing at least once a year. We are all really a great bunch of people for sure.

My little black book says that **Richard Ferland** turned 67 in August, and **John and Irene Malley** will celebrate their 67th wedding anniversary in September. **John Malley** will turn 90 in October! Congratulations to Irene and John and happy birthday to Richard. I pray all is well with you all.

The September second Tuesday of the month regular breakfast was on September 8th at 9am. The breakfast at Dysarts was attended by **Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon, Bob Lagassey, and John Simon**.

Art indicated he is working on the third and final coat of paster on the drywall joints. By October he should be in the painting mode hopefully. He did some re-grading on his driveway before the wet season sets in. It looks pretty good.

I saw **Dana Nelson** Saturday with his wife. They were attending Dana's 50th reunion of John Baptist HS graduates. Wow does time fly or what. Einstein was correct — time is relative. Congratulations Dana!

The September 14th Bangor Daily News had an article on wind power in Fort Fairfield, ME. It mentioned **Phil Christensen** as a member of a 10-person committee writing an ordinance for wind power management for the town.

A question was raised about a fall luncheon in Aroostook. Sufficient interest was not there but an effort will be made to have a second Wednesday of every month lunch at Governors in Presque Isle.

The October second Tuesday of the month regular breakfast on October the 13th was attended by **Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon, Bob Lagassey, Mary Thompson, and John Simon**. Mary gave us a summary of her new work with blueberry producers identifying pests in various fields to help schedule various spray programs. Kind of interesting. Mary enjoys the outdoors and learning new stuff.

I heard from **Don Collins** who was interested in an ongoing Presque Isle noon lunch at Governors on the second Wednesday of every month. We will see how that turns out. Nothing happened this year to my knowledge.

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

MICHIGAN

Submitted by William J. Fude

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Nine SCS/NRCS retirees and spouses met on June 8th, 2015 at the Country Grille in Ishpeming in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The lunch was organized by Bobbie Hartman. Those present included: **Larry Carey; Bill Fude (honorary Yooper); Bobbie Hartman; Bernie and Diane Huetter; Tom and Joan Immonen; Mike LaPointe; and Charles Schwenner**. Following the meal we updated each other on life events and any contacts with others who were unable to attend the lunch.

Twenty-two SCS/NRCS Michigan retirees and spouses met for the 43rd annual retiree luncheon on September 10th, 2015 at Maxfield's in Wyman, MI. Those present included: **Loren and Trudy Berndt; Diane Fielder; Bill Fude; Roger Howell; Jerry Keller; Kathy and Ken Kelly; Jack and Wanda Lake; Don and Kay Meister; Julius Pigott; Jim Scott; Russ and Marja Shepard; Merita and Ralph Smith; Murray Stall; Carl and Lavonne Stamm; and Carol Wade**. State Conservationist **Garry Lee** was also present and updated us on current events in NRCS-Michigan. The group honored the memory of seven retirees or spouses who had passed away in the past year. We were very pleased that **Merita and Ralph Smith** came from Texas to attend. The 44th annual luncheon is planned for September 8th, 2016 at Maxfield's.

MISSOURI

Dave Rastorfer, ARCSE Representative

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The Missouri retirees held their annual luncheon at the Columbia Area Senior Center on September 11th. Attending were **Bob Ball, Ken Benham, Pam and Mike Blaine, Mayree Sue and Jerold Crowder, Hugh Curry, Gloria and Maurice Davis, Jerry Edwards, Bonnie and Randy Freeland (from Oklahoma), Mary and Fred Gilbert (from, New York), Roger Hansen, Doris and Bob Harryman, Jimmy Henry, Jean Herman, Marjorie and Rich Koenig, Bob Laird, Carol and John McCarthy, Jerry McElhiney, Kay and Frank Miller, Ron Miller, Bill Pauls, Bonnie and Larry Pollard, Phoebe Rastorfer, Ruby and Bill Riggs, Odie Swanegan, Forrest Tindall and Marilyn Miller, Gary Van De Velde, Jack Walker and Cheryl and Al Wolfe**. Gena Michalson came to give the group the latest on the OPM data breach.



(l-r) Randy Freeland, Bob Laird, Bob Hummel, Jimmy Henry



(l-r) Ken Benham, Roger Hansen, Al Wolfe



(l-r) Jerold Crowder, Bonnie Pollard, Larry Pollard, Rich Koenig, Marjorie Koenig, Kay Miller, Frank Miller



(l-r) Jean Herman, Carol McCarthy, Phoebe Rastorfer



(l-r) Carol McCarthy, Gloria Davis, Maurice Davis, Larry Pollard



(l-r) Jack Walker, Bob Hummel, Jerry McElhiney

It is with great sadness that we learned that **Dave Owen**, ACES employee and retired NRCS employee, passed away. Details of the funeral may be found at the following link: www.thurmanfuneralhome.com

We have also learned that **Jeanette Hardiman** has passed away. Jeanette worked in the Carto unit at the state office. Following is a link to the obituary in the Columbia Tribune:

http://www.columbiatribune.com/obituaries/harriet-hardiman/article_ac1549e8-23eb-592d-8175-5f4495eefa31.html

MONTANA

Dick Gooby, ARCSE Representative

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Montana Big Sky Report:

Gordon Decker report: We have been busy this fall with grandkids playing high school and college football—something going on every weekend. We finally have a grandson as a Montana State University Bobcat, and he is staying with us, working and going to college. We also went on a “Taste of New England and Fall Foliage” trip with a total of 44 people through the Bozeman Senior Center. We spent two days each in VT, NH, ME and MA. We flew from Bozeman to Boston, then on a tour bus, taking us to all kinds of places, including train trips, and lake cruises. We came home with about five pounds of great New England seafood and other treats like Ben and Jerry’s, Cider Mills, Maple Sugar Farms and Lobster Bakes.



Kathy and Gordon Decker on cruise

Scott Hoag report: Scott and Nancy recently closed on a new house and are in the process of making it a home. Their new address is: Scott and Nancy Hoag 3321 Sora Way, Bozeman, MT 59718. Scott, in the meantime, will start radiation treatment, along with hormone therapy, for prostate cancer.

Several retirees emailed and said they did not have anything to report. In Montana that means one of three things: (1) they have found a section of a stream where they can regularly catch 4 to 5-lb. Cutthroat Trout; (2) they found a spot where they can pick 10 gallons of berries in three hours or; (3) they set their tree-stand and a seven point bull walks right by the tree every time they are sitting in the tree, and hunting season starts in four days.

Gooby Ranch Report: It's that time of year again. **Mary Ann** is busy getting all the garden produce harvested and canned or frozen for winter. She is practicing good soil health techniques. She didn't weed the garden, so there was good ground cover on the whole garden. The only problem was that some of the weeds were so high you had to be careful where you walked to avoid stepping on the vegetables. Also, since the weeds were taller than Mary Ann, she got lost twice. I ate a lot of greens during the summer that I didn't recognize.

We had a field of grain by the house, that was harvested a couple weeks ago and the Sandhill Cranes have moved in in droves. I'm able to sit on the deck and harvest my daily limit. Thanks to Mary Ann, we have a freezer nearly full of them. We will be eating Sandhill Cranes for special occasions this fall and winter instead of the usual turkey. The other day I got a thank you letter from a turkey.

I wanted to see how the road was where I go to get close to my secret hunting ridge. Mary Ann went along since she planned on getting a load of wood while we were up in the mountain. To get to the Secret ridge area you have to drive over one mountain and down the other side for about three miles to the creek where the road ends, then walk up the mountain. We got down by the creek and while I was walking around looking for elk tracks, Mary Ann cut up a couple of trees and loaded the pickup. When I got back, Mary Ann started driving for home. The pickup started going slower and slower. In the lowest gear the rig couldn't muster enough power to climb the mountain road. No matter how hard she pushed on the gas pedal the motor hardly got above an idle. I can understand an 80-year-old pickup slowing down, but ours is only 25 years old and should be in its prime.

We checked the rig over but could not find anything wrong. So I got in to drive and Mary Ann got out to push. It was a slow climb getting to the top of the ridge, but Mary Ann didn't want to unload the wood to lighten the load. Since we don't have a garage in our town, I decided to stop by the high school and see if the vo-ag instructor could take a look at the pickup to see why it didn't have any power. He sicced three students on it, and finally they found my favorite fishing lure that I lost under the gas pedal. With the lure under the gas pedal we couldn't push it down to rev up the motor. That stop cost me three ice cream cones, but I got my favorite fishing lure back, and Mary Ann didn't have to push me home.

I was going to tell you about the big cattle drive, but the Bobcats football game just came on. Sorry.

NEBRASKA

Norman Kempf, ARCSE Representative

Email: nkempf@neb.rr.com

SCS/NRCS breakfast meetings were held on September 15th, and October 21st, 2015. **Steve Scheinost**, President, opened the meeting after our annual October breakfast at HyVee at 84th and Holdrege. There were 22 people in attendance. He introduced our guest **Craig Derickson**, State Conservationist for Nebraska

Craig gave an update on the Natural Resources Conservation Service and addressed the administrative reorganization and a possible move of the NSSC, the State Office, and SML to one location. Several in the State Office have discussed the possibility of creating a Hugh Hammond Bennett memorial at that location.

