

President
Warren M. Lee
2300 Lakeview Pkwy
Locust Grove, VA 22805
(540) 972-6873
wandblee@comcast.net

President-Elect
Cecil Currin
137 Mt. Warner
Hadley, MA 01035-9668
(413) 549-5677
luandcecil@currin.org

Immediate Past President
Mark W. Berkland
5101 Corner Rock Drive,
Rolesville, NC 27571
(843) 475-8164
mberkland480@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer
Ronald L. Marlow
ARCSE
P. O. Box 7454
Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7454
(703) 503-9219
arcse@cox.net

Regional Vice-Presidents
EAST
William J. Bowers
19 Natures Crossing
Enola, PA 17025-1043
(717) 877-4593
wbowers@comcast.net

WEST
Jerry Richard
2709 South Post
Spokane, WA 99203
(509) 747-5039
glr52pdr@aol.com

SOUTH
Arnold D. King
1900 Canaveral Ct.
Granbury, TX 76048-4370
(817) 578-8177
arnolddking@hotmail.com

MIDWEST
Norman R. Kempf
2312 North 80th
Lincoln, NE 68507-3339
(402) 464-6390
nkempf@neb.rr.com

Historian
Douglas Helms
398 N. Edison St.
Arlington, VA 22203
(703) 525-1468
douglas_helms@verizon.net

Editor
Jerry Bernard
15 Apple Blossom Ct.,
Stafford, VA 22554
(540) 720-5644
jbernard.nrcsret@gmail.com

Webmaster
vacant

Notes From the Potomac
John Stierna
2600 Wiley Terrace
Haymarket, VA 20169
(703) 754-1512
jnstierna@aol.com

Senior Conservationist Chronicler
Marc Safley
11975 William and Mary Circle,
Woodbridge, VA 22192
(703) 494-8074
jsafley1@verizon.net



NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter for Retired SCS and NRCS Employees

Vol. 41, No. 6 Nov/Dec, 2014

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

Website: www.arcse.org

NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

John Stierna

The Congress—With November only a few days away, much of Washington is focused on the election and what comes next, depending on which party has a majority in the Senate. Regardless of election outcomes, appropriations will require attention during the lame duck session before the end of this year's session of Congress. At this time it looks like either an omnibus appropriation bill or a continuing resolution will be the avenue of choice for Congress. An omnibus bill would likely provide somewhat greater funding for the NRCS conservation operations account compared to a continuing resolution that limits funds to the FY 2014 level. The dollar amounts were provided in the last issue of the ARCSE newsletter.

Efforts are underway to have the lame duck session include an extension of tax credits, including one for conservation easements. There is broad bi-partisan support for this bill, but it is uncertain whether Congress will want to tackle a tax bill during the brief time available.

NRCS—In addition to the many on-going things at NRCS, considerable effort has been underway to develop and finalize a number of rules associated with conservation programs in the Farm Bill. A rule is expected to be published soon for each of the following programs: Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), and the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP).

NRCS is expected to announce in mid-November the project selected for funding under the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). Of the almost 600 pre-proposals submitted earlier, 231 projects were invited to submit full proposals. The agency has posted information on strengths and opportunities for improvement found in the evaluation of pre-proposals submitted. It can be found at http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national_programs/farmbill/rcpp/?cid=stelprdb1259856. RCPP is intended to boost conservation delivery and leverage the Federal investment through partnering with other organizations that work with producers.

Chief **Jason Weller** indicated that NRCS is also developing a rule that would outline how NRCS may be able to use science-based technology to make compliance determinations without having to make a complete site visit. It is part of agency efforts to streamline the process of making determinations. This proposed rule will be open for public comment after it is published, likely in early November.

FY2014 Budget—Treasury Secretary **Lew** and Budget Director **Donovan** released FY 2014 final budget results that show significant and continued progress in reducing the deficit. When measured in outlays, the deficit was about \$200 billion less than FY 2013 and \$165 billion less than forecast in the budget. NRCS outlays were \$118 million less than FY 2013 and nearly \$850 million less than budgeted for FY 2014. Some of the budgeted resources will be spent in FY 2015 since Farm Bill resources are now "no year" funds.

Waters of the United States (WOTUS)—EPA and the US Army Corps of Engineers have extended the comment period to November 14th on the proposed rule that defines the waters within the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act. The proposed rule, and a related interpretive rule, have been controversial in that while the stated intent was to provide clarity, a number of groups have said that it amounts to regulatory over-reach. This issue is not likely to subside in the months ahead and will likely end up back in the courts.

Cover Crops and Soil Health—Over 40 organizations have signed on to a statement recently delivered to USDA that provides a common vision for cover crops and soil health. The statement calls upon USDA to broadly support cover crops and soil health through a comprehensive strategic plan with clear, outcome-based goals for a wide range of USDA (cont'd)

policies and programs. Organizations included producer groups, conservation groups, farm suppliers, and several foundations. The statement can be found at

<http://www.nacdnet.org/news/newsroom/2014/diverse-coalition-releases-vision-statement-for-cover-crops-and-soil-health>

Harvest—Corn and soybean harvests are expected to be very large this year, leading to challenges for storage and rail shipments.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Warren M. Lee, wandblee@comcast.net

Over the years, several folks have asked if ARCSE is, or could become, a 501(c)(3) organization which would allow them to take a **tax deduction** on their contributions to the organization. We have researched the issue and have determined that we have been properly identified as a 501(c)(4) organization. As stated in our Charter, “The purpose of the Association is to help its members keep in touch with each other and with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and its activities and to view conservation problems and programs from a Non-Governmental point of view, so that the members may be better able to assist the conservation effort.” The purpose and subsequent objectives fit this category and not those formed under paragraph (3).

Another issue we are debating is whether to include everyone’s **phone number** in our ARCSE Directory. With the advent of the computer, most of our home phone numbers are readily available using the “Whitepages” web site. Thus, since it’s readily available, we may not be compromising our member’s privacy by including their home numbers in the ARCSE Directory. In addition, many members are now using only cell phones, and those numbers are available. We would allow members to opt out. Personally, I would find it very handy to have individual members’ home and/or cell phone numbers printed in the directory, but this is the Board’s decision. **We recognize the pros and cons and would like feedback from our members.**

Barb and I are off to our winter home in Mesa, AZ. If your travels take you in that direction, give us an email. Maybe we can meet up and catch up on our activities.



Five SCS/NRCS retirees spent some time at Acadia National Park in September: Warren Lee, Galen Bridge, Gordon Klofstad, Larry Lenz, and Dennie Burns.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE, 2014

Name: **Scott Hoag, Jr.**, Bozeman, MT 59718

Nomination submitted by Dick Gooby, Montana State Representative

Dick Gooby presented the President’s Community Service Award to **Scott Hoag** at the Montana retirees’ breakfast, September 3rd, 2014. There were 24 retirees and wives at the breakfast. Scott and his wife **Nancy** were really appreciative of the award. Scott is a native of Montana and received his MS in Agricultural Economics from Montana State University. He started his career as a Soil Conservationist in 1972 and retired with 33 years of service after holding positions in Montana (twice), New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Washington DC (twice) and North Dakota (STC). He participated on three short term foreign assignments to India,

Nigeria and Jordan providing technical assistance for water resources development and natural resources conservation. Scott retired from National Headquarters in 2001.



Dick Gooby presents the ARCSE President's Community Service Award to Scott Hoag. The plaque was inscribed with "In recognition of dedicated service by volunteering thousands of hours with Habitat for Humanity resulting in safe affordable homes for sixty families across the nation."

Meanwhile, Scott was asked if he might repair two local shelters (in Bozeman) for battered women and their children, and though she'd never been keen on volunteering, before long Scott's enthusiasm began to nudge his wife **Nancy** to do the same. There were people all over this country—many of them single mothers—without a place to live and raise their children. Within days, an entirely different vision for Scott's and Nancy's retirement began to replace all the plans they had made for a big home and expanded travel. It no longer made sense to either of them to simply spend their resources and retirement on themselves: they would build decent, safe, and affordable homes for people who could not, given their circumstances, build one on their own.

In 2008 Scott and Nancy sold their Bozeman home and 75% of what they owned, purchased a small condominium in order to store what they had kept, and then purchased an RV (5th wheel) and spent most of the next four and one-half years volunteering with Habitat for Humanity (HfH). Scott and Nancy traveled back and forth (three times) across the US helping to build homes for families residing in Washington, Oregon, New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, Georgia, Ohio, Virginia, North Carolina, Florida and Montana. Scott participated in 33 building projects, working on more than 60 homes.

Children find stability in their community and their schools and self-esteem in a stable home environment. When these children are provided with a stable home environment and an address that doesn't change every several months, they compete in sports, join girl scouts and boy scouts and participate with youth groups at their church.

One thing Habitat volunteers say at the start of each day is "Habitat is not a hand out, it is a hand up!" As a result of home ownership, single mothers have started their own businesses. One single mother now owns her own burrito shop in Colorado; another has created a log chinking business that provides for her children and herself. In Port Townsend, **Amy** was able to build her photography business. Scott and Nancy worked with Amy while building her home to create a dark room for her where there might otherwise have been a 3rd bedroom she and her little boy did not need. Prior to becoming involved with Habitat, Amy was a single mom with a 3 year old who had had 21 operations, and she was working as a waitress in two restaurants. Scott suggested she apply for an HfH house. The following year when Scott and Nancy returned to Port Townsend to build again, Amy came running from the kitchen, threw her arms around Nancy and cried "I got my house." Later, Scott had the privilege of working on Amy's house as a volunteer. As a side note, something like 95% of the kids in HfH homes graduate high school and go on to college.

Scott has also volunteered with Eagle Mount in Bozeman providing recreational opportunities for physically and cognitively challenged young people and adults. Scott worked with folks in the therapeutic riding program and the adaptive ski program for three years.

Scott was nominated for a position and was elected by the Bridger Bowl Association to the Bridger Bowl Board of Directors. Bridger Bowl is a family-oriented, World Class ski area providing affordable skiing for residents of the Gallatin Valley and visitors from across the United States.

He points out that none of this would have been possible if not for his wife's support and their agreement to sell their home and buy a 5th wheel and pick-up and go "on the road" for Habitat for Humanity. "It takes a team," he said.

A BIT OF HISTORY

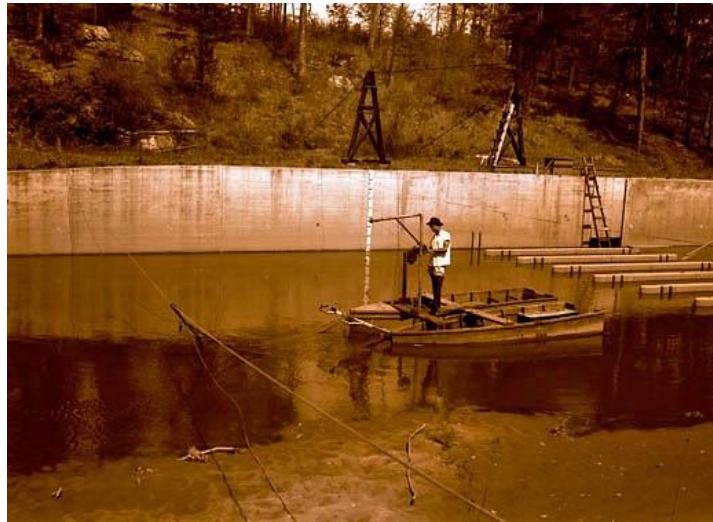
Douglas Helms, Historian

Email: douglas_helms@verizon.net

Hans Albert Einstein and the SCS

When the Soil Conservation Service was created in 1935, it inherited the erosion experiment stations established by **Hugh Hammond Bennett** in the late 1920s. SCS augmented those activities with hydrologic and hydraulic research to understand the processes of erosion, water and sediment movement, and flooding in small watersheds. The ultimate objective was to aid in the design of conservation practices. One area of considerable interest was the Southern Piedmont, where over a century of clean-tilled cotton growing on rolling lands had taken its toll. In upstate South Carolina, SCS consolidated research along with demonstration projects and management of land utilization projects.

The SCS took the opportunity to hire a young scientist from Switzerland who was already making contributions in the study of bedload transport. Though **Hans Albert Einstein** preferred to make it on his own, without a boost from his famous father, the father did in fact write to **Gilbert C. Dobson**, acting chief of SCS's Sedimentation Division, saying, "I should be very happy, if my son could take part in the solution of the important water-regulation-problems of this country." In 1938, Hans Albert, not yet a citizen of the United States, went into the employ of the state of South Carolina, where the state and SCS were cooperating in the construction of an outdoor hydraulics laboratory on the Enoree River, near Greenville. Since the Enoree seldom ran full for extended periods, young Einstein also studied a smaller stream, Mountain Creek, at the foot of Paris Mountain. For these studies he built a mobile laboratory by mounting sampling equipment on a truck.



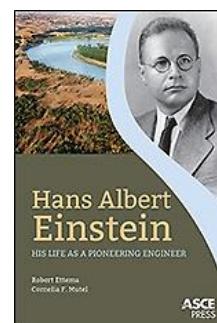
Greenville Bedload Experiment Station on Enoree River, Greenville, SC. Source, National Archives, 114-G-SC8098.

When SCS closed the Greenville laboratory due to wartime funding cuts, Einstein moved to the California Institute of Technology where SCS had funded construction of an indoor hydraulics laboratory and had a cooperative research project with Cal Tech. Again, the ultimate objective of the research was the design of soil and water conservation measures and structures. At Cal Tech and after moving to the University of California-Berkeley, Einstein continued to work on the publication that would be issued as ***The Bed-Load Function for Sediment Transportation in Open Channel Flows***, U.S. Department of Agriculture Technical Bulletin 1026 (1950).

One can read an engaging and detailed account of Einstein's SCS career as well as an account of his childhood, family life, and post-SCS career in Robert Ettema and Cornelia F. Mutel's, ***Hans Albert Einstein: His Life As a Pioneering Engineer*** (ASCE Press, 2014). One may purchase the book from the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE Press) or from Amazon or Barnes & Noble.



Hans Albert Einstein



BUDGET AND MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Ron Marlow, Secretary Treasurer

Budget Report, Fiscal Year 2014

(July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014)

Income	
Item	FY 14 Actual
Annual Mtg.-NV	810
Dues	12,621 ^{1/}
Interest Income	256
Contributions	499
Contributions (Life Members)	592
Reserve Funds	1,066
Total	\$15,844

Expenses	
Administration	2,695
Special Incentives	500
Annual Mtg.-NV	2,949
Newsletter	8,623
WebPage	600
Awards	312
Membership	20 ^{2/}
Investment Charge	145
Total	\$15,844

ARCSE Assets

As of 07/01/2014, (Includes unrealized gains)

Assets	
Total Bank Accounts (Savings and Checking)	12,328.73
Investment Accounts	
Certificates of Deposit Totaling	23,115.77
OVERALL TOTAL Assets	<u>35,444.50</u> ^{3/}
OVERALL TOTAL (07/01/2013)	36,697.64
NET CHANGE	-1,253.14 ^{4/}

^{1/} Includes \$1,725 in Lifetime Dues for 14 lifetime memberships; 614 members currently pay dues on an annual basis, accounting for approximately \$11,000.

^{2/} Membership in CCC Legacy.

^{3/} This level of total assets is needed to meet future amortized lifetime membership expenses.

^{4/} Total assets have decreased ten of the last eleven years.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

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

ARCSE Membership Report

Fiscal Year 2014 (ending June 30, 2014)

Number of members—1,009, including 359 lifetime members. There were 34 new members in FY14, 25 fewer than FY13. 15 new members were complimentary. 21 of the 31 complimentary in FY13 joined in FY14. 44 members were dropped at the cut-off on May 1st, including two FY13 complimentary.

759 newsletters were distributed by email. There are 321 senior conservationists, a decrease of 15 from the 336 shown in the last report.

Honorary Members

The following members of ARCSE have celebrated or will be celebrating their 91st birthdays by the end of 2014. With this milestone, each of these members becomes an Honorary Member. As an Honorary Member, no dues are required for calendar year 2015 and thereafter. ARCSE now has 67 Honorary Members.

William T. Foerschler	KS	George J. Newberger	OH
Theodore Fedak	NY	Roman A. Statz	WI
Warren J. Fitzgerald	AZ	Peter N. Jensen	NE
Robert L. Hilliard	PA	J. Elwood Guthrie	NC
Van C. Mills	TX	Henry S. Stamatel	NY
Elias Bloom	IN		

2015 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. **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 2015 dues will not receive the email transmitting a dues notice.

ARIZONA

Karl Klingelhofer, ARCSE Representative

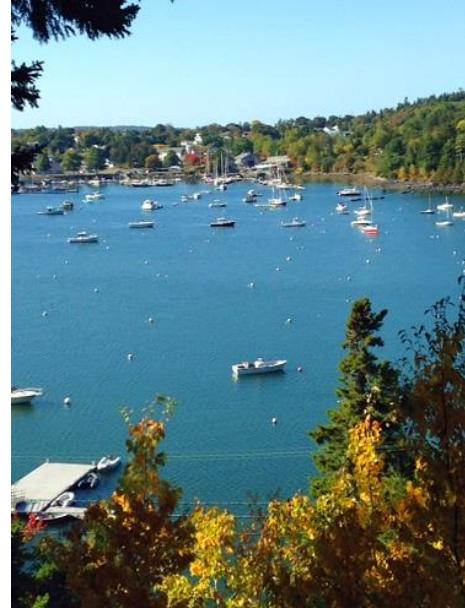
Email: krklingel@aol.com

John Hedlund, Tucson, AZ—Summer is over, so now is the time to start the trip back to AZ. Any of the stories you hear about western ND are true but reality is probably greater: more traffic, higher costs, labor shortage, and small towns booming. It's been exciting to watch but in a way sad to see the many changes to familiar places. I guess that's progress.

Galen Bridge, Tucson, AZ—For several years we have gathered as a group to enjoy the Maine Coast, consume significant amounts of lobster and just have fun. We did have fun and those involved were: **Warren and Barbra Lee, Gordy and Betsy Klostad, Dennie Burns and his companion Lee, Karen and Larry Lenz, and yours truly with my companion Erwina**. We shared a large house on the shore of Somes Sound just south of Bar Harbor. The weather was perfect for hiking Acadia National Park. We consumed 99lbs of lobster (one pound less than last year) and drank an outrageous amount of scotch. Prior to the Maine trip, I spent several weeks in Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark. These countries are blessed with great natural beauty, high standards of living, fun people and great food. What else is there?



Galen Bridge at Thuya Garden, Maine



Northeast Harbor, Maine

On returning to the US, I spent the summer just busting around the country. And what a beautiful country we live in. I left Seattle, hiked Mount Rainier, joined my grandson for hiking and rafting in the Tetons and Yellowstone, spent some time in Kansas City, and returned to central Washington by way of Wyoming. I met **Lynn Brown** at South Pass, WY, and we traveled together back to Yakima, WA. I am back in Arizona and already tired of political pundits, slick campaign ads, and hysteria over Ebola. The real world is still a great place.



Mt. Rainier, Washington

Marion Strong, Tempe, AZ—Not much to report from the Strong residence this time. Have travelled only once since the last newsletter. My daughter, **Marcia**, accompanied me to Indiana and Michigan. I'm still living independently in my home. **On the way to 97 years**. Have been retired over 34 years.

I participated in a burial ceremony for a couple. He was a long time neighbor and very close friend when I was young. We visited family while we were back there.

Karl Klingelhofer, Tucson, AZ—Spent a week in Maine in October to see family and the foliage. Had good weather for Maine. Lots of good food. All of my family are good cooks, but I never learned. My son made peach muffins from his own peach tree, apple cobbler from his own apple tree, and potato pancakes from potatoes from his garden; and he has eggs from his own chickens. No homemade beer though, but he has done that in the past.

The Owl Head Transit Museum had a weekend car show. My son drove his '53 Chevy and got free admission. My granddaughter and I had to pay. There we saw a 1931 seven-passenger Pierce Arrow Limo with a V-12 engine. Really beautiful! He said there were only three like it in the world. The owner actually took us for a short ride down the road. Several old Rolls were there too and a '32 Chevy Roadster with rumble seat that was identical to the one my college roommate had in 1946.



1931 Pierce Arrow Limousine



V-12 Engine (count the spark plugs)

Chris Williams, Chandler, AZ—Karen and I just returned from a trip to Denver where we attended the 25th anniversary celebration for the Project Food, Land and People organization. I had been involved in the initial formation of the project in 1988 and had served as chairman of their steering committee from 1989 until March 2003.

The project continues to produce and distribute lessons about agriculture, resource conservation and land use. While I was attending this meeting, they reviewed five lessons that have been developed under an Advancing Animal Agriculture Initiative grant from USDA. These lessons will now be distributed to teachers in the 6th to 12th grades for pilot testing. If you know of a teacher in these grade levels, who might be interested in participating in this pilot test, they should contact Ms. Doty Wenzel at www.foodlandpeople.org.

On our return trip, we saw several small herds of pronghorn antelope along I-25 in both Colorado and New Mexico. We also visited the Bosque del Apache Refuge near Socorro and saw the early-arrived flocks of Sandhill Cranes and Snow Geese that use the refuge during the winter.

Gary Nordstrom, Prescott Valley, AZ—In June we drove to Kansas to visit our son. We brought our grandchild home and spent two weeks with him, then brought him back to Kansas. Our son has been deployed to the Middle East for the fourth time. In July we went to Las Vegas to celebrate my birthday. In September we drove to Memphis, TN so **Jayne** could attend the Girl Thing with **Dolores Nelson, Betty Milliken, Barb Read, Barb Garrett, Linda Clark, and Julie Eckes**. They have been getting together like this for 20-plus years. The guys—**Ed, Billy, Ronnie, and I**—went down to Tunica, MS and played golf until they were ready to go home. In October I had one of my high school classmates stop by to visit on their way to Sedona. We wish each of you a very merry Christmas!

ARKANSAS

Robert Cantrell, ARCSE Representative

Email: cant3843@comcast.net

Arkansas had its annual ARCSE meeting on September 18th at the 4H Center in Fernwood near Little Rock. The meeting was followed by a luncheon and had 17 attending.

There was so much noise with everyone visiting that **Whitey Spears**, after several futile attempts to get everyone's attention, opened the meeting by leading us in a Pledge of Allegiance. He then explained, "It is now time for our program, but there is no program." He knew that the only "program" we needed was the enjoyment of visiting and electing new officers. After considerable pleading with Robert Cantrell we convinced him that he had plenty of time to be president with the help of Bill Garner. After the elections **Myrna Richardson** entertained us with a very funny joke and then we visited some more over a delicious meal.

Whitey Spears, former State Conservationist, announced that since he was now 90 years old it was time that he officially resigns as our president. All expressed their appreciation for his many diligent and selfless years of service for us all.

Robert Cantrell, former Assistant State Conservationist for Water Resources, was elected as our president and therefore our new ARCSE Representative. His email is: cant3843@comcast.net. Address: 1201 Winnebago, North Little Rock, Arkansas 72116, Phone: [501-758-4975](tel:501-758-4975). **Bill Garner** was elected as vice president/secretary.



Arkansas Retirees, Back Row, L-R: Charles Henry, Whitey Spears, Billy Shurley, John Dobbins, Robert Cantrell, Ralph Mashburn, Bill Townsend, Bill Gardner, Maurice Sharp, Wayne Richardson, and John Henry. **Front Row seated at table:** Betty Henry, Sallye Dobbins, Barbara Childress, Gene Childress, Myrna Richardson, and George Dahlke.

Robert Cantrell does stay busy making excellent duck calls as a hobby. He has more demand than he can fill. He is also on three church committees.

Wayne Richardson and Bill Townsend, former SCS Soil Scientists, have been in demand throughout Arkansas for doing the soil surveys needed for subdivisions and septic system designs. Since his retirement, Wayne has mapped 225 subdivisions from 10 to 1200 acres in size.

Ralph and Nancy Mashburn enjoy working as volunteers together with the Gideons International and on committees in their local church. Last year in April, Ralph was selected to join an international Gideon team that distributed over 33,000 Bibles in Wroclaw, Poland.

Gene Childress has reduced his cattle herd from about 100 down to 20. **Charles Henry** has retired from raising and training hunting dogs.

We are planning to have an interesting program for next year, in addition to our good time visiting. We hope **Myrna Richardson** will have several more good jokes to tell by that time.

The next meeting is planned for Thursday, September 24, 2015 at the same location.

CALIFORNIA

Bill Ward, ARCSE Representative

Email: bluegrassbillward@gmail.com

Hello from California to all our fellow SCS and NRCS retirees across the nation. We have some sad news to share since our last report as the following three California retirees have passed away since then.

Raymond Clyde Borchard, April 7, 1925 to October 1, 2014. Position at retirement, Area Conservationist, Sacramento, CA. <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/sacbee/obituary.aspx?pid=172780902>. Please see the In Memoriam section for more details on these recent passings.

Mario John Milani: Position at retirement, State Construction Engineer, Davis, CA, <http://www.recordnet.com/article/20141014/Obituaries/310149999>.

There was a very nice Catholic Mass service for Mario Friday October 17th followed by a very nice luncheon reception afterward. SCC/NRCS retirees and current working staff were well represented and many family friends were there including some Cal Poly roommates of Mario's as well. It was great to see so many folks there to support Gin and all the Milani Family.



Mario John Milani,
June 3, 1934 to
October 9, 2014.

There was a very nice grave-side service for **Chuck Velasques** on Friday, October 10th which included a Military recognition for him, playing of taps and folding of the American Flag for his service as a veteran of the Korean War. This was followed by a Chaplain's prayer, my Eulogy and a closing medley of "Amazing Grace" and "I'll Fly Away," by myself and a friend. After that our group enjoyed a nice luncheon at the local American Legion hall where many other former co-workers and friends shared stories of enjoyable times working with and socializing with Chuck. Chuck was a dear friend of mine for almost 40 years. I did his Eulogy and believe he had his faith in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. Here is an excerpt from my "Eulogy:"



Charles Velasquez,
November 4, 1933
to September 27,
2014.

At this time I would also like to make a few comments about faith, our life here on earth and eternity. First, our life on this earth is indeed the blink of an eye compared to eternity. For myself and others who believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, and for his death on the cross for our sins, we look forward to an eternal life in heaven with our Lord and Savior and other believers who have gone on before us.

For everyone here today, if you don't have that faith that Jesus Christ is your Savior and the comfort that comes with that knowledge, please talk to a Christian friend, or a pastor who can share with you inspirational words from the Bible about this most important part of our lives. And remember none of us is guaranteed even one more day on this earth. John 3:16: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

I appreciate the opportunity now to share the message in this part of my Eulogy with all my fellow ARCSE members across the country. It is times like these when friends and family leave us that we are reminded just how short and fragile life is and what is really important. In closing my report here I want to share and dedicate this same gospel Medley to all three of our California retirees who have passed. Wishing you all the best for the remainder of 2014 from all the California retirees.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INWXqy4kTDI>

"Amazing Grace/I'll Fly Away," Western Lights with special Guest Jennifer Reeves, 2012.

GEORGIA

Edward Ealy, ARCSE Representative

Email: epdro22@gmail.com

Twenty-six former SCS/NRCS employees and spouses met on October 23rd at Ryan's Steakhouse in Athens, GA. Attending were **Ann Graham, Andy Page, Beverly Walker, Bill and Norma White, Bob Oertel, Bob Stovall, Bob and Frances Wilkes, Carolyn Adams, Cecil and Gene Martin, Edna Firor, Edward Ealy, Elaine Stephenson, Ellen and George Norris, Gerald and Evelyn Sadler, Jack and Lorraine Hahn, Jim and Judith Helm, Kitty Stevens, Marge Lucas, and Vivian Patten**.