Steve Scheinost asked the members if they wished to continue the October breakfast and bring their spouses. Over half the members voted yes. Steve will reserve HyVee for next year, but will also look for other places to hold the breakfast. Several suggestions for alternatives were mentioned.

Bob and Doris Pollock celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary this summer. **Don Manley** celebrated his 90th birthday with an open house on October 10th. **Norman Kempf** celebrated his 75th birthday on October 12th.

Bill Patterson of Caney, Kansas, died on September 15th, 2013. Bill was the Assistant State Conservationist for Watersheds in Nebraska and later the Midwest NTC Water Resources Specialist. He also served as interim Director of the MNTC.

Richard Barnett died September 17th, 2015. Richard worked as an engineer for NRCS.

Gus Dornbusch reported that he had visited with **Ivan and Ginger Wilkinson**, who live in Estes Park. They survived the recent floods, but are without running water.

Virginia Adkins and a friend rented a car and visited Yellowstone National Park, the Black Hills, and the Valentine Field Office. **Bob MacLauchlan** and his son went to Rome where they visited the Vatican, the Sistine Chapel, and other places, and then traveled to Venice. Bob's son is an airline pilot and does get free plane tickets to use for personal travel.

Steve Stover and his wife took a cruise ship from Rome and visited Israel and Bethlehem, as well as other places along the way. **Gary Muckel** and his son went to Germany for a gun/ammunition show. They also went to a military museum in the Netherlands. **Dave Camper** and wife went with their daughter and grandchildren to St. Louis and visited various sites there. **Steve Scheinost** and his son went elk hunting in Nebraska; his son landed an elk that weighed over 1,000 lbs.

Norm Helzer reported that **Jim Harder** is out running a combine for harvest operations. **Bill Hance** and his wife are absent because she is getting a new knee.

Norman and Sylvia Kempf traveled to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN where Sylvia was evaluated for possible implantation of a Neurostimulator that could reduce her back and leg pain. The results were encouraging, and she is scheduled for surgery in early January.

NEW YORK

Nancy Lee, ARCSE Representative

Email: mlee0006@rochester.rr.com

Larry Day writes: I have officially retired from my position of Soil and Groundwater Specialist with the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District on October 1st. My wife, **Magdalena**, and I are currently living at our new home in Locke, NY, hoping to sell our house in Walton next spring. (I used to work as a soil scientist with the SCS between 1980 and 1989, with contract work with the NRCS for years afterwards.) I still do work for the Delaware Co. SWCD once in a while, where I remain their part-time soil and groundwater guy. I stay in touch with **Steve Carlisle**, another retired NRCS soil scientist, who lives in nearby Aurora, NY.

Dave Kitchie writes: Have had an eventful year so far, and I hope it continues that way. Currently my wife **Sharon** and I are on the central Oregon coast enjoying the area around Newport, OR with friends. Have taken the opportunity to hike in the national forests, take walks on the Pacific beaches and amongst the Coastal Redwoods in northern California and southern Oregon. Will be driving home to central New York in a few days to rake leaves and get prepared for winter.

This year started off with Sharon and I traveling to the south Texas Gulf Coast again to get away from the winter weather. Stayed in Corpus Christi from January 1 through mid February. While in south Texas, volunteered at the Padre Island National Seashore Visitors Center. On the way home, went to west Texas and New Mexico to visit SCS/NRCSers I worked with when stationed out there.

Arrived back in central New York in late February just in time to welcome the arrival of "real winter." By mid-April, I realized that I had come home eight weeks too early.

In mid-April, I started working as a part-time field Biologist assisting the NRCS through the Agricultural Conservation Experienced Service (ACES) program. This year worked in Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego, Cayuga, Onondaga, Madison, Oneida, Herkimer, Fulton and Montgomery counties. Primary tasks have been wetlands-related field and office work. Has been good to work with and associate with highly motivated individuals employed by the NY-NRCS.

Our youngest son, **Dan**, works for the Federal gov't in Cambridge, England. Sharon and I went to visit Dan in the later part of August until mid-September. We helped our son move to a new residence in Cambridge. In early September went to Krakow, Poland. Krakow is a beautiful eastern European city located in southwest Poland. Krakow escaped being damaged by WW II. While in Poland, went to visit a village where my grandmother's family came from.

Leaving Poland, went to Bratislava Slovakia on the Danube River. Then traveled to Austria visiting Innsbruck and Salzburg. From there went to the Alps of southern Germany, then Munich, before heading back to Cambridge and the US.

NORTH CAROLINA

Jim Canterbury, ARCSE Representative

Email: jhcanter@bellsouth.net

Fifteen retirees and guests from the Raleigh area met at Bob Evans Restaurant for breakfast on September 10th. This event takes place a couple times each year. Attending the breakfast were **Jim Canterbury, Albert Coffey, Tommy Cutts, Frank Evans, Dick Gallo, Coy Garrett, John Garrett, Harry and Elaine Gibson, Charles Godley, Hubert Hawkins, Ed Helmey, Cecil Settle, Horace Smith, and Rex Tracy**. John Garrett made the arrangements for breakfast.



Left Side – Ed Helmey, Jim Canterbury, Coy Garrett, Albert Coffey, Tommy Cutts, Cecil Settle, John Garrett and Hubert Hawkins,
Right Side – Horace Smith, Elaine Gibson, Harry Gibson, Rex Tracy, Dick Gallo, and Charlie Godley

NORTH DAKOTA

Robert “Bob” Bird, ARCSE Representative

Email: Rajmbird@aol.com

We had our Annual Reunion on Thursday, September 17th for a noon luncheon at the Bismarck Elks and had 24 in attendance.

The following are comments from those in attendance: Wes and **Mary Ewine** celebrated their 50th anniversary on September 4th and have been enjoying their grandson's baseball games. **Bob Boone** noted that he retired 20 years ago and they winter at Myrtle Beach. **Lynnel Boone** noted that there is a feature news article about **Neal McClure** as a Bison football player in the Fargo Forum. Vi Person noted that she lost her husband 1 ½ years ago, but she keeps busy. **Jackie Miller** has been enjoying retirement and her three grandchildren (ages 8, 10 and 11). **Ron and Karen Sando** spend their summers in North Dakota and their winters in California. They see **Bruce and Liz Clark** once in awhile. Ron said that he has a buffalo head that he is trying to sell. **Larry Bushey** noted that he started to work for SCS in 1946 and doesn't get out much. He has two grandsons, Sam age 18 and Joey age 10. Larry's daughter takes in foster kids and she recently came home with three kids. **Wes Wiedenmeyer** noted that he retired in 2008 and that his wife recently retired. **Gladys Demke** noted that she is 87 years old and **Willis** has been gone for 10 years and she has two granddaughters that finished school.

Herb and Diane Mittelstedt noted they have three granddaughters and two great-granddaughters. Herb stated that his middle initial is “T” which stands for Terrific and that he volunteers every Wednesday on the cutting edge with 7,000 people under him. (He mows the grass at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery south of Mandan). **Dick Kukowski** is 85 years old, lives in Beach, ND, and his goal in life is to get out of bed in the morning and to look back at the end of the day and feel he had accomplished something. He talks to school kids about the constitution and the Vietnam War. Dick has 4 kids, his daughter went to Bryn Mawr, has three adopted grandkids and his daughter is a Packer fan. **Myron and Cheryl Senechal** noted that their 45th wedding anniversary would be the following day. Myron does ancestral research and diamond willow stick carving.



Names of those attending according to picture: Standing: Gladys Demke, Wes Wiedenmeyer, Wes Ewine, Myron Senechal, Dick Kukowski, Herb Mittelstedt, Susy and Wayne Moen, Karen Blumhardt, Tom Coleman, Bob Boone, Jackie Miller, Karen and Ron Sando

Seated: Mary Ewine, Cheryl Senechal, Diane Mittelstedt, Larry Bushey, Punch and Connie Podoll, Vi Person, Lynnel Boone, Bob Bird

Karen Blumhardt recognized that she was the newest retiree having just retired. **Tom Coleman** has been dealing with medical issues with his mother-in-law, spends winters in Arizona, and went to the Super Bowl. **Wayne Moen** worked in Fargo, Wahpeton and Steele retiring 17 years ago. **Wayne and Susy Moen** have 5 children, 9 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren in Bismarck, Minot, Alexandria, MN, Toronto, and Colorado. Wayne and Susy celebrated their 57th anniversary 10 days ago. **Erling "Punch" Podoll** said that driving the 200 miles from Aberdeen to Bismarck is getting tough. He tried pheasant hunting last fall and fell. All their kids had a 90th birthday celebration for them in August and they've been married 67 years. Punch talked about when he worked for the SCS, relatives at Fullerton, ND in the garden seed business and his time in the service to his country. He belongs to Westerners and is doing a paper on Texas cattle drives. He figured this would be his last trip to the reunion. **Rod O'Clair** sent a note that he couldn't attend the reunion because of colon cancer and having chemo, radiation and surgery at Mayo in November. We remembered former co-workers or spouses that are no longer with us with a moment to remember and a blessing.

State Conservationist **Mary Podoll** brought her Soil Health Kit with her that included references, testers, and a garden shovel. She related that the agency has a new tool, Conservation Planning. They intend to go back and move it forward. She has hired 24 people in the last year and needs 30 more especially agronomists. She discussed the Red River Retention Authority, the Renwick Dam new spillway dedication, and some of Punch's suggestions from 40 years ago were ahead of its time. **Vi Person** commented that she worked for ASCS many years ago when they had a cost-sharing program for moldboard plowing of 50 cents per acre.

As noted earlier, **Neal McClure** was featured in a Fargo Forum news article as probably the oldest living NDSU Bison football player. Neal will be celebrating his 99th birthday on Nov. 21.

Dennis Meyer, Mandan, has been named the State director/coordinate for the SCORE chapters in Bismarck-Mandan, Minot, Grand Forks and Fargo. Dennis has been involved with SCORE for many years and is the immediate past chairman of the Bismarck-Mandan Chapter of the Service Corps of Retired Executives.

My wife, **Jeannie**, had hip replacement surgery in September and got rid of the pain she had all summer and is back walking much better now. Some snowbirds are already making plans to escape to more favorable winter climates. With holidays coming up we hope families are able to get together for Thanksgiving and to celebrate the Christmas holiday. We also wish everyone good health and safe travels for the New Year.

Our annual reunion next year is scheduled for the third Thursday in September or September 15, 2016 at the Bismarck Elks.

OREGON

Don Stettler, ARCSE Representative

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The Fall Quarter lunch was held at the Clackamas The Old Spaghetti Factory. A nice group braved one of the first rain storms of the water year along with dealing with auto crashes on I-205 to attend. Present were **Chad McGrath, Gail Voge, Kay Denfeld, Eldena VanderZanden, Bobbie Hart, Lowell and Marian Kenedy, Lamont and Karen Robbins, Jon Lea, Jean and Em Trainor, Rose Loehr, Thor Thorson, Ralph Wadleigh, Gary Formanek, Jeff Repp, Pat Straka, Lee Saele, Russ Hatz, Marcine Richmond and yours truly, Don Stettler.**

Several sent me their regrets for not attending the lunch: **Stefanie Aschmann** would be on a junket in Germany, **Bruce Newton** would be visiting his father in Florida, and **Roy Mann** would be in Mexico where he has a short term consultancy with the World Bank.

The group welcomed **Jean Trainor** and her husband **Em** to their first retiree lunch. They said they were working out their rules for retirement together. **Eldena VanderZanden** enjoyed a trip to Disney World this summer. **Joe Sahlfeld** said that he and his wife toured the National Parks in Utah. **Russ Hatz** and his wife spent five weeks touring Europe. **Jeff Repp** was busy this summer building a shed. **Chad** toured the British Virgin Islands aboard a ship. **Gary Formanek** said he had a nice crop of tomatoes. **Lamont and Karen Robbins** got together with a group of friends in Orlando. **Ralph Wadleigh** painted his house this summer. **Rose Loehr** made her nineteenth annual trip to Alaska to fish for Sockeye Salmon. **Kay Denfeld** is learning to play the ukulele. Besides going to the Oregon Coast Bobbie Hart visited relatives in Spokane.

The winter quarter retiree lunch will be held on January 27, 2016. Watch your email for the time and place.



Gary Formanek, Eldena VanderZanden, and Ralph Wadleigh



Chad McGrath, Jean Trainor, and Thor Thorson



Eldena VanderZanden and Marcine Richmond



Jean Trainor, Rose Loehr, and Gail Voge



Chad McGrath, Thor Thorson, Jeff Repp, and Russ Hatz

PENNSYLVANIA

Bill Bowers, ARCSE Representative

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Following are excerpts from the PA Bugle, edited by Fred Bubb.

For those of you who missed the annual meeting at Grey Towers, **Gifford Pinchot**'s summer home, you missed learning about the father of the US Forest Service and two-time governor of PA, and a neat way to pass food at the dining table. More

importantly, you missed the chance to visit with former co-workers and old friends. We welcomed 11 first-time attendees to our annual meeting, and we sure hope to see you in future years!

Here are the newest retirees from NRCS in 2015: **Ken Harvey, Wendy Zwally, Ciro LoPinto and Rick Kepner**. Welcome to the world of retirement and to the PA Retirees group! Please feel free to ask questions and share your latest retirement news!

There have been some great suggestions for our 2016 get-together, including fruit farms in Adams County, the Bloomsburg Fair, Meadville PL-566 dams, and the US Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle. If you have other suggestions and/or would like to help plan our 2016 event, please let me know!

A total of 36 people attended the annual gathering in Milford, PA. Of those, 22 arrived on September 20th and met for dinner and evening conversation. On September 21st, we convened at Grey Towers, which is administered by the US Forest Service. The day began with a tour of the historic mansion and gardens.

The business meeting followed. **Gary Smith**, filling in for STC **Denise Coleman**, explained ongoing activities in the PL-566 dam rehabilitation program; RCPP, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program; and that EQIP is the biggest NRCS program. Gary also discussed the importance of ACES and other volunteer programs in helping NRCS meet its mission. The state office is moving from near the Farm Show to the south-eastern suburbs of Harrisburg. All three agencies—NRCS, FSA and RD—will be moving this fall.

Gary complimented all PA retirees on the conservation heritage that exists in PA, and it was through the dedicated efforts of folks in the room that this conservation heritage was founded.

Fred Bubb, long time editor of the PA Bugle, was nominated and unanimously approved as the Historian of the organization.

Tim Murphy gave an update on NARFE (National Active and Retired Federal Employees) activities to lobby for and support federal retirees. Applications were distributed. **Bill Bowers** distributed applications to the Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees (ARCSE) and encouraged membership. Membership is free for the first year for newly retired folks.

Following a catered lunch, we were invited to join the public tours, view the movie that described the history of Grey Tours and Pinchot's conservation legacy, and enjoy the extensive grounds that include a diversity of specimen trees.

Thank you to those who helped set up the meeting: **Rosemarie Updegraff** for making hotel arrangements, **Tim Murphy** for the PA Bugle and keeping us informed, **John Mickley** for keeping the financial books and writing checks (and bringing apples), **Alan Bennett** for suggesting Grey Towers as the location for the meeting, and **Bill Bowers** for making the arrangements with our hosts at Grey Towers.

Don Lindsey writes that he and **Shirley** enjoyed the meeting at Grey Towers. "Great to see everyone. Here in Adams County I am getting ready to help with the Pumpkin Festival our church has every year. Lots of fun. Lots of work. Last week we attended the New York State Family History Conference; looking for Lindsey ancestors beyond Obed, my 3rd great grandfather. Planning a trip to Charleston area of South Carolina this fall."

Don also forwarded the following from **Dennis Carman**: "I'm in North Little Rock, AR. Retired on time but still trying to make things go. I ended up here in 1987, and it's been the right place. Big AG that people don't know about. I spent 13 years as State Engineer then moved to National Water Management Center here in Little Rock. Retired in '07 and have been Chief Engineer and Director for an Irrigation District where we are building a water distribution system for about a 300,000-acre area; 250,000 acres of it are irrigated. Rice, soybean, and duck country in the East. Chickens and cows in the West. I had a dead and extinct Ivory Billed Woodpecker that cost my folks \$75 million in delays."

Every dark cloud does have a silver lining, tells **Fred Bubb**. The dark cloud was nine months of "down-sizing," buying and remodeling the new home and emptying 59 years of memories and fixing up the house to sell. The silver lining—their house sold in one day! **Fred and Carol** are now busy unpacking and trying to fit things in the smaller house in New Cumberland. Fred's advice: Don't put off down-sizing until you are in your eighties. Do it as soon as the thought enters your mind.



Attendees marvel at Pinchot's unique outdoor dining table.



Annual Meeting Attendees, from left to right: John Metrick, Bill Bowers, Donna Mickley, Ron Phelps, John Mickley, Judy Phelps, Harvey Pinkerton, Ed Sokoloski, Alice Sokoloski, Don Lindsey, Sam Young, Dale Updegraff, Shirley Lindsey, MaryEllen Young, Rosie Updegraff, Ellen Mank, John Mank, Jane Schuetz, Al Bennett, Tim Murphy, Deb Bennett, Fred Schuetz, Mary Ann Bowers, Fred Bubb, Carol Bubb, Frank Resides, Nevin Ulery, Judy Ulery, Jane Resides, Pete Petras, and Gina Murphy. Missing from the photo were Gary and Anne Smith, Judy Petras, Shirley Thomas and Lois Butts.

From **Harvey Pinkerton**: "Looks like we will be heading south to Florida in November as usual. Have been trying to get caught up on all the LITTLE jobs that just seem to accumulate over time. This month we get the motor home ready to roll, and the next thing, poof we head out of here for the winter. Finally have some golf clubs, so we will see how that goes. The last time I tried this, everyone else felt safer off the course."