Senior Conservationist, **Bob Oertel**, attended the lunch. Bob is 97-years-old. He retired with 42 years of service with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS). Bob is a native of Illinois but spent his first 15 years as a Soil Scientist in South Carolina and Georgia. In 1956 Bob converted to a District Conservationist in Georgia, including Ashburn, Tifton, Fitzgerald, Mt. Vernon and Gainesville. In total, Bob relocated 13 times in his 42-year career. Bob says he sometimes moved his household goods with the assistance of his government-assigned pickup truck. I am assuming the use of the government vehicle for transfers within the agency was part of the early SCS relocation benefit package. Bob did not give a hint that he thought there were any violations committed. Bob also served as

Area Conservationist and Assistant State Conservationist in his native Illinois. He retired in 1982 as Assistant State Conservationist for Programs in Athens, GA.

Bob remains active today. He volunteers as a Camp Photographer for the Group Publishing Company (GPC). The GPC sponsors home repair and improvements mission trips across the country for high school students to serve individuals and communities. Bob has attended more than 60 of the GPC youth mission trips across the country. Bob loves to travel to other countries, including Iceland, Fiji, Australia, and New Zealand as some of his recent travel locations. Bob attributes two reasons for his long and active life: red wine and that he has never smoked.



Bob Oertel

Bob Wilkes recently heard from retired District Conservationist, **Fred Brackin** in Donaldsonville, GA. Fred is doing fine and sends his hello to the group. Fred says that he continues to fish as much as he can. Bob Wilkes informed the group on the passing of **Morris Schaffer**, former State Soil Scientist of Georgia, and **J.B. Olliff** of Douglas, GA.

The next lunch date is January 22, 2015.

Deaths: **Morris Shaffer** of Athens, GA, died Monday, September 15th, 2014 at the age of 91. **J.B. (John Benjamin) Olliff**, age 96, of Douglas, GA passed away at his home on Thursday, September 25th, 2014. See the In Memoriam section for more details.

IDAHO

Sharon Norris, ARCSE Representative

Email: snorris0889@gmail.com

We resumed our monthly luncheons in September after our summer break. Attending the Sept. 25th lunch were **Gene and Bev Crisman, Paul Malone, Amos and Ruth Garrison, Don and Maxine Stewart, Joe Icenhower, John Kendrick and Sharon Norris**. Amos told us he had recently returned from an Honor Flight to Washington, DC with 27 other World War II veterans from Idaho. While there they viewed the war memorials and monuments and visited the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Amos was one of two veterans selected to lay a wreath at the site. Amos was assigned a roommate at the hotel, and much to his amazement, it turned out to be **Carrol Tyler**, a retired SCS district conservationist. It had been years since they had seen each other, so they had fun catching up. Amos served in the U.S. Air Force where he became a pilot.

Other news tidbits: **Frank Fink's** oldest daughter got married; **Paul and Kip Malone** made a trip to Nebraska during the summer; and **Stan and Kathy Hobson** have set out in their motorhome for adventures in the great Southwest.

Attending our Oct. 23rd luncheon were **Dennis Froeming, Evan and June Merrell, Amos and Ruth Garrison, Wayne Faude, Gene and Bev Crisman, Paul Calverley, Jim Cornwell, Keri Gibbs, Stan and Kathy Hobson, Jim Cornwell, Denis Feichtinger, and Sharon Norris**. Latest news shared: **Froeming** has a new hip, **Cornwell** is recovering from a broken arm as the result of a bicycle accident; **Feichtinger** is now a proud grandfather of a bouncing baby girl (after three sons, he and his wife are overjoyed); **Garrison** was scheduled to leave the next day for an elk hunting trip with **Bill Moore, Rich Simms**, and others.

On a sadder note, **Shelby Brownfield's** wife **Marjorie** died Oct. 6th in Illinois. She was 83.

ILLINOIS

Dale Benz, ARCSE Representative

Email: daleab@sbcglobal.net

Twenty retirees and spouses gathered for lunch and visiting on October 2nd in Champaign. Two group pictures are shown below. Attending were **Lee and Nancy Bridgman, Elsie Campbell, Earl Voss, Glynn and Marge Shubert, Dick Dickerson, Jerry Leonard, Doris and David McKinney, Ron Lowery, Jim and Bonnie McQuilkin, Dave Dalzell, Dennis and Susan Beyer, Ray Coombes, Ben Mingo, and Dale and Nancy Benz**.

Lee Bridgman is downsizing. He sold his RV, got a smaller pickup, and is staying in Illinois this winter. With five great-grandchildren, Lee thinks he needs to slow down. He is preparing for a cold Illinois winter by going to Alaska in November and Yellowstone National Park in February. The highways should be safer with a smaller pickup—less power and slower speed!

Ben Mingo described his experience remodeling a bathroom in his home. The way Ben explained it, the work didn't turn out as a "square deal!" **Ray Coombes** enjoys attending his grandkids sporting events.

Dave Dalzell has a new pacemaker. His senior citizen sports participation is no longer softball but only bowling. With a steady heart beat with the pacemaker your scores should regularly be in the 275 plus range!

Glynn and Marge Shubert have been busy this summer updating their log house that they built in the country 25 years ago. Included in this work was adding a screened sunroom where the morning coffee also included watching the deer, turkey, and other wildlife roam in their wooded back yard. Glynn and Marge have been very involved with the National Wild Turkey Federation and the Illinois Chapter of NWTF in leadership roles as well as being members.



First row, left to right: Elsie Campbell, Glynn Shubert, and Marge Shubert. Back row, left to right: Ron Lowery, Earl Voss, Jerry Leonard, Dennis Beyer, Susan Beyer, and Dick Dickerson

Jim and Bonnie McQuilkin told of his and Bonnie's trip to Colorado to visit their daughter in July. They traveled by Amtrak and enjoyed the experience. Jim said you can see the scenery instead of just seeing the road.

Ron and Susan Lowery are staying in Champaign with their daughter, **Nikki**, for a few weeks as they make their way to Florida for the winter. Ron is staying busy with several interests and they both enjoy traveling.

Earl and Barb Voss visited their daughter in Dallas, TX in July, and she gave them the tour of Texas from the north to the south.



First row, left to right: Nancy Benz, Bonnie McQuilkin, Nancy Bridgman, and Doris McKinney. **Back row, left to right:** Ray Coombes, Ben Mingo, Dave Dalzell, Dale Benz, Jim McQuilkin, Lee Bridgman, and David McKinney

Dick Dickerson is building a new house—a doll house for Jan's boss. Many of you, especially with granddaughters, know about the American Girl Doll craze. This is an American Girl Doll House which is six feet tall and four feet wide. **Editor's note: an American Girl Doll is about 18 inches high.** I think Dick had to stand on a step ladder to work on the inside! We would have to get rid of our treadmill to have enough room to house a doll house that big! Dick and Jan traveled to Colorado this summer to visit their son, **Craig**, and plan to go to Florida in January.

Jerry and Jean Leonard took a spring trip to Utah to enjoy the National Parks there. In May, Jerry had a round of vertigo which put him in the hospital for a day. He is doing well and driving the trucks for the fall grain harvest. As you probably know, Illinois has a bumper corn crop this fall, so Corn Flakes should be real cheap this winter. Good news for retirees on a fixed income! Jerry told about the hailstorm in the Tuscola area this spring that did heavy damage to buildings and vehicles. It hailed for 20 minutes with hail as large as baseballs. Very few escaped damage. Jerry's home and buildings had to have the roofs and siding replaced because of the damage.

The April gathering of retirees is scheduled for April 2nd, 2015 in Champaign.

INDIANA

Harold Thompson, ARCSE Representative
Email: harold.thompson58@sbcglobal.net

Message sent in from "Deanett State Conservationist Jane Hardisty:

"Hello Fellow Conservationists. I hope this note finds you all well and enjoying this wonderful newsletter and keeping in touch. The purpose of this note is just that, to keep in touch and also to ask for your assistance. See below.



I am still the Indiana State Conservationist and still loving my job, love being a public servant and I love NRCS and our mission. I am approaching my 40th year with the agency and have no plans for retirement yet.

I am not only blessed and honored to work this long. I have now been bestowed with the title of "The Dean" or more suitably, "The Deanett" of State Conservationists. Let's be clear—I am NOT the oldest State Conservationist, but the longest tenured State Conservationist. Because of that title, I have been given the responsibility of "keeper of the 'necktie' and diamond lapel pin." (I must say the lapel pin is much more appealing than the tie!) In the tattered cardboard box these items came in are handwritten notes from each of the State Conservationists who have been given this honor.

Unfortunately, in the mix of touching notes and memories, there is little information—some notes have only a first name, and there are no dates.

Before I give up my title of Deanett and pass on the box, I would like to bring this list up to date and then charge future Deans to keep it current. I've talked with **Bob Eddleman** and **Rich Duesterhaus** to get some of the information. Below is what I think are the names and dates, but I am sure there are errors. Also, I think the dates are the year the box was passed to honor the next Dean, but I am not sure. Please take a look at this list and see if I have the right names (or if I have missed someone), the right state, and if you know the right date. Any help would be appreciated!

*Roland Willis ??
Francis Lum??
Don Bivens February 1987
Jack Kanalz October 1987
Frank Dickson May 1993
Lyn Brown December 1994
Bob Eddleman December 1999 - Indiana*

*John Titchner ??
Elesa Cottrell May 2001
Niles Glasglow 2009
Don Gohmert December 2009 - Texas
Pat Leavenworth October 2012 - Wisconsin
Homer Wilkes June 2013 - Mississippi
Jane Hardisty Current-Indiana*

If you would like to contact me and share your wonderful memory with some information to update this list, please email me at Jane.Hardisty@in.usda.gov or drop me a note at 6013 Lakeside Boulevard, Indianapolis, IN 46278. Or if you don't have a clue about any of this and just want to drop me a note, I would welcome that too.

KANSAS

Deanne Lull, ARCSE Representative

Email: rlull2@cox.net

Bad Soil? No Soil? Try planting in straw bales. Would it work? Why not try? So my husband purchased a bale and for twelve days treated it with fertilizer and water. Two plants were planted, and we started dreaming of harvesting home-grown tomatoes for BLT sandwiches. For a while, our plants were not looking good, and then overnight they took off, growing several feet high, blooming, and setting-on. At one time my husband quit counting after he had counted 60 set-on tomatoes. Our two plants produced enough tomatoes to keep our neighbors, several friends, and us in more tomatoes than we could eat. Yes, it does work.

While on the topic of gardening, the Salina Journal featured a picture of **Richard Schlepp** (former State Soil Scientist) picking black-eyed peas from his garden. He has been growing his own vegetables at the Salina County Community Garden plots since 1989. He says he takes home 20 to 30 pints of peas each year.

John Ourada (former State Conservation Engineer) has been on a long-time RSVP Volunteer (Retired Senior Volunteer Program). He was recently recognized by the Kansas Society of Professional Engineers with their 2014 Outstanding Citizens Award. This award recognizes the accomplishments of its recipient in his community. In his years of volunteering through RSVP, he's helped with events for organizations like the United Way, the Scouts, the Health Department, the Red Cross, and numerous others. He's pitched in for community events like the Spring Spruce-Up and the Fall Fix-Up. He's participated in commodities distribution and the letter carriers' food drive. And perhaps most impressively, he's logged over 100,000 miles and hundreds of hours driving veterans to appointments at the VA hospitals in Topeka, Wichita, and Kansas City. One would think John wouldn't have time for any more activities; however, he is presently serving as president of our NARFE chapter and our Kansas SCS/NRCS Retirees Association.

Kansas has several new retirees. I inadvertently overlooked reporting **David M. "Mike" Mortimer's** retirement for the last newsletter. **Mike** retired on July 31st, 2014, from the Kansas State Office as a Cartographic Technician on the Resource Conservation Staff. **George Carter** retired on August 31st, 2014, as the District Conservationist in the Norton Field Office. George began his career in 1987. Also retiring was **Terry D. Hodgson**, District Conservationist in the Anthony Field Office. Terry completed his career with 31 years of service on September 30th, 2014.

We have lost several retirees and one spouse since our last newsletter. Our condolences go to the **Dester, Vogel, Atwood, Whelpley, Richards, and Heise** families.

Eugene P "Gene" Dester passed away on August 23rd, 2014. **Gene** retired in 1992 as the District Conservationist in the Abilene Field Office. **Thomas Eugene Vogel** passed away in September 14th, 2014. **Thomas** retired in 1993 as a Soil Conservation Technician in the Gove Field Office. **Nova D. Atwood** passed away September 15th, 2014. **Nova** retired in 1979 as the Agricultural Economist on the Water Resources Planning Staff in the Kansas State Office. I worked with **Nova** for approximately 12 years, and I spent many hours helping with calculating the benefits of watershed projects. I will especially miss visiting with **Nova** at our monthly NARFE meetings. **Robert E. Whelpley** passed away September 30, 2014. **Robert** retired in 1986 as the District Conservationist in the McPherson Field Office. **Johnnie L. Richards** passed away on October 4, 2014. **Johnnie** retired in 1988 as a Soil Conservation Technician in the Olathe Field Office. **Theresa H. Heise**, spouse of **Harold D. Heise**, passed away on August 16, 2014. **Harold** (former District Conservationist at the El Dorado Field Office) survives. See the In Memoriam section for more details on these passings.