Sent by Frank Resides: Scandinavian Tour—2015

On August 20th **Jane and I** left on a two-week trip to Scandinavia where we visited the Capital cities of Oslo, Copenhagen, Stockholm and Helsinki. We missed Estonia.

It was an interesting but tiring trip. Some highlights included the train ride from Bergen to Oslo over the Norwegian mountains, which crested above 4,000 feet (mean sea level). There was still a lot of snow on the ground, and the waterfalls and cascades were rushing from the melting snow. We had a boat tour on one of the fiords and a bus ride through the countryside. The scenery in Norway is spectacular, with snow-capped mountains, fiords, waterfalls, cascades and beautiful villages.

From Oslo we took an overnight cruise ship to Copenhagen. Denmark is similar to southeastern PA, with many farms, small woodlands and gentle terrain; and lots of waterways in and around the city. From Copenhagen, we flew to Stockholm, an archipelago consisting of 14 islands connected by 54 bridges. There we visited a museum which contained a Viking war ship, which had sunk in the harbor on its maiden voyage in 1630. It was retrieved from the water in the 1960s and restored to be 98% original! We saw other Viking "long ships" while in Norway.

From Stockholm we took another overnight cruise to Helsinki. We were told that about 25% of the families there own boats. These are mostly sail boats in the small to medium cabin cruiser class. Along with thousands of other boats, there were two Russian ice breakers in the Helsinki harbor. Scandinavians have a somewhat high cost of living. That first day in Bergen, I bought two cans of beer and a bag of potato chips at a grocery store for about \$12. Restaurant meals were \$25 to \$35, a bit more than we pay here.

Coming home was a long day. Thanks to poor scheduling by the tour company, we left about 2pm from the Helsinki airport, had three flights, two layovers, turned the clock back seven hours and got home at 1am the next day. But, it was a good trip and we are glad we went.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Byron Thompson, ARCSE Representative

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South Carolina retirees appreciate the concern of others who have called our members in South Carolina who may have been impacted by the storm that struck the state. We are happy to report that, to our knowledge, none of our members were severely impacted by the flooding. Several of our members have been assisting with recovery and providing technical advice. We have some 70 dams that were breached or are severely damaged and will require major renovating or replacement. None of the NRCS dams had major issues, although some had the emergency spillway operate for the first time and may need some repair.

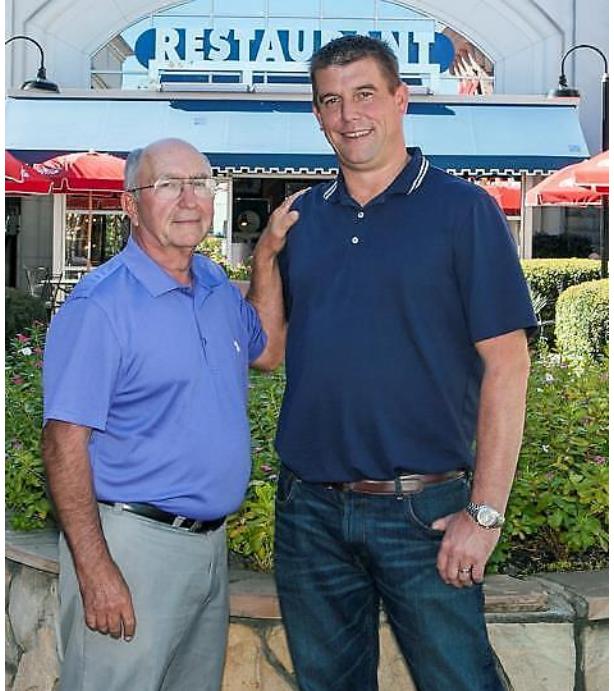


South Carolina ARCSE Members at their retirees' meeting

The South Carolina members conducted their fall meeting on October 22nd, 2015 in Lexington South Carolina. We had a excellent presentation from one of newest farm operation, The Walther Farms operating in Aiken SC. They are the first potato operation inthe state growing about 1,000 acres of potatoes each year in a rotation with 1,000 acres of corn and 1,000 acres of soybeans. They are working with NRCS, county, and the local community, making sure they are part of the local community. An example of this is that they plant 15 acres of potatoes for the local community to use by those in need.

Since our last report, the Thompson's (Mary and Byron) celebrated their 50th year of marriage on August 8th, 2015, followed by a trip in September from Chicago to California by air, train, and bus through the Rockies and return.

All our retired members are involved in volunteer work in their respective communities, work part or full time, travel, and or care for family members (old and young); therefore, it is difficult to schedule meetings for the members, but we continue to encourage participation in our organization.



Byron Thompson (left) and Anthony Walther of Walther Farms

TEXAS

Arnold King, ARCSE Representative

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Nineteen members attended the August 21st meeting: **Marie Garsjo, Bill and Rita Kuenstler, Anita Plummer, Dave and Barb Stockbridge, Dennis Erinakes, Barbara Gillum, Bernie Owen, Doug Seibel, Earl Blakley, Elaine and Billy Don Davis, Joyce Petty, Betty Sisson, Bernelle Baxley, Mark Boysen, Del Rockenbaugh and Mary Mattinson.**

Bernie reminded everyone that FEHB Open Season is approaching (Nov. 9--Dec. 12). The biggest change is that this year there will be a "Self + 1" option. This option should be less expensive for couples without children than the "Self + Family" option.

Del Rockenbaugh said that **Rocky** is now in Colonial Gardens Memory Facility, 6931 River Park Circle, Fort Worth, TX 76116.

Our program for the meeting was a presentation by **Phillip Rippé**, director of the Soil Mechanics Lab at the NRCS Central National Technology Support Center in Fort Worth. Phillip's talk was on the history of the Hoover Dike, the levee that surrounds Lake Okeechobee in south Florida. The Okeechobee Hurricane of 1928 was the second-deadliest cyclone in the U.S. (after the Galveston storm of 1900). It made landfall at West Palm Beach with winds of 145 mph. The impact was most severe around Lake Okeechobee. The storm surge caused water to pour out of the southern edge of the lake, flooding hundreds of square miles. Numerous houses and buildings were swept away in the cities of Belle Glade, Canal Point, Chosen, Pahokee, and South Bay. At least 2,500 people drowned, while damage was estimated at \$25 million (in today's dollars, this would make it the second or third most expensive storm in the U.S.). The state of Florida asked the Corps of Engineers to construct a dike along the southeast side of Lake Okeechobee to help prevent future catastrophes of this sort. Phillip used photos from the Corps of Engineers archives (He was with the Corps in Jacksonville, FL prior to coming to Fort Worth) to show the construction methods and equipment. At that time, the area around Lake Okeechobee was very isolated, and constructing the major structure involved many hardships on the part of the laborers. The equipment available was primitive by modern standards, and much of the work was done by hand. Over the years, the extent of the dike has grown, until in the mid-1950s, it completely encircled the lake.

We received a note from **Glen Black** in Belton that **Charlie Thompson**'s son-in-law died Sunday. If you want to send your condolences to **Charlie**, his address is: **3710 Jaguar Trail, Temple, TX 76504**.

The October 2015 meeting of the SCS/NRCS Alumni Club will be held at 10am on Friday, October 16th, 2015, at St. Ann Catholic Church, 100 SW Alsbury Blvd., Burleson, TX. Refreshments will be furnished by **Joyce Petty** and **Marie Garsjo**.

Seventeen members attended the September 18th meeting: **Marie Garsjo, Bill and Rita Kuenstler, Dennis Erinakes, Barbara Gillum, Bernie and Maxine Owen, Doug Seibel, Earl Blakley, Joyce Petty, Bernelle Baxley, Don Kapalka, Don Newman, Dave Drennan, Clyde Goodman, DeWayne Williams, and Mary Mattinson.**



Mark Boysen and Elaine Davis visit before the meeting



Phillip Rippé presents our program about the Hoover Dike around Lake Okeechobee, FL



Earl Blakley, Don Newman, and Marie Garsjo visit before the September meeting.



Dennis Erinakes reviews Trinity Aquifer ground water modeling results with Bernie Owen.

Dennis Erinakes reported on his work on a regional groundwater study. They now have a model that predicts the Trinity Aquifer drawdown as affected by population growth for the period of 2010 through 2070.

He said that the population growth (and increased water use) in North Texas over the past 100 years has significantly lowered the groundwater level. In 1900, you could drill to 100 feet and hit artesian water. Today you have to drill to about 1,000 feet to hit good water. **Marie Garsjo** reported that her husband **Mike** plans to retire Oct. 2nd. They plan to go to Montana in early November for the wedding of **Mike's** daughter.

Alberta Cartagena, a former employee of the National Cartographic and Geospatial Center (now the National Geospatial Center of Excellence) passed away recently. **Neil Bogner**, who was the SCS National Engineer for seven years, died in early September.