KENTUCKY

Billye M. Haslett, ARCSE Representative

Email: bchaslett@aol.com

Annual Meeting Update: The KY SCS/NRCS retiree Association held their annual meeting at Natural Bridge State Park on October 6-7, 2014. A pit barbecue scheduled for the evening of October 6th, had to be canceled due to inclement (stormy) weather. Approximately 30 retirees attended the October 7th meeting. Three first time attendees were present: **Ray Barker**, SCT; **Peggy Smith**, HR Officer; and **David Stipes**, AC.

The program included a presentation by **Brenda A. Hume**, State vice chairman of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Mrs. Hume presented a program about genealogy research in Kentucky. She urged everyone to share with their families both their oral and written history. She indicated that family history can be lost in as little as three generations. So write your history down so that it will be available when family members become interested.

Deena Wheby, ASTC for Programs, represented **Karen Woodrich**, State Conservationist. Deena provided updates on the Farm Bill and provided a list of personnel updates, including recent retirements.

Paul Howell, geologist, is still working at the state office and just celebrated his 50th year with NRCS.



Peggy Smith, retired HR Officer; Billye Haslett, retired SAO; Fred Alcott, retired DC and incoming Vice President); and Joel Legris, retired DC (incoming Secretary/Treasurer). Photo by Connie McKinney.



Ira Linville, Retired AC; George Ballard, Retired DC; and David Stipes, Retired AC

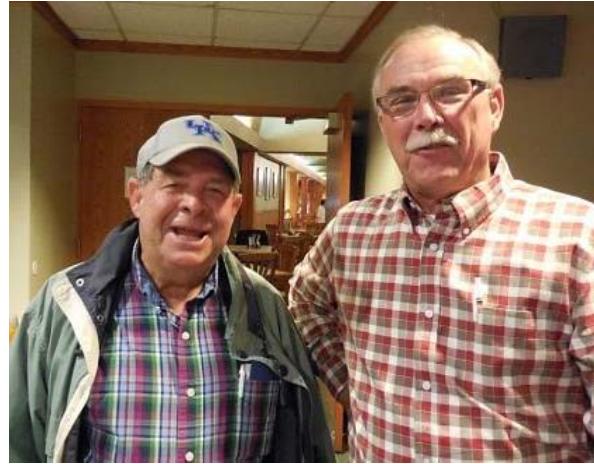
Ira Linville presented an RC&D update, reminding us how RC&D originally got started by successfully leveraging many partners who shared common goals to improve the environment and standard of living. There was leadership, cooperation, good planning, and shared funding. He said it can be done again and urged retirees who had been there at the beginning and nurtured RC&D to consider volunteering. Partners other than the feds still exist and the problems still exist. If you're interested in helping, please contact **Ira**, (irralinville@bellsouth.net), **Charles Turner**, (turner1224@gmail.com), or **Jimmy Marcum** (jcmarcum@windstream.net). All three are actively involved in RC&D and can point you in the right direction.

Jerry Coleman, incoming president of the KY SCS/NRCS retiree association, and his wife **Betty** recently celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary. Congratulations to Jerry and Betty.

Tom Marcum Reports: I've just been trying to take care of two old dogs and maintaining the yard/shrubs after the cold winter really hurt the shrubs. I did get to spend some time with my oldest son on two fishing trips. My highlight of the year was to spend my birthday with my grandson **Ethan**, in Nashville. It was the first time he let me hold him or paid attention to me.



Gene Jarvis, Retired RC.



Jimmy Marcum and Doug Hatchett, Retired DC's



Gerald Hart, Retired AC; Bob Marcum, Retired AC; and Tom Marcum, Retired SRC (Bob and Tom are Father and son).



Ethan Marcum, Grandson of Tom Marcum, Retired SRC and Great Grandson of Bob Marcum, retired AC.

Taylor Morgan, retired Engineer, welcomed the arrival of his first great grandson, **Carter**. Taylor has been in the hospital and is now recuperating at home. Taylor will celebrate his 82nd birthday on October 28th, 2014.

Roy Toney is the outgoing president of the KY SCS/NRCS retiree association. Retirees extend a special thank you to Roy, for his efforts over the past two years as president, and previous four years as an officer.

We welcome three Kentucky NRCS employees who retired October 3rd, 2014: **Jerry Adams**, Resource Conservationist (33 years of service); **Marty McCleese**, Supervisory Natural Resources Manager (36 years of service); and **Howard Sosbe**, Soil Conservation Technician (33 years of service).

National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) News: **Susan Horn**, a Social Security representative will be the guest speaker at several Kentucky NARFE chapters in the near future. The Social Security speaker may be of interest to those turning 65 within the next year, as you will be making the decision(s) about Medicare Part A, Part B and what is the best option for your federal health insurance plan to supplement Medicare. The May NARFE magazine had an extensive article addressing this issue. Please RSVP if you plan to attend and are not a member of the chapter listed below. Head counts are important to assure adequate seating.

Susan Horn will be at the Capitol NARFE Chapter 2229 meeting Tuesday November 11th at 1:00 p.m. at the Senior Activities Center at 202 Medical Heights Drive in Frankfort. Contact **Ira Linville** if you have questions. Ira's home phone: 502-226-6517

Susan Horn is also scheduled to be the guest speaker at the 97 Central KY NARFE Chapter meeting Wednesday, Nov 5th. The meeting is at the Senior Center on Alumni Drive on UK's campus, Lexington. The meeting begins at 2:00 with social time beginning at 1:30. RSVP to **Henry Duncan**, President, (859) 873-5399, if you plan on attending this meeting.

The next 1249 Boonesboro Chapter meeting will be on Monday, November 10th (Veterans Day) at Ryan's Steakhouse at 12 noon, Richmond, KY. RSVP to **Jimmy Marcum** at 859-925-4159, if you plan on attending this meeting. Officer elections were held. We appreciate our officers' willingness to serve: **Jerry Coleman**, President; **Fred Alcott**, Vice President; **Joel Legris**, Secretary/ Treasurer

The 2015 annual meeting of the KY SCS/NRCS retirees will be held in western KY at Pennyrile State Park, 20781 Pennyrile State Park Road, Dawson Springs, KY 42408 on October 6, 2015.

DEADLINE FOR JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS IS DECEMBER 25, 2014

MAINE

John J. Simon, ARCSE Representative

Email: balnengr@tds.net

September 2014 meeting: For sundry reasons the only show for breakfast on Sept. 9th, 2014 was **Charlie Boothby**. He had a good breakfast but was kind of lonely. Charlie Boothby and **Judy** are stalwart attendees for many years. Sorry we all missed Charlie in September!

I had a PCSWCD district tour of forest landowners that we (the supervisors) needed to visit in order to select our annual forestry awards receiver. It was a beautiful day, and we visited a forest in Newport, ME and Millinocket, ME. The choice was difficult as usual but the correct one.

October, 2014 meeting: Our monthly 9am breakfast was attended by **Bruce Champeon, Mary Thompson, Tom Smith, Bob Lagassey, and John Simon**. Mary is exploring employment options as she retired early as a result of supposed cutbacks in personnel in Maine. She is talented and only needs to develop a marketing plan for her natural resource talents. Tom Smith drove up from Portland to see Mary as he had not seen her for a long, long time.

I had a wonderful surprise recently when I was reading the Sept/Oct 2014 newsletter. I noticed a comment in the Kentucky section that a **Taylor Morgan** was celebrating the birth of his third great granddaughter. I wondered if this could be the same person I worked with on the Pennsylvania WS Planning Staff. I had not heard from him and assumed he had passed away. My last phone contact was somewhere around 1977. He left the planning staff to return to Kentucky in 1976. We both started with the planning staff in the fall of 1971. I contacted the state rep for KY and found the address and phone # of Taylor from her. Well, I called Taylor and he was the guy, same voice. We had a long talk about old times. What a joy to contact someone you assumed was deceased only to find they are still with us. This highlights one of the benefits of ARCSE membership.

Come to find out that the KY rep is **Billye Haslett**, and she just happens to be one of **Taylor Morgan**'s granddaughters! She is also a District Supervisor for her local conservation district. Thank you, Billye, for reconnecting me with a long lost friend! 'Till next time, take care and God bless, John Simon.

MASSACHUSETTS

Jim Wesoloski, ARCSE Representative

Email: Jim.wesoloski@gmail.com

Well, it's been another quiet two months here on the edge of the frozen tundra. Daylight Savings Time is almost over, and it's all downhill from here. Days are getting shorter; winter's fast approaching. Betty's still picking raspberries, but tonight's 30-degree low should put an end to that.

The West Wareham Field Office added two people to our collection of NRCS retirees in Mass.

Bernadette Taber was the Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program's Stormwater Specialist. Bernie was detailed to the Buzzards Bay NEP office since 1991 where she evaluated and developed solutions for stormwater remediation in both agricultural and urban environments.

The other retiree is **Irene Winkler**, who was the Pilgrim RC&D Coordinator until the demise of that program. After that, she completed her career by taking up soil conservationist duties.

We wish both of these fine people a long and happy retirement.

MICHIGAN

J. Roger Howell, ARCSE Representative

Email: rogerhowell@acd.net

Bill Fude sent this in. SCS/NRCS retirees in Michigan met in August and September. **Bobbie Hartman** organized the Upper Peninsula (UP) retiree lunch held on Monday, August 11th, 2014 at the Country Grill in Ishpeming. Those attending included: **Loren and Trudy Berndt, Larry Carey, Selden Collins, Bill Fude, Bobbie Hartman, Bernie and Diane Huetter, Mike LaPointe, Bill and Betty Perkis, Chuck Schwenner, Erwin Simi, Walt and Phyllis Summers, and Ken Wikgren**. The 2015 UP retiree lunch is planned to be held in June.

The 42nd annual Michigan SCS/NRCS retiree lunch was held on Thursday, September 11, 2014 at Maxfield's in Wyman. Those attending included: **Loren and Trudy Berndt, Jay Blair, Will and Deborah Bowman, Cathy Brothers, Gene Colby, Frank Cousin, Diane Fielder, Bill Fude, June Grabemeyer, George Heffner, Jerry Keller, Kathy Kelly, Chuck Lightfoot, Don and Kay Meister, Dwight and Norma Quisenberry, Merita and Ralph Smith, Jim and June Squires, Noella Stone, and John and Barbara Swanson**. STC **Garry Lee** attended the lunch and provided an update of current NRCS issues in the state. **Jay Blair** was the most recent retiree at the lunch, and **Merita and Ralph Smith** travelled the farthest to attend, having driven from Lindale, Texas. We honored the memory of those retirees and spouses who passed away since we last met. They included: **Janet Simi, Neil Strosenreuther, William Pitts, Kay Potter, Ina Quisenberry, Florence Drullinger, Del Meister, Ralph Sorrell, Frances Hall, Robert Hicks, and Freddie McNeil**. The 43rd annual lunch is planned to be held at Maxfield's on Thursday, September 10th, 2015.

MINNESOTA

Marlene Mechelke, ARCSE Representative

Email: mechgram@aol.com

A few retirees met for lunch on Wednesday, October 8th, 2014, at Pippins in Roseville: **John Handler, Al Giencke, Ron and Sylvia Olson, Vic Ruhland and Don Baloun**, MN STC. Thanks to John Handler for hosting this luncheon and submitting the material for this write-up.

Don had some interesting items of interest for the group: GSA is strongly requesting that agencies reduce office space by 25% to save rental money. MN NRCS is nurturing working relationships with DNR and USFS to extend our (meaning all three agencies) influence and conservation practices in forested counties.

The lack of field experience among current NRCS staff is alarming, especially Technicians and Soil Scientists. There seems to be too much reliance on computer modeling to design stuff and collect data, and a general lack of common sense when applying the model and data to the real world.

Don was at a farm technology days event at which he observed the operation of robotic milking techniques. Dairy herds of 200 to 1,000 cows, once trained, can be easily milked with the use of robots, thereby reducing the number of humans needed and subsequent labor costs.

The use of drone aircraft for surveying large crop fields and ranching operations is on the upswing. Labor savings is a driving factor. *Editor's note: the National Weather Service is also developing the use of Unmanned Aerial Surveillance (UAS) aircraft and systems for monitoring weather conditions.*

We are looking forward to more "Lunches with the STC".

MISSOURI

Dave Rastorfer, ARCSE Representative

Email: daverastorfer@aol.com

Well, we came close to having another *I-70 World Series*, but not quite, even though the Cardinals did make the playoffs. But, how 'bout them Royals! Let's hope the rest of the Series goes well and Missouri can claim another "World" Championship. Mizzou Tiger football? Well now that's another story, for later (perhaps much later).

Larry Pollard sent word that **Lucille Major** had passed away last November. Lucille was the wife of **Harry Major** who had held several positions in Missouri before going to Wisconsin as Assistant State Conservationist and to Minnesota as State Conservationist.

Alton Taylor: Most everyone in our neighborhood here in Texas has a new roof. Baseball-size ice does a number on roofs fast. We have had ours on for a couple months. We got the 50-year warranty: I'm still an optimist. We have a grandson on the Bush Carrier and expect him back by Christmas, and hopefully the Navy will put him back in Mizzou to finish.

Jay Lingwall: It has been a busy 2014. My daughter, **Jayne**, was married in July to a great guy. They are residing in Omaha, NE. **Leigh** and I sold our home in Missouri and bought a different home in Bokeelia, FL. We moved our stuff down and then took off for an extended trip to the northeast—DC, Maine, Nova Scotia, New Hampshire, Vermont, Michigan—and then Nebraska to see the newlyweds. The northeast has some strong runners, but Leigh continues to place in the 10Ks that we did. We really enjoy the new house, and our little fishing boat sits in the boat lift 80 feet from the back door. I almost have it ready for the grandkids, who will be here next week, and then for friends who are coming down from Montana before another winter arrives.

Dennis Shirk: Hello Folks. All is well at the Shirks, at least for the moment. Had a really nice camping and riding trip to Lesterville, MO. I had the privilege to assist the **Clifford Wyss Family** in making molasses. They have been doing this since 1990. Clifford is 93 and a WWII Veteran. I am sending a picture. An interesting note: the harness that "Lady" is wearing belonged to Clifford's father-in-law and is well over 100 years old. See y'all down the trail.

Jim Andrews: I'm now an old man. I turned 90 on the 4th. It's been a great summer: senior golf, fishing, and the best garden ever. I plan on going on and doing the things I enjoy until age stops me. Check out this picture on my 90th at my son's house on the golf course at Ledstone in Branson West.



"Lady" grinding sugar cane to make molasses on the Wyss family farm, Lesterville, MO



Left-right: Brother-in-law and sister, Jim Andrews (on his 90th birthday), granddaughter, daughter-in-law and oldest son.

From Peggy Fricke: I received this info on retired DC **Gary Luttrull** (Henry/Benton Counties). There may be some other retirees who know Gary and would want to let him know they are thinking of him and wish him well. Since retiring in June 2012, **Gary Luttrull** and wife **Bonnie** designed, built, and recently moved into their "retirement home" located on Bonnie's family land north of Branson. Recently he was diagnosed with prostate cancer, and while running tests preparing for surgery, blockage was indicated at his heart. On October 9th he had heart surgery at Cox South in Springfield. His daughter, **Danyel**, says the surgeon is optimistic. Surgery went well. Gary has the attitude that he will be okay. Once he heals from heart surgery, they will switch focus to prostate surgery. His address follows if you would like to send him a note: Gary Luttrull, 250 Cambridge Road, Walnut Shade, MO 65771. (**Thanks for the news, Peggy.**)

Jerry McElhiney: Hello Retirees. On my birthday, Oct. 7th, 2014, I flew to Washington, DC on the Heartland Honor Flight for WWII and Korean Vets. During the flight to Washington they announced that a Korean Lady requested to be on that flight. She took the mike and said in 1952 she was a 10-year-old girl living in a Korean village that was under attack. She said she thought she was going to die. Then the American Soldiers came through and saved her. A GI gave her a chocolate candy bar. She said she never tasted anything so good. She handed out chocolate bars to all the 187 Vets on that flight as a way of paying back that act of kindness. She and I had our picture taken together in front of the Korean Memorial. During our visit we concluded I was on a bomber base several miles south of her village when she was rescued. Four of our vets laid a wreath on the tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington Cemetery. A day I shall not forget.

Bill Pauls: October double marathon and road trip with friends/family visits to Wyoming, California, and New Mexico. Also directing a new race on the Katy Trail (Vitae Foundations/LIFERunners) out of Jefferson City in November. Still very active with our Christian/Pro-Life running group, the Columbia Parks and Recreation Commission, the Columbia Neighborhood Watch, and an Adopt-A-Spot Beautification Project. Also, I'm doing some construction improvements on the lake cabin at the Lake of the Ozarks. It's about time for the winterization projects at the lake. Life is busy and good. God bless you all!

Bob Harryman: Doris and I enjoyed the annual retirees' meeting in Columbia. **Muriel Broce** traveled with us, and on the way home we stopped in Higginsville and visited with **Tom and Maude Latimore**. They are living at Knox Village there in Higginsville and have had health issues, but are doing well. **Muriel** is amazing. She is in her 90s and getting around better than most people who are 15 years younger. As for **Doris** and me, we try to keep up with our house and garden. We are heavily involved in our church. Also try to make visits to our grand kids in Tulsa, Grimes, Iowa and here in Bethany. We wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a good year. Pray for our country.

Ken Benham is closing in on 16 years of retirement. They have been good years. There are no long trips planned any more. I did my traveling back when it was less complicated. In the old days, boarding an airplane was rather simple. Just show up in the boarding area 15 minutes before boarding time, and everything went smoothly. I understand it's more complicated now. No passport was needed to travel in Mexico or Canada. A person just needed to assure the customs agents that they had enough money to get back into the U.S., and they were on their way. I've made tire tracks in all 50 states. That's good enough for me. I currently have two homes and two addresses. One is an urban home close to Joplin, MO. The other is a farmhouse on the home farm 90 miles away, which had a **Century Farm** sign erected out by the road a

couple of years ago. It's been in my family for over 100 years. The farm is all seeded to grass for hay, which is cut and baled by renters. My job is to keep the maintenance up, spread fertilizer, spray weeds, clean up fencerows, and build fence. I will be too old for that in the not too distant future, but I'm chugging along at it yet. Of course, for insurance purposes I have assured my insurance companies that I spend more than half of my time at each place. I'm writing this in mid-October. It's sorta harvest season. The paw paw harvest is over. It's about the middle of persimmon harvest, and a lot of turnips are still available to be pulled in the turnip patch. Life is slower at Joplin. I'm the president of the local NARFE Chapter (Chapter #0019). I'm also a member of the local AARP Chapter. I look forward to more good years doing what I'm doing now.

Jim Rickman: We have been traveling a lot. **Jere** and I went to Spain and Portugal in August and September, and are going on a safari in Africa in October. I also went to WY with my son, and we hiked and fished in the Big Horn National Forest. I am hoping our health outlasts our money, as we still have a lot of places left on our bucket list. We have two grandchildren in college now, and I don't need to look in the mirror to realize my age. Hope all is well with you and the rest of the Missouri retirees and hope to make it to a meeting someday.

Gary Barker and Ted Utz ventured to Columbia for a luncheon with **Buck and Carolyn Burch**. Good time was had by all...wish we lived closer.

Lane Thurman: We just got back from the Gulf of Mexico where I was fishing with two of my sons and a real good friend who is down there who has a 30-ft. boat with two 250 HP Mercs on it. Went out about 40 miles into the gulf and caught a good many fish. Can't tell you the names, except one was a Barracuda and one a grouper. Then we stopped on the way in and caught our limit of Red Snapper. I did catch the largest of the Red Snappers, two of them around 10 pounds or so. We ended up with some nice red snapper and other fish to bring home. A good time was had by all.

More from **Lane Thurman**: The Springfield area had their quarterly meeting of the Springfield Retirees group on October 16th. Only five people were there. **Gereon Brownsberger** was new to the group. Others in attendance were **Jim Andrews, Ken Benham, and Nancy and Lane Thurman**. The attendance has been really low for the last three meetings or so and we are going to poll the group to see if they want it to keep on going or just drop it. It doesn't seem like there is much interest in keeping it active. It is fun to see everyone when they do show, but that doesn't happen very often.

Bill and Ruby Riggs enjoyed a visit from their daughter **Rachelle** and granddaughter **Raena** from Norfolk, VA, in September. **Bill and Ruby** have just returned from a 10-day tour of Italy. The temperatures were in the 70s and 80s, and the food was very flavorful. They enjoyed the historical cathedrals, monuments, and ruins in the area. They traveled through Venice, Pisa, Florence, Rome, Pompeii, Tuscany, Sorrento, and the Isle of Capri.

The **Blaines (Mike and Pam)** have had a lot going on since the last newsletter. We are currently in PA and WV visiting family and getting some needed R&R. **Mike's** mother passed away September 27th, after two weeks in the hospital in a non-responsive state. We will miss her but take comfort in knowing she is with the Lord and her husband **Millard**. We also did some major house renovation in October by replacing all the windows in our 40-year-old house. We replaced Anderson windows that were top of the line 40 years ago but now had many problems with crank-outs, seals, and frames. Another upgrade was to convert our fireplace to a stove by installing an insert. Once we got the new stove pipe around the 30-degree off-set, it went fine. Why in the world would you build a fireplace with an off-set chimney? The picture is us after we finally got the stove pipe in.



Mike and Pam Blaines after installing stove pipe.

Pam got the job of trying to guide the pipe around the off-set as Mike lowered it from the roof. Pam says "Trust me, there is a reason to PAY someone to do this!" Hope you are all well and enjoying the nice fall weather.

I hope everyone has a wonderful fall and wonderful upcoming holiday seasons.

MONTANA

Dick Gooby, ARCSE Representative

Email: inca@3rivers.net

Gordon Decker Report: Things are pretty routine at the Decker Outfit: quick trip to California (September) to visit family and send a niece off to school in Wales, but went to a winning Giants game. Otherwise, so busy we didn't have time to visit wineries. Other activities include going to grandkids' soccer and football games—some good, some not so good. This weekend we are headed to the Eastern MT family ranch to cut our annual supply of wood—hope I survive. We cut one trailer load (about three cords) to bring home and cut another trailer load for the grandkids to load when they come hunting next month. My challenge is to get the first load split and stacked before we go hunting and get the second load, plus a few mule deer, elk and antelope.

Scott Hoag, Jr. Report: **Scott and Nancy** left Bozeman on Oct. 9th to build with Habitat for Humanity in NM—first in Las Cruces for two weeks and then Hobbs for the month of November. Next, they'll make their way to Yuma for the next four months. Scott and Nancy are probably too old to be on the road: Scott lost his phone in Loveland, CO. It was found and we were contacted. The kind folks at the RV park are sending it to Las Cruces. While it's just a flip phone, it's like an old friend—you don't know how much you miss it till it isn't there. Meanwhile, while Scott builds, Nancy writes. Last week her most recent CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE SOUL story ("The Night an Angel Boarded the Train") showed up on bookstore shelves (and in Wal-Mart...where she went to check). Now she's working on an assortment of stories and assignments.

A special thanks to **Dick Gooby and Warren Lee** for the President's Community Service Award for Scott and Nancy. **Dick and Mary Ann** made a special effort and traveled from Twin Bridges to Bozeman to present the award at the retirees' breakfast. Thank you. Actually, **Jerry Richard**, our Regional Vice-President, did most of the work along with Warren Lee.

James Johnson Report: We were visiting my relatives in Wisconsin on October 1st and therefore could not attend and have no report from the monthly breakfast.

Bernice Haderlie called me yesterday to let us know that **Van** had passed away this week. She indicated that his health had been failing for some time and it "was time for him to go." As you probably know, Van and Bernice moved to Logan, UT over a year ago to be closer to their family.

Gooby Ranch Report: The September 3rd, 2014 ARCSE Montana breakfast attendees were **Kathy and Gordon Decker, Phil Farnes, May Mace, Jim and Joan Johnson, Scott and Nancy Hoag, Bob O'Driscoll, Hal and Judy Hunter, Frank Schledorn, Bob Ross and his daughter, Joe Austin, Bob and Jan Remer, Dick and Mary Ann Gooby, David Jones, Ray and Shirley Smith, and Bob and Liz Lohmiller**. It was a real honor to be able to give **Scott Hoag, Jr.** the ARCSE President's Community Service Award. Scott and Nancy have volunteered and are still volunteering a lot of hours, working on building Habitat for Humanity Homes.

We were talking to **Dave Jones**, and he designs and oversees the repairs to dams located on Forest Service lands. Everything needs to be hauled in by pack horses since there are no roads to the dams. The impounded water is used for irrigation downstream. **Phil Farnes** assisted in the design for the Ruby Dam, which stores irrigation water for the Ruby Valley croplands. **Hal Hunter** has been busy gathering wild berries. The day before the breakfast he picked five gallons. **Bob Remer**'s making videos of special events in the area.

It was amazing listening to all the activities the retirees are working on. We never make the breakfast since we live so far away. I lucked out this time. **Mary Ann** agreed to drive me over to the breakfast while I napped, if I agreed to buy her breakfast. Luckily for me, a retiree sitting next to us picked up our bill.

Man, what a day we had today. I wanted to take a look at the area where we hunt elk. So Mary Ann and I took off right after she got the chores done. We drove up the road, and the further we got the worse the road got. Finally I got stuck and Mary Ann had to get the handy man jack out and jack up the pickup and put some rocks in the trench, so finally I was able to drive out. The climate change is really causing trouble to the mountain roads around here. The rains don't come as often as they used to, but when they come it is a big downpour and the roads turn into creeks. I got stuck twice more before we finally gave up and headed for home. We still were five miles from where we head up the hill to my favorite elk hunting ridge. That's going to make elk hunting tough this year.

When we got home, I was planning on watching my favorite football team. About that time the cows started going crazy. Mary Ann ran out to see what was the matter, and the cows were chasing four goats across the field towards the house. Since our fences aren't goat-proof, the goats came right through the fence. There were two mamas and two kids. The goats looked like they were milk goats, so Mary Ann caught them and milked the goats. I guess we will be having goat milk for a while unless someone shows up and can prove the goats belong to them. Mary Ann is planning to stake the goats out where we have some noxious weeds. I heard that the goat's milk has a little different taste depending on what they have been eating. Mary Ann plans to graze them on different noxious weeds every day so we can see which noxious weed milk we like the best.

There is a good possibility we will be eating goat instead of elk this winter.

NEBRASKA

Norman Kempf, ARCSE Representative

Email: nkempf@neb.rr.com

A SCS/NRCS breakfast meeting was held on Sept. 17th, 2014, and President **Gus Dornbusch** opened the annual breakfast meeting at the HyVee at 84th and Holdrege Streets. A prayer of thanks was offered by **Bill Hance**. 24 members and spouses attended the breakfast: **Bob Engle, Chris Chapman, Don Manley, Gary and Nancy Muckel, Gus and Donna Dornbusch, Harold Ullsperger, Jim Culver, Louie and Evelyn Boller, Norm and Linda Helzer, Norm and Sylvia Kempf, Paul Smith, Roger Hammer, Steve Scheinost, Bill and Coleen Hance, Virginia Atkins, Sandy Langemeier, Don Manley, and Bob MacLauchlan**

Deaths: **Bill Reinsch** died on September 25th, 2014; **Lorn Dunnigan** died on October 16th, 2014. See the In Memoriam section for more details.

Joe Kuenning is home and doing well after a stay at Tabitha. Those with health issues and unable to attend the fall breakfast are **Charline Woodside, JoAnne Thiele, and Frances King**.