Bernie Owen reminded us that the FEHB Open Season is approaching (Nov. 9 — Dec. 12). The biggest change is that this year there will be a “Self + 1” option. See last month’s newsletter for an excerpt from the NARFE magazine with details on this new option. **Bernie** also said that there will not be a COLA in 2016 for CSRS annuitants.

Joyce Petty said that she is still active in CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) as a child welfare advocate. She is currently fostering a 2-year old for a couple of weeks. **Mary Mattinson** is staying busy with the activities of her five grandchildren. **Don Kapalka** reported that his wife, **Marsha**, is still in a cast after achilles tendon surgery last month.

Dave Drennan has been staying busy following the activities of his grandchildren. His oldest grandson shoots video of all Burleson High School football games, then edits and produces the final videos. His granddaughter is in the Strutters, the Burleson High School drill team, and his twin grandsons are playing fall baseball. **Anita Plummer** is enjoying a driving trip to visit her cousin in Kentucky. Another family member is keeping her company on the long drive.

Clyde Goodman brought us up-to-date on **Marla's** health. She had four back surgeries the past few years, the last being in November 2014. She was doing well until March 2015, when she began having more problems. She then had two more operations during the last two weeks of July, and went through rehab. She came home Aug. 29, and is able to walk with the assistance of a walker. Eventually she will be able to walk on her own with a cane.

VIRGINIA

Ken Carter, ARCSE Representative

Email: kenneth.carter26@verizon.net I apologize for not having an article in the last newsletter, but my wife I were in Italy. For a guy that never traveled much past Short Pump, VA, we traveled to Europe for the third time in three years (isn't retirement wonderful?). This trip was exclusively in Italy. We stayed in Venice, Florence and a delightful little B&B in the small village of Diecimo in the Tuscany region for a week. I sound like a travel agent, but it was one of the best travel experiences I have ever had, and I would highly recommend it to anyone. The food was outstanding; weather was great; and we saw a lot of art and old buildings. What more could you want?

To all of those members who at one time worked in Virginia, I must pass along the sad news of the passing of **Tom Walthall**. Tom had recently retired due to health reasons after 22 years with the agency. Tom had been confined to a wheel chair due

to a construction accident years ago and had been hired by the agency in a work training program for the disabled. Tom started his career in the state office compiling soil maps and then moved into digitizing them. He was an avid wheel chair athlete participating in basketball and bowling. He won many state, regional and national bowling honors.

Mike W. Anderson, former national Wildlife Biologist, is running for a Director seat on the Tri-County/City Soil and Water Conservation District for Stafford County in the Fredericksburg area. Mike will join a select group of twelve retirees in Virginia who now serve as a Director on a local Soil and Water Board.



WASHINGTON, DC, NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

John Peterson, ARCSE

Representative

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

Shirley Klumpe reports she is heading to Portugal and Spain on October 10th, returning on the 26th. Sounds like fun. Enjoy your trip **Shirley**.



John and Blanche Peterson will spend three weeks in Maine starting on Oct. 17th, visiting daughter **Shannon Dube** and her family, and enjoying the Maine coast. **Peterson's** have a time-share at the Samoset Resort in Rockland, ME, the "lobster capital of the world." They have enjoyed visiting Downeast Maine for many years.

Warren and Barb Lee are finalizing their fall yard work with plans to head west to their winter home in Arizona. Scheduled to take a cruise from Sydney, Australia to Auckland, New Zealand in December. Sounds like fun!

National Capital Area retirees held their Fall Luncheon at the Ft. McNair Officers Club in DC on Thursday, October 1st. Those in attendance were **Paul Benedict, Jerry Bernard, Carl and Janet Bouchard, Bill Boyer, Roger Cronshey, Doug Helms, Bill Irwin, Warren and Barbara Lee, Gary and Mary Ann Margheim, Diana Morse, Barbara Osgood, John and Blanche Peterson, David Ralston, Marc and Kendrick Safely, Lee Shields, Peter Smith, Fred and Margaret Theurer**. Some of the participants are shown here. Because of travel schedules, we were not able to have a NRCS HQ official give us an update.

Past ARCSE President Warren Lee presented John Peterson with the ARCSE President's Award for Meritorious Service. The award was "In recognition of John's over 20 years of service as the ARCSE Representative for the Washington Capital Area. His vigorous and sincere communications and leadership are of tremendous value to the Association and retirees nationwide."

Editor's note: During this period John has missed providing contributions to only one newsletter.

Dave Ralston talked of the life of **Neil Bogner**, who passed away on September 6th. **Neil, Dave and Joe Haas** were all Illini whose careers were linked and who all ended up with SCS here in Washington, DC. **John Peterson** followed with more information about **Neil** and his importance to ARCSE.

Neil and Eleanor are the only retiree husband and wife team that are ARCSE Senior Conservationists. The attendees then reminisced for a bit until they adjourned. It's always fun to learn what our colleagues are now doing. We also learn what health issues some are dealing with.



Immediate Past President Warren Lee presenting John Peterson with the President's Award for Meritorious Service.



The National Capital Area Retiree Spring Luncheon will be on Thursday, May 5th, 2016, likely back at the Ft. McNair Officers Club.



Carl and Janet Bouchard spent three weeks in the Northwest in August and September. First we flew out to Calgary, Alberta to attend the wedding of Janet's niece. It was featured as a "cowboy redneck" wedding. The setting was a polo field with more high-end pick-ups and beer than cars and soda. Pew seats were bales of hay, and the bride was delivered to the field in a vintage red Mustang. From there we flew to Vancouver, BC to board the Holland America Volendam for a cruise on Alaska's inland passage with stops at Juneau and Skagway. We then took the narrow gauge railroad to Fraser on the border with British Columbia and then a Coach to Whitehorse and Dawson City. In Dawson City we visited Writer's Row featuring the cabins of **Robert Service** and **Jack London**, the goldfields and also took a riverboat excursion on the Yukon River. Dawson City is unique with one paved road through town, dirt streets and boardwalks for sidewalks.



Street scene in Dawson City

Then we flew to Fairbanks taking another riverboat excursion, visited the Alaskan oil pipeline and Gold Dredge number 8. Then we journeyed on to Denali National Park where we took an 8-hour Tundra Wilderness Tour. Denali is visible less than 30 percent of the time, and luck was with us. We got to within 30 miles of the mountain with perfect weather except for the morning we left for Anchorage on the scenic railroad in a snowstorm before flying home. We saw plenty of wildlife including Dall Sheep, Elk, Moose, Grizzlies, and Bald Eagles as well as the Northern Lights.

Less than one percent of those taking the Alaska cruise take the land tour through the Klondike and Denali. We had 44 members of the 1,100 on the ship who did this land option. We definitely recommend it. I should add that Alaska was the last state that I had not visited, and that is now crossed off my bucket list.



Mt. Denali, Alaska



Dall Sheep

John received word from **Keith Newcombe** that his brother **Dean** died on October 10th. The Newcombe boys are **Paul and Kathryn's sons**. Paul was the Director of SCS's Financial Management Division for years, and he and Kathryn played on our bridge group. Very sad always. Keith coached Paul VI's HS baseball team when our son **Pat** played there.