Virginia Adkins will be traveling to Denver, CO, in December to attend her son and family's adoption of a new son. **Bill Hance and wife Colleen** traveled to Scotland, England, Wales, and Ireland. One reason for the trip was to look at family heritage. **Norm Kempf and wife Sylvia** traveled to Forest City, IA to attend a cousin's reunion on his mother's side.

Bob McLauchlan received Willy Wonka chocolate candy bars from his son and daughter-in-law from Georgia. In one of them was a **golden ticket** which was redeemable for a trip for two anywhere in the world. So Bob and his son traveled to Brussels and France and saw a number of WWII beaches and other sites on the trip.

The annual breakfast meeting has again been scheduled at the 84th and Holdrege HyVee for 2015.

NEW YORK

Nancy Lee, ARCSE Representative

Email: mlee0006@rochester.rr.com

Marilyn Cassidy Stephenson writes: Retirement is great. It has given me a chance to do a lot of travelling out West, and enjoy activities I couldn't do while working. I have been fishing on the Saranac River, doing a lot of gardening and working for a local land trust. My oldest son, **Ryan** married **Mallory** this spring. They are both captains in Army Space Operations in Colorado Springs. My youngest son, **Wil** just completed his PhD in Nano Engineering, and now is a research engineer at a lab in Manhattan. **Gary** is still working but enjoying blacksmithing on the weekends.

Donald W. Shanklin, former engineer in New York, passed away at the age of 77 on Tuesday, Sept. 30th, 2014, while visiting friends in Ruidoso, NM. See the In Memoriam section for more details.

Jim Calhoun writes: Things have been busy. I taught a class on the early history of the formation of the Soil Conservation movement to about 20 retired persons at an adult education lecture at Empire State College in Saratoga. I also put together two other Powerpoint presentations covering my entire career with SCS-NRCS that I may present next spring. Earlier in the spring I had taught two sessions to the same group on model railroading. In November I am doing a short presentation on Railroads in the Albany area to a group of memory- challenged people. **Beth and I** earned a little, very little, spending money working at the primary election poll and are scheduled to work in November. **Beth and I** are planning a return trip to Florida later in the year.

Bob Myers writes: This has been a tough year. As most retirees have learned that the older you get, the less you can get done in the same length of time. Well, that's me. Taking care of my wife, **Sue**, who has Alzheimer's, takes extra time and is frustrating at times, mixed with good times. **Sue's** sister comes over most afternoons, and that helps.

I just can't seem to keep up with our horse farm and reluctantly have it on the market for sale. We now live in a three-bedroom house. I had hoped to move to a ranch house with a small acreage for my horse. A property next to the family that boards their horse here and looks after us old folks is available, and we are hoping we can buy it. Moving from a three-bedroom to a four-bedroom, two-story house was not in the plan.

On the lighter side, I took my annual outing to a working cattle ranch. This year the ranch was in the Sandhills of Nebraska. I had a great time, even though it is getting harder each year to get on a horse, even with a three-step mounting block.

Burt Laux' wife took the occasion of his forthcoming 90th birthday to surprise him with a celebration at their "Christmas in September" party in advance of the actual birthday, November 3rd. The regular party guests were joined at the **Laux'** Hudson River home across from West Point in Garrison by relatives from Virginia Beach, Ohio, Pennsylvania, upstate New York, and New Jersey. Relatives included military retirees, including a submarine commander who intrigued guests with his description of shepherding a submarine in shallow waters under thick ice between Alaska and Russia. The "birthday boy" is

still working part time as a consultant in the Connecticut area. He is also chairman of the board of Randall Airport in Middletown, which is developing a fly-in conference center.

Nancy Lee took three trips to southern Pennsylvania since July: one to attend the family reunion, another in August to attend my 50th high school reunion, and again in October to attend the Southern Fulton High School Alumni Dinner (those who had graduated for 50+ years) with my four older sisters and a brother. It was quite an occasion with over 120 in attendance, ranging in ages from 68 to 97.

Me and I are getting ready to start attending the Syracuse Orange basketball games. We watch our 15-month old grandson every Wednesday that keeps us active running after him.

NORTH DAKOTA

Robert "Bob" Bird, ARCSE Representative

Email: Rajmbird@aol.com

The North Dakota SCS-NRCS Retirees had their annual reunion on Thursday, September 18th, 2014, at the Bismarck Elks Lodge Room. 31 attended. We reviewed the 18 who had passed away in the last year with a moment of silence and a brief prayer.

Each person attending was given a chance to make comments, and following are some of them

Karen Stroh commented that she has been retired three years and been caring for a neighbor girl. **Gerry and Elmer Balvik** have been retired seven years and have traveled to France and London and all 50 U.S. states. **Vi Person** has been retired since 1990 and lost her husband **Wally** in May (it would have been their 64th anniversary), spent ten days in Florida visiting her daughter and ate fish every night.

Jackie Miller retired in 2002 and her next trip is to MN to visit grandkids. **Terry Carlson** retired in 2003 and sees his kids and grandkids. **Rod O'Clair** is doing contract work with APHIS. Monday is his 41st anniversary, takes in mud drags with son and daughter at Enderlin, football and swim meets, and Mexico deep sea fishing and dove hunting. **Jon Nestoss** has been retired for two years and is an Earth Team volunteer on the Renwick Dam rehabilitation, moved to north of Pelican Rapids, MN and bought a pontoon boat.

Bob Boone retired in 1989 and has been wintering in Myrtle Beach for 20 years, took a ten-state tour in New England. **Myron Senechal** has been doing genealogy research and has 22,000 in his database, and has three children (IL, Bismarck, and Minot) and a grandson in Bismarck. **Wes Ewine** noted that **Mary** was in Moorhead with nieces. They spend spring and summer watching their grandson play baseball and spend a couple months in Mesa in the winter. **Terry Gisvold** is still working as the ASTC in Dickinson and just received his 35-year plaque and is looking forward to joining our group.



North Dakota Retirees' Reunion. Sitting left to right: Diane Mittelstedt, Della Turman, Jackie Miller, Luci Johnson, Larry Bushey, Erling "Punch" Podoll, Connie Podoll, Pat Johnson, Lynnel Boone, Karen Stroh, and Vi Person. Standing: Dick Kukowski, Herb Mittelstedt, Eileen Edland, Larry Edland, Jim Johnson, Terry Carlson, Jon Nestoss, Wes Ewine, Rod O'Clair, Bob Boone, Jeannie Bird, Cheryl Senechal, Bob Bird, Myron Senechal, Tom Coleman, Gerry Balvik, and Elmer Balvik.

Tom Coleman retired in 2005 and they go south in the winter and golf a lot down there. **Brad Benson** retired early this year and is the youngest retiree present and notes that every day out of the hospital is a good day. **Herb Mittelstedt** retired in 1994 and lost a major responsibility when he retired as the German President of the Sons of Norway, has been married for 55 years. On his bucket list is snap guards for animals, doesn't go south because his snow blower would miss him, and they had a daughter pass away. **Dick Kukowski** quit farming four years ago, has four kids all grown up. His philosophy is that

children are the most important people of the world, noted that many travel while his travels are mostly to Bismarck to the medical facilities. He noted three principles are exercise, diet, and rest.

Larry Edland retired in 2007 and **Eileen** does music therapy at Sanford Care Center. They have three kids, the oldest a chemical engineer in Bismarck. They have a daughter in GA, and her husband has been deployed many places, seven grandchildren and a foster grandchild. **Punch Podoll** noted that **Connie** wanted to go to Hawaii, visited with **Lee Hines**, went to Walker, MN for a wedding, had 66th anniversary in June, son and daughter are retired, lost a daughter near Jamestown and one grandchild wants to be a Wildlife Biologist.

Pat Johnson misses **Everett**, lives quietly and at 85 is still learning and still lives in her house. **Jim and Luci Johnson** retired in 1997, spent some years selling siding, now watch the grass grow, mow and use the snow blower once in a while, and have performed with Dakota Stage in Living Masterpieces. **Della Turman** is 96 and her husband retired in 1972, has four boys and has moved into a retirement home. **Bob and Jeannie Bird** just spent a week in Hawaii. Bob's retired 14 years and is involved with VFW, and both volunteer at the Heritage Center Archives, indexing county records.

North Dakota State Conservationist **Mary Podoll** noted that the current ASTC in Devils Lake recently died. It was good of our group to include him in our prayers. She reviewed her background briefly and noted that from 1996 to the present the NRCS went from a \$9 million to a \$4 billion agency. \$90 million goes to farmers in ND. She reviewed some aspects of the new farm bill, has added **Jay Fuhrer** to her staff as a Soil Health Ambassador, noted challenges in the Bakken with criss-crossing pipelines, etc., has 220 employees and needs 250; and they are sharing HR, financial, and travel services with teams outside of the state.

In other news, **Dennis Meyer** of Mandan was recently selected SCORE Member of the Year (Service Corps Of Retired Executives) and was recognized at the organization's fall conference in Minot. **Herb Mittelstedt** was honored as one of ten volunteers who help care for the grounds of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery south of Mandan.

Deaths: **Robert S. Fischer**, 93, died in Fargo, ND on September 7th, 2014. **Purdy Horgan**, 94, of Cavalier, ND and formerly of Neche, ND died September 1st, 2014 at Wedgewood Manor, Cavalier, ND. **Richard "Dick" Lee Maluski**, 74, died September 6th, 2014 at a Minot hospital. Senior Conservationist **Russell L. Nelson**, 92, died September 9th, 2014 at Ebenezer Ridges Care Center in Burnsville, MN. **Lorraine Volland**, 83, died September 28th, 2014 at Sanford Health, Bismarck, ND. and **Arlen "Andy" Wingenbach**, 44, died August 31st, 2014 at Pelican Rapids, MN. See the In Memoriam section for more details.

OREGON

Don Stettler, ARCSE Representative

Email: don.stettler@comcast.net

A rainy day seems to be the norm for the Oregon retirees' quarterly lunch. The day of the summer quarter lunch, last July, had a record breaking rain. The region then experienced the first heavy rainfall of the new water year with a strong "Pineapple Express Storm" (a warm rain from the direction of Hawaii) on the day of the fall quarter lunch. It occurs to me that perhaps, weather forecasting models should include an Oregon retiree lunch variable.

The rain did not dampen the spirit of our lunch on October 22nd. Thirty-one came to the lunch at the Clackamas The Old Spaghetti Factory. Attending were **Stefanie Aschmann**, **Anna Cerotsky**, **Clifton and Marva Deal**, **Kay Denfeld**, **Gary Formanek**, **Tom Fujii**, **Lowell Kenedy**, **DD and Howard Kido**, **Jon Lea**, **Linda and Roy Mann**, **Jim Marron**, **Chad McGrath**, **Terry Mitchell**, **Bruce Newton**, **Jeff Repp**, **Marcine Richmond**, **Lamont and Karen Robbins**, **Leland Saele**, **Pat Smith**, **Patricia Straka**, **Dick and Kathy Sylvester**, **Eldena Vanderzanden**, **Gail Vogue**, **Ralph Wadleigh**, **Hank Wyman**, and yours truly.

If the noise level was an indicator, the lunch group had an enjoyable time. **Gary Formanek** told the group he was merrily strolling along in his neighborhood without a care in the world when a small dog bit him. Since the dog had not been vaccinated for rabies, there was some concern about the bite. Fortunately, the dog tested OK. Now, however, when Gary sees a dog, he crosses to the other side of the street.

Tom Fujii mentioned that he is preparing his home for sale. He thought he could have it ready in a month's time, but dealing with many years accumulation is taking a bit longer. **Jeff Repp** told the group that he and Maureen are enjoying retirement and that he is doing some range consulting work.



Tom Fujii, Dick and Kathy Sylvester



Ralph Wadleigh and Jim Marron

Bruce Newton is enjoying volunteering to read to children. He recommended it as a very worthwhile thing to do. Reminiscent of the movie, *Caddie Shack*, **Leland Saele** is having a full scale war with a mole that has invaded his yard. **Lowell Kenedy** said that he and **Marian** went to her 60th reunion of her college class. **Terry Mitchell** is helping her son get a rental home ready. It turned out to be a bigger job than she originally thought.

I received some news from non-attendees. **Jack Kanalz** reported that his Montana elk hunting camp disbanded due to a loss of hunters. It was a continuous hunt from 1960 until last year ending with a record 54 hunts. **Dick Verboort** told me he just finished up the field observation work for a 100 acre-foot reservoir in Yamhill County. Right now he is not sure if he is unemployed or retired again. He and Theresa took a short trip to San Francisco to visit their daughter and 17-month-old granddaughter.

The winter quarter retiree lunch will be held on January 28th at the Tanasbourne The Old Spaghetti Factory.



Marva Deal, Eldena Vanderzanden, and Clifton Deal



Jon Lea and Jim Marron



Kay Denfeld and Pat Straka



DD Kido and Gail Vogue

From John Hedlund: I'm doing good, enjoyed a 60-year reunion with 30 of my high school buddies in Grantsburg, WI; and a trip with my wife to Hawaii, where we played golf and enjoyed the beach on Kauai. Heading to Tucson for the winter. Aloha!



Linda and Roy Mann, and Joe Sahlfeld



Marcine Richmond and Anna Cerotsky



Stefanie Aschmann and Kay Denfeld

PENNSYLVANIA

Timothy Murphy, ARCSE Representative (NEW)

Email: vindemurph@verizon.net

The 2014 retiree gathering at the McKeever Center in Mercer County was as advertised—A BLAST FROM THE PAST, Sept. 14–15, 2014. One of the happenings was the announcement of a new editor for your newsletter, Tim Murphy (vindemurph@verizon.net).

The McKeever Environmental Learning Center in Mercer County greeted the PA SCS/NRCS Retirees with beautiful weather, great facilities and many friends. There were stories of **Ivan McKeever** and his leadership style; pictures of many of the now aging but well-maintained PL-566 dams; the 40-year history of the McKeever Center; a tour of Lake Wilhelm; and the retirement of the editor of the PA BUGLE and the introduction of his successor.