WASHINGTON

Gerald Richard, ARCSE Representative

Email: glr52pdr@aol.com

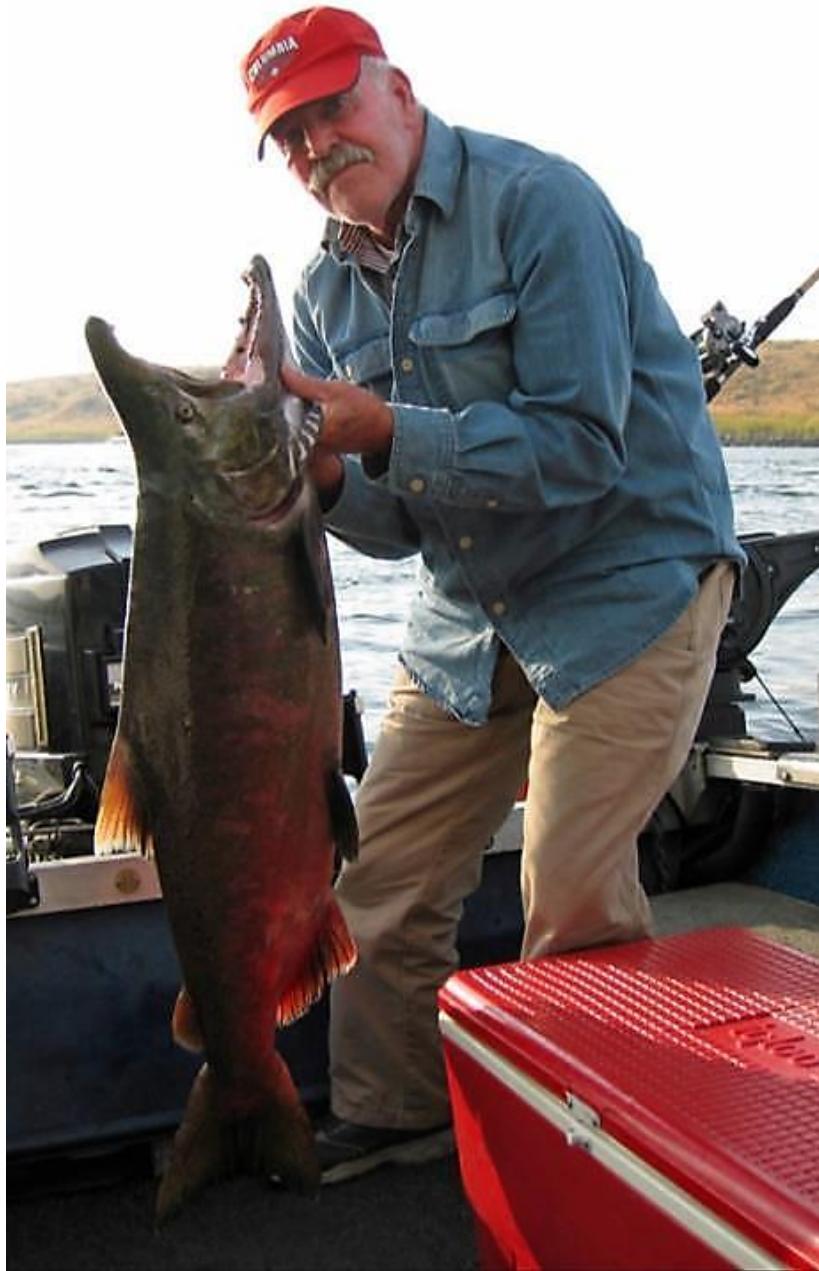
Present at our September and October luncheons at the Timber Creek Grill and Buffet were: **Jud Melton, Lennie and Florence Husa, Harry Riehle, Ralph Schmidt, Larry and Jean Edmonds, Gary Johnson, Hans and Kathryn Krauss, Jerry Richard, Carl Vennes, Ken Kaul, Chet Jahn, Joe Carmack, and Paul During.** In September Joe Carmack gave support assistance for his grandson on an 8 km bicycle contest at Sun Valley, ID. Joe will be travelling to the family farm in Tennessee in October to help complete the fall harvest. **Harry Riehle** travelled to the Washington coast to visit his daughter. **Ken and Tina Kaul**, together with Ken's brother and spouse and Tina's cousin and spouse, did the Inland Passage cruise to Alaska the latter part of August. Stops included Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, and Seward. They travelled to Denali NP, spent several days, one of which included the Wilderness Tour where they observed Grizzly Bears, Mt. Sheep, Caribou, Golden Eagles, Ptarmigan and Moose. They also had a clear day where they could observe Mt. Denali.



Couples, front to back: Anita and Pete Janczak, Tina and Ken Kaul, Dani and Bob Kaul on cruise to Alaska

On their way back at Anchorage, they were in town at the same time that **President Obama** was on his visit. They flew back to Seattle and had a good visit with three of their Aunts, all who were over 80 years old. All in all, a good trip. **Jerry Richard**--together with his two sons, one son-in-law, grandson and wife, and two great grandsons--enjoyed their annual fishing trip on the Columbia River. It was a good run of Chinook salmon, so we were busy every evening processing the catch. Next will be the enjoyment of salmon fillets and smoked salmon.

We were saddened by **Rob Roberts** passing away (see In Memoriam). He was a faithful supporter and attendee of our Spokane retiree group. He was also the state representative in the 1970s and 1980s. He was proud of his family. His one son, **John**, from Texas would bring Rob to our luncheons when he was visiting and Rob wasn't able to drive. We are also saddened by **Bob Olson** passing away on October 2nd. We don't have an obituary for Bob (age 93), but we should by the next Newsletter. Bob retired as the state forester. Bob was also a faithful member of our retiree group bringing lively topics and conversations to our sessions. Both Bob and Rob were very professional during their careers and enjoyed their work and accomplishments. Their leadership and presence will indeed be missed.



Jerry Richard and the “one that didn’t get away.” Location: Columbia River, Hanford Reach.

WEST VIRGINIA

Peg Reese, ARCSE Representative

Email: pegreesewv@gmail.com

Cecil Springer, Soil Conservation Technician for the Philippi Service Center, retired on October 3rd.

Lynn Shutts and **Bernie Yednock** took a 10-day fly fishing trip to western Montana in September. Lynn reports “Our base camp was a cabin on the Clark Fork River near the Idaho border. We caught several fish in the 16 to 19-inch range, including brown, rainbow, cutthroat, and cutbow trout. We also fished the Blackfoot River east of Missoula, made famous by the book and movie **A River Runs Through It**. In addition to the great scenery and fishing opportunities, I was introduced to a western Montana treat, huckleberry ice cream. Yum.”

Alan Staddon "walked over 250 miles on a treadmill during a six-week period of time in July and August to prepare for a climb of his first "fourteener." A fourteener is any peak over 14,000 feet in elevation, of which there are 53 in Colorado.

My friend, **Dr. James Tucker**, invited me come out and climb with him. At 6:45 am on August 15, 2015, we left Kite Lake trailhead, elevation 12,030 feet, and began our ascent. After 2.5 hours of steady but difficult climbing, we reached the summit and conquered Mount Democrat, elevation 14,148 feet. It only takes 1 and 1/2 hours to get back to base camp, and the rest of the day was recuperation. It was a beautiful day and the views were amazing in all directions."



Alan Staddon at summit

WISCONSIN

James Enlow, ARCSE Representative

Email: jjenlow@att.net

The Wisconsin retirees met for lunch and fellowship on October 8th at the Monona Garden Family Restaurant in Monona, WI. **Pat Leavenworth**, former State Conservationist, was the host. Twenty-five retirees and guests attended the gathering: host **Pat Leavenworth**, **Jim and Lynnette Enlow**, **Bill and Virginia Conner**, **Bob Uhrig**, **Betty Stibbe**, **Judy Pulvermacher**, **Tom Thrall**, **Sheryl Paczwa**, **Jimmy Bramblett**, **Chuch Cobb**, **Ken and Joanne Lubich**, **Ted Manning**, **Robert Plawski**, **Stan and Marlene Dingle**, **Keith Behling**, **Steve Rake**, **Jim Kaap**, **Donna Devoe**, **Howard Gundlach** and **Shawn Nameth**.

Jimmy Bramblett, State Conservationist, gave the group an update on the cyber leak situation and NRCS news and future direction. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship and food. The next luncheon is scheduled for February 11th, 2016.

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

Roland R. Willis, Stillwater, OK

OBITUARY INFORMATION

Ron Marlow, Secretary-Treasurer

When you receive word of someone passing, with little other information provided to you, obituaries can often be found by doing an advanced search using Google, using the full name of the deceased. If you do not have access to the web, I will be glad to do the search. Please send death notices and obituary information directly to Ron Marlow at arcse@cox.net.

Surname

In Memoriam

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

Ard

Life Member and Senior Conservationist **Roy G. Ard** (90) of Wilcox, Arizona passed away on July 6, 2015 while visiting family and friends in Oklahoma. His wife of 69 years, **Fran** and two oldest sons were with him when he finally lost his long battle with Parkinson's Disease. His third son, **Jeff** is also a Parkinson's victim. **Greg** his

youngest son had a heart attack and died September 4, 2014. **Roy** worked for SCS for over 30 years, all over Arizona. He retired as a RC&D Coordinator in 1990. He was born on April 24, 1925 in Drumright, Okla. In 1942, **Roy** accepted a position as a roughneck on a drilling rig working for Taylor Drilling Company of Fairfield, Ill. On April 23, 1943, Roy enlisted into the service of his country in the United States Navy. After completion of basic training in San Diego, Calif., **Roy** attended Landing Craft School (LCS) and was assigned to USS Megrez (AK-126); a Crater-class cargo ship commissioned in World War II and responsible for delivering troops, goods and equipment to locations in the war zone. He was honorably discharged from military service on March 1, 1946 in Norman, Okla. He graduated from Oklahoma A&M in 1950. **Roy** was an active member of many organizations including Elks Lodge, American Legion, and was a 32nd Degree Mason of Safford, Arizona Lodge 16. He was also a member of the Methodist Church. He served in numerous capacities and offices of these organizations. **Roy** was an amateur geologist and was considered by many as a rock hound. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, **Frances Ard** of the home; three sons, **Stephen Ard** of Drumright, Okla., **Anthony Ard** of Hope, Idaho, and **Jeffrey Ard** of Kennewick, Wash.; 11 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren and one great-great-granddaughter.