The highlight of the business meeting was the recognition of **Fred Bubb**. After being the Editor of the PA BUGLE for many, many years, Fred is retiring. Fred was honored with a plaque stating:

"In recognition of your valued service to the Pennsylvania ARCSE as Editor of the PA BUGLE 1993–2014."

Thank you from all of us, Fred!

Fred then introduced the next editor of the Bugle, **Tim Murphy**. Welcome aboard, Tim! Please send your "news," pictures, and stories to Tim at vindemurph@verizon.net or 1524 Pine Hollow Rd., Harrisburg, PA 17109.

In the afternoon, the 38 registered attendees plus guests were treated to a pontoon boat tour of Lake Wilhelm, the lake created by the PL-566 dam, PA-475. The food was great, the friendships warm, and the McKeever Center and Lake Wilhelm beautiful. All in all, it was a great get-together. Friendships were renewed and new ones made.



Bill Bowers (right) recognizes Fred Bubb for his 21 years of service as Editor of the PA Bugle.

Harvey Pinkerton and his helpers (wife **Vickie**, **Wes Ramsey** and **Liz Dropp**) did a great job of organizing and making the arrangements for the 20 who stayed overnight at the McKeever Center. The Sunday evening program included **Bill Bowers** showing some slides of many of the PL-566 dams and how well they are holding up over the years and explaining the "rehab" program.

Don McCandless had many a story of the early days of PL-566 construction. **Fred Schuetz** and **Don Lindsey** also shared some of the ways things "used to be done." A wine and cheese party concluded the evening events.

After a good night's sleep, with or without blankets (that's another story), the meeting continued with **Fran Bires**, Director of the McKeever Center, giving a history of the vision, conception, and construction of the Center. Fran was a most gracious host and enjoyed sharing and listening to the many McKeever stories. **Sam Young** provided the story of the construction of the dam that creates Lake Wilhelm (PA-475), and **Ernie Weaver** kept Sam honest with the construction details. **Tom Matticks**, Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations-West (AC), provided an update on NRCS activities in PA. Rumor has it that Tom may be a member of this group soon. Thanks for being with us Tom!



"A Blast from the Past" Attendees, Pennsylvania: Front Row: Nevin Ulery, Judy Ulery, Helen Swank, Rollie Swank, Maryellen Young, Sam Young, John Mank, Carol Bubb, Fred Bubb, Jordyn Hendrickson (granddaughter), Harvey Pinkerton, Vickie Pinkerton, Kayla Hendrickson (granddaughter), and Frank Resides. Second Row: John Mickley, Donna Mickley, Rose Wolfrom, Norm Wolfrom, Ellen Mank, Liz Droff, Wes Ramsey, Ann Akers, John Akers, Jane Resides, Don McCandless, and Dave Woods (1st Chair of Penn Soil RC&D). Third Row: Gina Murphy, Francis Lisco, Joyce Lisco, Ernie Weaver, Bill Bowers, Mary Ann Bowers, Duane Pysher, B Pysher, and Mary Woods (daughter of Dave Woods). Fourth Row: Tim Murphy, Bill Parrish, Don Lindsey, Shirley Lindsey, Al Bennett, Jim Burgess, and Fred Schuetz. Missing from photo: Deb Bennett. September 14–15, 2014.

At the business meeting, the group decided to make our scholarship contribution this year to the McKeever Center. The center provides environmental education to many elementary school students in the area and is in need of scholarship funding for some of the school districts. We all realize how important it is to educate our youngsters about conservation and the wise use of natural resources. Thanks to your contributions, \$600 will be donated to the McKeever Center for scholarships. Several areas were suggested for our 2015 meeting, including **The Nature Inn at Bald Eagle State Park** in Centre County and **Gifford Pinchot's Grey Towers National Historic Site** in Pike County:

<http://www.natureinnatbald eagle.com/about/index.htm>

<http://www.fs.fed.us/wo/gt/local-links/conference/conference.shtml>

More information will follow. Please let me know your thoughts and preferences. Looking forward to seeing you all at our next annual meeting on September 21st, 2015!!

SOUTH CAROLINA

Byron Thompson, ARCSE Representative

Email: landmgtinc@wctel.net

The South Carolina Chapter had their fall meeting in Greenwood, South Carolina on Oct. 23rd, 2014 with 22 retirees including spouses and friends. We had a great time visiting with each other and renewing friendships established over a long period of working to improve the quality of our natural resources. I estimated that over 400 years of service (SCS/NRCS) to South Carolina natural resources was represented at the meeting. Following the meeting we were treated to an excellent presentation and tour of the Greenwood Genetic Center. The center provides clinical genetic service, diagnostic laboratory testing, education programs and resources and research in the field of medical genetics. This is far different than other tours

that we have had in the past, but as some said, it is very important to learn and see new subjects right in our own communities.

Niles and Carolyn Glasgow were guests of the Thompsons prior to the fall meeting. Niles and I (Byron) took the opportunity to play a round of golf on a beautiful day in South Carolina, while the ladies shopped and enjoyed our great weather.

Pictured below is a group picture of those who attended our fall meeting.



South Carolina Retirees' Fall Meeting: Bill Melvin, Shirley Melvin, Henry Nicholson, Benny Nicholson (not shown), Byron Thompson, Bob Bowie, Carolyn Glasgow, Dan Guy (Seated), Niles Glasgow, Mary Thompson, Grady Adkins, Marcia Adkins, and Amanda Bauknight, Ned McGill (Back Row), Dick Christopher, Dennis Bauknight, Ellis Marrow, Wally Turner, Susan Turner, Jimmy Sanders, Laurely Nance, and Luke Nance.

TEXAS

Arnold King, ARCSE Representative

Email: arnolddking@hotmail.com

Twenty persons were present for the September 19th meeting: Earl Blakley, Dennis Gaster, Barbara Gillum, Joyce Petty, Dave Drennan, Bernie and Maxine Owen, Doug Seibel, Bonnie McKee, Rita and Bill Kuenstler, Tom Hodges, Don Kapalka, Betty Sisson, Anita Plummer, Don Newman, Mary Mattinson, Jim and Jere Rickman, and Dennis Erinakes.

Dave Drennan presided over the September business meeting. **Bernie Owen** and **Don Newman** discussed the upcoming open season for the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program which begins November 10th. **Bernie Owen** reported on his attendance at two of Congressman Joe Barton's town hall meetings.

Frank Richardson said he is starting to feel better but the past few months have been tough. Frank had a heart attack followed by triple by-pass surgery and a heart valve replacement. His doctor told him today (October 9th) that he would be free to return to his activities in three weeks.

Faye Alexander would appreciate being added to her friends' prayer lists. This has been a hard year for both of them and she is wondering when the "golden years" will start.

Four members of NARFE Chapter 1201 travelled to Waxahachie and joined members from the Ellis-Navarro Counties Chapter 1191 to hear what Congressman **Joe Barton** had to say. Seven Chapter 1201 members went to Joe's Arlington town hall meeting, and **Bernie** served as spokesman. Bernie asked Joe to "leave our health insurance alone...we like as it is." (*Arnold's note: "Maybe a little cheaper!"*) Bernie also asked for extension of the educator's credit, state sales tax credit, and the energy credit.

Don Newman called **Joe Nichols** who has been very ill. **Earl Blakley** reported that Joe may need a stomach operation. Our prayers go out to Joe.

Editor's Note: We received word that Joe Nichols passed away on Oct. 21st. Joe was an outstanding Soil Scientist and was a previous President of SCSA. See the In Memoriam section for more details.

Jim Rickman reported that he fished with his son in Wyoming and that he and **Jere** got back recently from a trip to Spain and Portugal. Other reported news includes that **Jim and Carol Robinson** have a new grandson, **Garrett James**; and that **Billy Teels** has been dealing with an eye infection, but that it did not hinder his fishing trip to the gulf.

Maxine Owen reported that son **Mitch** came to Arlington for his 30th high school reunion and that **Bernie** attended his all-School reunion in Kinsley, KS. Maxine has full use of her arms (watch out Bernie) and is definitely watching where she walks.

Barbara Gillum's grandson is a high school senior and is in the ROTC. He looks great in his uniform, but he was issued shoes about four sizes too large. All of us who served in the military know that that is standard operating procedure. **Mary Mattinson** continues to wear out her truck attending grandkids' athletic events.

Bill and Rita Kuenstler recently helped their daughter move to Austin and then toured the missions around San Antonio. **Tom Hodges'** granddaughter got married recently and went to Mexico, where the most dangerous part of the trip was spent going to and from the airport. Tom also mentioned the recent article on **Miller Moseley**, the former Masonic Home football player, TCU professor, and a member of the famed team that worked on the Manhattan Project.

Betty Sisson still hikes up the 45 steps to her seat in the stadium to watch her TCU Horned Frogs. She also recently attended the Gershwin musical at Bass Hall. **Don Kapalka** noticed that he was having some difficulty on the treadmill, and upon further investigation it was found that he was having some mild rejection of his lung transplants. He went through a battery of tests in one long day and had to have some steroid injections. We are glad that he was able to attend the meeting.

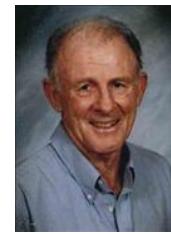
Dave Drennan is "batching" while his wife is visiting in Rhode Island. Dave and his son have their annual sports trip planned for mid-October. They will be going to watch football in Syracuse, NY, and will also take in a Buffalo Bills game. The Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown is also on the agenda.

Dennis Gaster attended the 33rd Biennial NARFE Convention in Orlando, FL. This was his second NARFE Convention, and it was very interesting hearing all of the discussions on the future of NARFE. He and his wife **Kathleen** enjoy watching his grandson, **Jake**, play football, and who at the ripe old age of 12 is playing his 5th year in the sport. They have won their first five games, but the competition is getting tougher.

Dennis Erinakes has returned from a 13-day 4,100-mile trip to Montana with many stops in many states and accompanied by his two four-legged companions. He visited his son **Michael** who owns Black Butte Energy in Great Falls and did some fly fishing. He visited two long-time SCS friends and even stopped in for coffee at a couple of field offices. Included in the trip was about 200 miles of travel on "improved" gravel roads. Grandson **Ethan**, an electrical engineer major in college, enjoyed watching target practice with 105mm howitzers. Granddaughter **Danielle** ranks first in her high school class. Work for Dennis continues on groundwater modeling.

Marie Garsjo has been selected as the winner of the 2014 Association for Women Geoscientists (AWG) Professional Excellence Award in the Government category. This award recognizes exceptional women who have made distinguished contributions in their professions throughout their careers. The Award Committee was especially impressed with Marie's commitment to mentoring, and the emphasis she has placed on outreach and other service activities during her career.

AWG invited Marie to be their guest at the Geological Society of America AWG Breakfast at the upcoming GSA annual meeting in Vancouver, Canada, where they will announce the winners of the 2014 AWG Professional Excellence Awards.



Donald W. Shanklin of Granbury
passed away at the age of 77 Tuesday
September 30th, 2014 while visiting
friends in Ruidoso, New Mexico. See
the *In Memoriam* section for more
details.

Donald W. Shanklin
1937-2014

WASHINGTON, DC, NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

John Peterson, ARCSE Representative

Email: jwpeterson@cox.net

The Washington, DC area retirees met for lunch on October 2nd at the Ft. McNair Officers Club. This was coming home for many of us. We met here for many years before 911, when base security tightened and it became hard for many civilians to drive into the post. After 911 we started meeting at Phillip's Flagship on Maine Avenue on the waterfront. Now that the waterfront is being razed and redone, we were again looking for a place to meet. Interestingly, in the old days we had close to 100 people and we had to meet in the Officers Club ballroom. Now the gang is down to about 30, and a regular meeting room will do. We were not able to have an NRCS official with us at this luncheon unfortunately, but we hope we will next spring.

Diana Morse served as the luncheon MC. **Plater Campbell** gave the invocation. After lunch **Lennie Losh**, Potomac Reporter Emeritus, talked about many things going on, from federal issues to conservation issues in Ohio. The EPA and USACE Proposed Rule redefining the Waters of the United States in the Clean Water Act was discussed. It's always good to have **Lennie** back with us. With no luncheon speaker, we went around the room bringing each other up to date on our activities, and just reminiscing. That's always fun. Those in attendance are listed in the picture caption.



DC area retirees met Oct. 2nd, 2014. Sitting, front: Barbara Osgood and Ron Marlow. Sitting, Back: John Peterson, Blanche Peterson, Lennie Losh, Faye Campbell, and Bill Boyer. Standing: Diana Morse, Peter Smith, Roger Cronshay, Plater Campbell, Marc Safley, Lee Shields, Margie Ralston, and David Ralston. Taking Picture: Ann Marlow

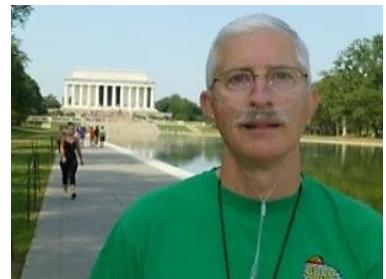
Earl Terpstra writes, "Judy and I are still enjoying our rural farm lifestyle. Harvest is in full swing, and my corn and beans look great. There is going to be a lot of 250+ bushel corn and 65+ bushel beans. The price isn't the greatest, however. **Judy** is now breast cancer free for 11+ years. She keeps busy with her cats, flowers, feeding the birds, and helping me mow our four-acre lawn. I am still helping farm. Most of the beans are no-tilled, but the corn is minimum-tilled to remove the anhydrous ridges. I do most of that with a 300 horsepower Versatile and a reel disk, which leaves residue. I had an auction in June and got rid of 24 of my old tractors. I still have about 12 tractors and most of my old machinery along with collecting farm toys. Hope you and **Blanche** are doing well and have a happy Thanksgiving." Thanks **Earl**. Same to you out there in Indiana. I would have enjoyed seeing your tractor collection. Sounds as if good conservation is still something you care about.