Arms

Senior Conservationist **Fred Arms** (97) of Danville, Kentucky (formerly of Russell County) passed away on September 25, 2015. He was a World War II Veteran of US Army, a member of First Christian Church in Danville and worked for US Department of Agriculture. He retired from the Soil Conservation Service in 1979 as the Asst State Soil Scientist. He was a member of Duvall Masonic Lodge #6 in Bardstown, KY. He was preceded in death by his wife of sixty years, **Enola Belle Foley Arms**. Survivors include two children: **Eric Arms**, Lexington, KY and **Laura (Jason) Craven**, Louisville, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Barnett

Richard W. Barnett (91) of Lincoln, Nebraska passed away on September 15, 2015. He was born in Falls City. **Richard** worked as a civil engineer for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, retiring in 1980. He received his professional engineer designation, and was a graduate of the University of Nebraska, served in World War II and a member of the Cathedral of the Risen Christ. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Dorothy Chris Barnett**. He is survived by his children, **Michael Barnett**, **Mark (Cynthia) Barnett**, **Paul (Janet) Barnett**; grandchildren & great-grandchildren. Condolences may be left at www.bmifh.com.

Bogner

Life Member and Senior Conservationist **Neil F. Bogner** (89) of Catonsville, Maryland passed away on September 6, 2015. He was born in Henry, IL and married **Eleanor V. Johnson** on Nov. 25, 1954. She survives as do their sons - **Douglas N. (Kathy)**, Catonsville, MD; **Paul D.**, Hollywood, MD and **Carl E.**, Milwaukee, WI, also their two granddaughters - **Emma** and **Sarah** in Catonsville, MD. The first six years of his education was at Red Town, a one room school. He graduated from the University of Illinois where he earned degrees in Agricultural Engineering and Agriculture. After graduating from the University he began a career with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), US Dept. of Agriculture. He started as a student trainee engineer in the Marshall-Putman SWCD, Henry, IL and then moved on to Bloomington, IL, Caruthersville, MO and Urbana, IL. It was at Urbana that he had the great fortune to meet and marry a fellow SCS'er, **Eleanor**. After their marriage they were moved to Macomb, IL where he became the project engineer on the Old Tom Creek Watershed Project. His career took them through a number of locations and levels eventually leading to the Director of Engineering in the National Office. **Neil** served in that position for 7 years (second longest term for the Agency at that time) and then ended his career as the Associate Director for Technology. He retired after over 33 years in 1983. He was a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Illinois. He maintained Membership in the American Society of Agricultural Engineers from the day he graduated until his death. He was named a Fellow in the Society and received the John Deere Medal. He served on numerous committees and, at one time, was Director of the Soil and Water Division. He was also a Member of the SWCS for many years. **Neil** was named an Honorary Alumnus of the Univ. of Ill. College of Engineering. He was also an original member, representing the USDA, when the Interagency Committee for Dam Safety was established and he represented USDA on the Federal team that investigated the failure of the Teton Dam. Upon his retirement he joined the Association of Retired SCS Employees and served in numerous positions over the next 25 years, including being President and Secretary –Treasurer. **Neil** and **Eleanor** were the first couple to be named Senior Conservationists by the Association. He and Eleanor volunteered at Fairfax INOVA Hospital for 17 years amassing many hours. They moved to the Charlestown Retirement Community near Baltimore in 2009 to be near their son and his family. There he was a member of the Parish of Our Lady of the Angels. In lieu of flowers memorials may go to the donor's choice.

Borst

Honorary Life Member and Senior Conservationist **George Borst** (102) of Fallbrook, California has passed away. **George** retired from the Soil Conservation Service in 1969 as a Soil Scientist on the River Basin Staff.

Browning

Harry T. Browning (84) of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania passed away on Sept. 18, 2015. **Harry** was a Korean War veteran. He began his career with the Soil Conservation Service in April 1957 at the E&WPU in Upper Darby. He was an Engineering Draftsman throughout his career until he retired in 1986 from the NENTC in Chester, PA. **Harry** had an excellent knack of seeing how drawings should be organized. Harry was a plasterer by trade but his wife, **Anne**, was worried because drywall was replacing plastered walls in many areas and she wanted him to have a more dependable job. He and **Anne** were married 65-years. **Harry** is survived by **Anne**, his daughters, **Nancy Synder** and **Dianne Gleason**, and five grandsons and his sister **May Kucher**.

Cartagena

Alberta Josephine (Keech) Cartagena (84) of Lincoln, Nebraska passed away on September 18, 2015. She was born in Lincoln. Alberta retired from the U.S. Soil Conservation Service as a cartographic supervisor. After retiring from the government, she continued her working career at Tabitha Health Care Services. Alberta was an artist, who loved to paint, quilt and write poetry. She was preceded in death by her husband, **Carlos Cartagena**. She is survived by her children, **Steven** and **Teresa**; daughter-in-law, **Lori**; and two grandchildren. The family requests memorials to the American Heart Association.

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Corpstein | Kenneth Corpstein (74) of New Albany Mississippi passed away on Oct. 7, 2015. He was born in Tipton, Kansas. He graduated with an agriculture engineering degree from Kansas State University and served in the Army Reserves. He worked as a hydraulic engineer with the Soil Conservation Service in Salina, Kansas, and transferred to New Albany in 1979 where he retired after 31 years of service. Ken loved helping people and served in leadership roles at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Union County Good Samaritan Center and Habitat for Humanity. He was honored as a United Way Community Hero in 2008. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Karen Corpstein , his four children and six grandchildren. |
| Day | Senior Conservationist Bobbie Gene Day (87) of Clinton, Oklahoma passed away on October 3, 2015 in the Methodist Health Care Center in Clinton. Bob was raised in the Trail Flats area near Leedey. He soon moved to Stillwater, Oklahoma and attended A&M College (now Oklahoma State University) and was a part of the R.O.T.C. Program. He received a degree in Agriculture in 1951. He was commissioned into the U.S. Army in 1951 and served in Korea. He received an Honorable Discharge in 1953 and returned home. He became a member of the U.S. Army Reserved for the next 8 years. He and Betty made their home in Clinton and he began a career as an Agriculture Engineer for the Soil Conservation for 33½ years, retiring in 1985. He then became employed in his sons Optometry Practice and helped there until 2012. He is a member of the First United Methodist Church, the American Legion, and the Evening Lions Club. He is survived by his wife, of almost 69 years, Betty of the home, two sons, Dan (Betty) Day and Dr. Pat Day and wife, Suzanne , all of Clinton; four grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. |
| Feltes | Deanna K. Feltes (63) of Salina, Kansas passed away on Sept. 18, 2015, after a six-year battle with cancer. She was born in Salina. Deanna graduated from Washburn University and worked for KPL and Kansas Gas Service, the Internal Revenue Service and USDA/NRCS prior to her retirement. She also served in the U.S. Army Reserves. She worked as a Budget Analyst in the Kansas State Office in Salina. Her husband of 24 years, Allan , survives. Also surviving are a daughter, a son, a stepson, and five grandchildren. A memorial reception and life celebration will be announced at a later date at the Mentor United Methodist Church, Mentor. |
| Ford | Betty Joe Jones Ford (83) of Winterville, Georgia, passed away on October 19, 2015. She was the widow of Cosby L. Ford . She was born in Clarke County, Georgia. She retired from the Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1986. Survivors include one daughter, Jackie Adkins , one grandson, a great-grandson, and three great-granddaughters. |
| Hardiman | Hariett Jeanette Hardiman (82) of Columbia, Missouri passed away on September 25, 2015. She was a member of Second Baptist Church, the Frederick Douglass Coalition and the Class of 1951. Jeanette worked for the Soil Conservation Service in the Carto Unit at the state office. She leaves to cherish her memory one daughter, two sons, and eight grandchildren. |
| Kirschner | Frank Kirschner (98) died peacefully at home overlooking the Gila River, in Cliff, New Mexico on August 30 2015. If you have ever hiked in the Gila National Forest, Wilderness and beyond, you might have run into Frank and the hiking group he started. He is survived by four sons, Eric, David (Joni), Ted (Carrie), and Lyn (Michele) , a Soil Conservationist for NRCS in the Central NTSC. Son Bruce (Anna) , daughter Janet and two wives (Virginia and Mary), preceded him in death. Frank also has five grandchildren and five great grandchildren. He is also survived by his long-time friend, Sandy. Frank was born in Pittsburgh, PA on an infamous day, April 6, 1917, the day the U.S. entered World War I. He was a World War II veteran serving in the Coast Guard in both the Atlantic and Pacific. After the war he went to college, receiving Soils and Agronomy degrees from Utah State and the University of Florida. Frank worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service in Indiana, Alaska and Saudi Arabia until his retirement in 1983. In memoriam, please donate to hospice or Upper Gila Watershed Association (UGWA). |
| McCaw | Jerry McCaw (68) of Durango, Colorado passed away peacefully at home on August 28 th , 2015 of pancreatic cancer. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Lora McCaw ; sons, Ed and Allen McCaw and their wives and four grandsons. Jerry was born in Durango and graduated from Colorado State University in 1972 with a degree in Civil Engineering. He moved back to the family farm and worked for the Soil Conservation Service for the next 37 years as a civil engineer, helping many farmers and ranchers implement conservation and irrigation practices. Jerry was active on local boards of directors including the Ignacio School Board, Basin COOP, La Plata Electric Association, Habitat Partnerships, King Consolidated Ditch, and the Southwest Basin Water Round Table. |
| Newcombe | Dean Edward Newcombe (51) of Fairfax, Virginia passed away October 10, 2015. He is survived by his father, brother, longtime companion, family and friends. Dean was preceded in death by his beloved mother Kathryn in 2004. His father, Paul , retired from SCS in 1989 as the Director of the Financial Management Division. |
| Oshel | Maxine Wilson Oshel (92) passed away on May 31, 2015, at Prestige Assisted Living in Sierra Vista, Ariz. She was born in the same rock house that her mother was born in near Edgerton, Kan. She attended Baker University at Baldwin City, Kan. and when her soldier sweetheart returned from World War II she transferred to Kansas State College, and married Loren Leslie Oshel and got her degree in mathematics. Loren was hired by the federal government as an agricultural engineer and as the family grew they moved to Arizona, South Dakota, Michigan, and overseas to Indonesia. Loren retired from SCS as the State Conservation Engineer. When her children were grown, she worked for the State Climatologist in Michigan for 15 years. Loren died in 2012 after 66 years of marriage. She is survived by two daughters, a son, four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren |
| Own | David Ira Owen (69) of Richmond, Missouri, passed away on October 2, 2015 at his home. Dave was born in Kansas City, Mo and is survived by his wife of 45 years Glenda Pobst , two sons, two daughters, and eight |

grandchildren. **Dave** was a conservationist for the U.S.D.A. in Scott County, Cape Girardeau County and retiring from NRCS in Ray County, Mo, after 42 years of federal service. He then worked as an ACES participant. **Dave** was also a farmer and a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Richmond. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Council #7605. He received his B.S. degree from the University of Missouri. He was a United States Army veteran of the Vietnam War, where he was a helicopter pilot. **Dave** was also a board member of the Missouri Farm Bureau. The family suggests memorial contributions be made to either the Ray County Veterans or to Guardian Angel Catholic School. On line condolences may be left on our website at www.thurmanfuneralhome.com.

Patterson

Bill Patterson (79) of Caney, Kansas passed away on September 15th, 2013. **Bill** was the Assistant State Conservationist for Watersheds in Nebraska and later the Midwest NTC Water Resources Specialist. He also served as interim Director of the MNTC and was a U.S. Army veteran.

Pope

Honorary Member **Arthur (Wayne) Pope** (94) formerly of Watertown, South Dakota passed away Monday July 27, 2015 at Dougherty Hospice House in Sioux Falls. **Wayne** was born in Little River, Kansas. He married the love of his life, **Doris (Donna) Bratton** on March 11, 1945 in Yuma, Arizona. They just celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary this year. **Wayne** graduated from Kansas State University with a degree in Business Agriculture and was a Soil Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service for 31 years before retiring as an Area Conservationist in 1976. His second career was working for the Northern Border Pipeline as the "Right-A-Way-Man." He retired for the second time in 2007. **Wayne** was a WWII veteran in the Air Force. He was also an avid golfer. He lived for golf and played almost daily until he had to stop at the age of 90. He had the honor of getting two hole-in-ones throughout his lifetime. **Wayne** was a past Grand Master of his Masonic Lodge, Commander of the American Legion, and Exalted Ruler of the Elks. He is survived by his wife **Donna**, his daughter **Mary (Dr. James) Labesky**, of Sioux Falls, his son, **Jim Pope**, Greenville, TX; two granddaughters; and three great-grandchildren.

Qualls

Bill "Billy" T. Qualls (86) of Iola, Kansas passed away September 10, 2015. He retired in 1987 as the District Conservationist at the Iola Field Office. His wife of 56 years, **Lillian**, preceded him in death on August 4, 2006. **Bill** was born in Peno, Okla. He earned his Bachelors of Science degree from Oklahoma A&M in Agriculture Education in 1949. **Bill** served in the United States Navy during World War II with the 121st Naval Seabees Battalion. Upon discharge he continued in The Naval Reserve and later National Guard retiring with a total of 35 years of military service. He worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a conservationist for 39 years before retiring in 1987. He attended the First Baptist Church of Chanute where his oldest son is pastor. Survivors include two sons and their families, the **Rev. Rick Qualls** and his wife, **Nancy**, Chanute and **Dr. Randal Qualls** and his wife, **Cathy**, Lebanon, Mo.; six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. To sign the guestbook online or leave a condolence, go to www.iolafuneral.com.

Quilliam

Member and Senior Conservationist **Robert Eugene Quilliam** (91) of Okeechobee, Florida passed away on September 2, 2015. He was born in Daviess County, Indiana. He proudly served our country in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He graduated from Purdue University with a degree in Agricultural Engineering. **Robert** began his career with the USDA Soil Conservation Service, working in Indiana and Alabama, and was the State Conservationist in West Virginia and Ohio, retiring in 1979. A resident of Lakeport for 25 years, he was an elder at Lakeport Christian Church. He enjoyed farming and fishing. Bob is survived by his wife of 67 years, **Maxine Quilliam** of Lakeport; son, **Randall (Tanya)**; daughter, **Karen Taylor (Tom)**; two grandsons, and four great grandchildren, and four step grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Lakeport Christian Church, 10947 E. State RD 78, Moore Haven FL 33471. Those wishing to leave a message of condolence may sign the register book at www.OkeechobeeFuneralHome.com

Roberts

Honorary Life Member and Senior Conservationist **Francis M. (Rob) Roberts** (99) of Spokane, Washington passed away on August 26, 2015. He graduated from Washington State College (now WSU) in 1939 with two BS degrees, one in engineering. His first assignments with the Soil Conservation Service were in Buffalo and Afton, Wyoming. **Rob** entered the Army in an engineering company in 1943 and was part of an advanced unit sent to Nagasaki, Japan in 1945, after the surrender. He resumed his position with the SCS, from which he retired in 1976, in Spokane, after 36 years. His longest position was as area engineer in Ephrata, WA, but he also served as Area Conservationist and retired in the Spokane State Office as an engineer on the Watershed Planning Staff. **Rob** also served three years on loan to USAID in New Delhi, India in the late 1960s. He was active in ARCSE and was the Washington State Representative for many years. He was preceded in death by **Naomi** his devoted wife of 69 years in 2009, and a brother in 2012. He is survived by his sons and daughters-in-law, **William and Deborah Roberts**, Chicago, Illinois and **John and Linda Roberts**, Austin, Texas; a granddaughter, and a great-grandson; and "adopted" daughter, **Marilyn (Jones) McBride**, Issaquah, WA.

Ruhland

Jean Ruhland (76) of St. Paul, Minnesota passed away on September 14, 2015. She is survived by her husband of 53 years Victorin, an ARCSE member who retired from SCS as a Resource Conservationist. Also surviving are five children: **James (Jayne)** of Mitchell, SD; **Kenneth (Lori)** of West Fargo, ND; **Kathy (Steven Geis)** of Woodbury, MN; **John** of Roseville, MN; and **Brian** of Winona, MN; and six grandchildren. Preceding her in death was a son **Joseph**. www.WulffFuneralHome.com

Schiermester **Joan Schiermester** (76) wife of Bismarck, North Dakota passed away on September 2, 2015, at Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Center, Bismarck, ND. They had lived and worked in Linton, Mott, and Bismarck. Joan worked for the federal government for 31 years. She is survived by her husband, **Ervin** of 57 years. He was a Civil Engineering Technician for SCS in the State Office in Bismarck, ND. Also surviving are two daughters, **Gail (Terry) Mees** and **Sandy (Donny) Gleich**; 5 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren and a baby boy due in December; 6

brothers and 3 sisters.

Stoner

William "Bill" Stoner (94) of Mifflintown, Pennsylvania passed away on September 26, 2015. **Bill** was a Soil Conservation Technician in Juniata County, PA for over 30 years. He trained numerous soil conservationists and technicians in the planning, design and application of conservation practices. In retirement, **Bill** served on the Juniata County Conservation District board for several years. He was also a member and past president of the Juniata County School Board and a member of the Westminster United Presbyterian Church, Mifflintown, where he served as Elder, Deacon, and Trustee. **Bill** was a lifelong farmer and a veteran of World War II. He is survived by 5 children, 13 grandchildren, and 17 great grandchildren. His wife of 59 years, **Martha (Auker) Stoner** preceded him in death on March 8, 2005.

Walthall

Thomas C. "Tom" Walthall (65) of Powhatan, Virginia passed on September 16, 2015, at home after a long battle with cancer. **Tom** was a Federal employee of NRCS, as an office assistant and retired on July 31, 2015 after 22 years. He loved his country and served in the U.S. Army. **Tom** became a paralyzed veteran in 1990. A member of The Sitting Ducks and past president of The Sitting Ducks Plus bowling league. Tom was a member of the Mid-Atlantic PVA for 25 years, past National Champion of the American Wheelchair Bowling Association, member of IWAA and the Rimriders Basketball Team. He is survived by his loving and devoted partner, **Alicia "Lisa" Rhinehart** and her children and by his four grandchildren and one great-grandson. Tom was preceded in death by a daughter, **Tommie Walthall**.

DEADLINE FOR JAN/FEB 2016 NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS IS DECEMBER 25, 2015



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