Mary Ann Margheim reported that **Gary's** Mother passed away on September 1st just short of her 99th birthday. **Gary** did make it home to see her in Nebraska, and **Mary Ann** thinks his mother knew who he was as she waited for him, and then passed 24 hours later, with all three of her children by her side.

Harland and Anita Dietz in TX sent word that **Joe Nichols** passed away this morning. I don't know any details at this time except his daughter found him in bed. Joe was an outstanding Soil Scientist and was a previous President of SCSA. See the in Memoriam section for details.

Don Newman reported that **Ed Thomas** had heart by-pass surgery Friday Sept 5th. The last report is that he is recovering nicely and should go home soon.

From **Bill Boyer**: I want to let my friends in ARCSE know about my recent changes. I retired January 3rd, 2014 after 35 year of service in SCS/NRCS. What a great career! I joined the Soil and Water Conservation Society in 1985. I served as national president for two years and this July completed two terms (six years) as Northeast Regional Director and member of the national Board of Directors. Retirement, however, has been very different than I had hoped. In January, 2013 I was diagnosed with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF). That first year, I learned to live with it, but in May of this year I got a lung infection while traveling abroad and was hospitalized on antibiotics for 13 days in Vichy, France. Since my return to the US, I have been on oxygen 24/7 and was added to the national lung transplant list on August 6th.



Bill Boyer

Life will be better after transplant, but it will be a whole new adventure. I'm on the Board of a newly formed organization, "Pulmonary Fibrosis Events," that raises money for innovative research in pulmonary fibrosis in the greater Washington, DC area. We never know what life will hand us, so we must stay engaged and love those around us to keep the mind, body, and heart healthy. If anyone is interested in learning about IPF, you can look it up or view the show at <http://www.everybreathcountsfilm.com> (Discovery Channel). I look forward to staying in-touch with my friends in conservation through the ARCSE.

Warren and Barb Lee joined **Galen Bridge, Dennie Burns, Gordon Klostad, and Larry Lenz** along with their special ladies at Acadia National Park in September. The lobster was great, fall colors glorious and the opportunity to spend time with friends, unbeatable. The **Lee's** are off to their winter home in Arizona on November 1st.

John and Blanche Peterson will spend the last week in October and the first week in November with daughter **Shannon Dube** and her family in Maine. They will stay at the Samoset Resort in Rockport-Rockland, ME. Rockland says it is the "lobster capital of the world," and **John** hopes to make a dent in their supply.

I received this from **Wayne Maresch**: "Our son, **Wayne**, a former Deputy Chief for NRCS, has a grandson, **Jackson Bishop**, who has been diagnosed with Ewings Sarcoma, a cancer of the tissue and bone. He is 11 years old and is obviously fearful, and not quite sure what is happening. He is receiving radiation treatments as well as chemo-therapy. We don't yet know what the final outcome will be. We ask everyone to pray for this child." We surely will, both **Wayne's**.

The **Carl Bouchard's** send, "We have had a rather busy summer spending two weeks in Maine and New Brunswick, Canada and then spending three weeks during September and early October in Hawaii. It seems the heat followed us around as we went north, came back and headed to Hawaii at plus-90-degree weather. We waited for the Trade Winds to come, but they were always delayed to the next day as we left before Hurricane Ana hit. We spent a week on the big island visiting the whole island including the recently opened paved Saddle Road from Kona to Hilo. What an improvement being able to drive across the island in an hour and 45 minutes instead of three hours. We also visited the observatories on Mona Kea. The Chain of Craters road is being rebuilt to provide an escape for those now threatened by the flows from Kilauea. I had been there with our HI staff years ago when it first started erupting, and we walked on the solid lava observing the fresh molten lava between the cracks. Needless to say, that area was reported to have broken off a couple weeks later. Talk about hazardous duty. We also went to our favorite spot on Bali Hai in Princeville on Kauai. Unfortunately, Bali Hai is not air conditioned and relies on the trade winds to cool. I might want to look for another place with AC next time. I still like to look at the Grand Canyon of the Pacific. To me, it rivals the Grand Canyon of Arizona in beauty."

Our third and final week was spent in Maui, an island where I had not spent much time as a tourist. We made it up to the top of Haleakala Crater twice (10,023 feet), once in the rain and once in sunshine. Go in sunshine—the view is much better and the driving less hazardous. We started driving on the Road to Hana but never completed it, as we got interested in cultural side trips. We'll save that for next time. I did take over 4,000 pictures that I am in the process of reviewing and selecting for our next Mispillion Art League show. In the meantime, I need to return to my patriotic duty for two weeks of Jury Duty." Thanks **Carl**.

WASHINGTON

Gerald Richard, ARCSE Representative

Email: gir52pdr@aol.com

On August 25th **Jud and Karen Melton** hosted our second summer BBQ and potluck at their Spokane river-front home in Post Falls, ID for SCS and NRCS retirees and their spouses. Some pictures are included. Twenty participants enjoyed an afternoon of good food and lots of conversation. We arranged a conference call using cell phones to talk and say hello to **Galen Bridge**. Galen was the state conservationist in Spokane before going to the National Office, and it was good to do a little reminiscing. Besides Jud and Karen, others were **Harry Riehle, Hans and Katie Krauss, Gary and Elinor Johnson, Larry and Jean Edmonds, Joe Carmack, Chet Jahn, Ken and Tina Kaul, Carolyn McClane, Lennie and Florence Husa, Ralph and Lynn Schmidt and Jerry and Phyllis Richard**.

The location was ideal for bird watching, so Katie and Jean were looking for wildlife camera shots. Both are great bird and wild animal photographers. Several flocks of geese flew close on their journey up-river.

Some pictures follow on next page.



Carolyn McClane, Ralph Schmidt, and Hans Krauss



Jud and Karen Melton, Phyllis and Jerry Richard



Phyllis Richard, Florence Husa, Carolyn McClane, Lynn Schmidt, Ralph Schmidt, Elinor Johnson, and Karen Melton



Kathryn Krauss, Ken Kaul, Tina Kaul, and Jean Edmonds



Joe Carmack, Lennie Husa, Gary Johnson, and Larry Edmonds



Chet Jahn, Harry Riehle, Hans Krauss, and Larry Edmonds

WEST VIRGINIA

Peg Reese, ARCSE Representative

Email: pegreesewv@gmail.com

Twenty-four people attended the Annual SCS/NRCS Retiree Luncheon on October 16th, 2014 at the Regatta Bar and Grill in the Waterfront Hotel in Morgantown. Attending were **Shirley Austin, Dave Burns, Jim and Mary Clevenger, Jim and Christian Cooper, Linda Cupp, John and Linda Eddy, Gary and Carol Gwinn, Janice Hatfield, Dick and Annette Judy, Wes and Jo Morrow, Orland and Patty Parks, Peg Reese, Rollin and Helen Swank, Dee Weston, and Carrie and Don Wetsch**. Music expert **Joe Paull** gave a special musical presentation about the life and music of **Johnny Cash**. **Peg Reese** was re-elected to serve as the West Virginia State Representative for ARCSE. **Jim Clevenger and Jim Cooper** volunteered to organize the 2015 annual gathering. **Gary Gwinn** won the 50/50 drawing and donated the winnings back so that it could be used for mailing and other expenses. Three Johnny Cash CDs were given as door prizes. Gary Gwinn won the grand prize, a birdhouse made by Jim Cooper and his daughter. Jim Clevenger and Jim Cooper organized an enjoyable annual meeting.

Herb Andrick, Assistant State Conservationist for the East Region plans to retire on November 1, 2014.

Lewis and Pattie Rowan have been busy. "We are still farming, selling water, making maple syrup, and playing some golf. I am a volunteer coach for the Monroe county 4-H air rifle team. We have won three state Championships since we started the program in 2005. We are doing well and hope that all of our SCS friends are okay."

Clem Crowe, Engineering Technician, passed away on October 21st. **Jim Clevenger** had the following to say about Clem: "Clem has not been in good health for a while and suffered a stroke about a month ago. I had a good visit with him about two months ago. Clem was an outstanding Engineering Technician and was largely responsible for installing the structures in the Brush Creek watershed in and around Princeton. He was well respected by local leaders and coworkers."



WV Retirees' Luncheon. 1st Row (L-R): John and Linda Eddy, Janice Hatfield, Helen and Rollin Swank, Dave Burns, and Dick Judy. 2nd Row: Jim Clevenger, Peg Reese, Carrie and Don Wetsch, Dee Weston, Shirley Austin, Annette Judy, and Linda Cupp. 3rd Row: Jim Cooper, Patty and Orland Parks, Cary and Carol Gwinn.

WISCONSIN

Jim Enlow, ARCSE Representative

Email: jenlow@att.net

The Wisconsin retirees met for lunch on October 9th, 2014, at Fitzgerald's Restaurant in Middleton, WI. **Jim Enlow** was the host. Those attending included **Jim and Lynnette Enlow**, Madison; **Ted Manning**, Lodi; **Carl Wacker**, Madison; **Tom Thrall**, Madison; **Robert Weihrouch**, Oregon; **Howard Gundlach**, Madison; **Ken and Joanne Lubich**, Verona; **Donna DeVoe**, Cambridge; **Roman and Bea Statz**, Baraboo; **Bill and Virginia Conner**, Fitchburg; **Bob and Jeannine Uhrig**, Black River Falls; **Emeron Christensen**, LaCrosse; **Stan and Marlene Dingle**, Verona; **Keith and Donnie Behling**, Richland Center; and **Gene and Annemarie Nimmer**, Beaver Dam.

Everyone enjoyed a wonderful lunch and fellowship on a beautiful fall day. Like always, **Emeron** flew his airplane to the luncheon and enjoyed the beautiful weather. **Greg Rebman**, Oconto, WI is the newest retiree in Wisconsin and we look forward to seeing him at future luncheons. Greg held the position of State Forester at the state office.

Our next luncheon will be scheduled for February 12th, 2015.

NEW SENIOR CONSERVATIONISTS: We welcome one new Senior Conservationist since the last Newsletter. He has reached the minimum age of 83 years and has completed the Senior Conservationist Questionnaire. Congratulations!

Keith O. Schmude Fairfax, VA

See IN MEMORIAM for the Senior Conservationists who left us since the last Newsletter. Please help us identify retirees who should be named Senior Conservationists. Please provide their contact information to your ARCSE Representative or Regional Vice-President.

SENIOR CONSERVATIONIST CHRONICLE

Marc Safley, Chronicler, Senior Conservationist

Keith O. Schmude, Ph.D.

Senior Conservationist **Keith Schmude** was born in his family's home on their dairy farm in Poygan Township, Wisconsin. Keith grew up on that farm and attended local schools. He graduated from Omro High School (Omro, Wisconsin) in 1949. His father was an early cooperator with the local conservation district. Keith has said that it was his experience helping **George Framerger** (the District Conservationist) lay out terraces and seeing development of the soils map for the farm that convinced him that a career in soil science and conservation was for him.

Keith planned to enroll in the local state college in Oshkosh after high school and worked to earn tuition money. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1951 and served in Korea until separated from active duty in 1953 and was honorably discharged in 1959 after serving in the U.S. Army Reserve for six years. While in Korea, he served as a Combat Infantry Squad Leader for the 45th Infantry Division. For his service he received two Bronze Stars, the Combat Infantry Badge with two overseas bars, a United Nations Service Medal, and a commendation ribbon with metal pendant for Meritorious Service. Keith was anxious to start college. He arrived home after his discharge on a Friday and was sitting in class at Wisconsin State College the following Monday.

It was during his studies at Wisconsin State College that he met **Barbara Wilson** who became his wife before he transferred to the University of Wisconsin-Madison to complete his undergraduate work. They married June 18, 1955. Keith graduated with Senior High Honors with a B.S. in Agriculture. He completed a Master of Science program at the same school in 1959 in the discipline of Soil Genesis and Classification.

Keith's career with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) began in Wisconsin in 1958. From 1958 to 1968 he rose from GS-5 to GS-11 Soil Scientist. He was a soil survey party leader and was author of two county soil survey publications. In 1968 he accepted a promotion to Assistant State Soil Scientist for West Virginia. He served in that job until 1970 when he was selected State Soil Scientist in-place. Keith worked there until 1976 when he was promoted to the Inventory and Monitoring (I&M) Division within SCS Headquarters. He entered on duty on July 4, 1976. In 1978 Keith was awarded a Ph.D. degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from West Virginia University. His dissertation involved five disciplines (soil science, civil engineering, agronomy, economics, and geology) and the use/utility of soil survey information in land use planning. Keith served in the I&M Division until he retired in 1988.

Keith has received many awards during his career. In 2004 he was honored by his high school by being added to the Omro High School Wall of Fame. Keith and Barbara have seven children, 14 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. They continue to live in the home in Fairfax County, Virginia, they moved into in 1976. Next year they will celebrate 60 years of marriage and are making plans for that celebration. Keith and Barbara enjoy traveling to visit their children as well as gardening and wood crafting.

Some interesting weblinks from Carl Dupolt:

Corn Waste Ethanol Plant Opens In Iowa: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-09-03/poet-and-dsm-open-commercial-scale-cellulosic-fuel-plant.html>.

Plant Will Turn Sugarcane Into Fuel, Create 81 Jobs: <http://www.sacbee.com/2014/09/03/6674841/60m-plant-to-turn-sugarcane-waste.html>.



Pileated Woodpecker



www.arcse.org

Please email Ron Marlow at arcse@cox.net to report recent *In Memoriam* notices.

Surname	<i>In Memoriam</i>	(Note: These are recent notices. For a complete list, please see www.arcse.org)
Atwood	Nova D. Atwood (92) of Salina, Kansas passed away on September 15, 2014. He retired in 1979 after 32 years from the USDA as a Soil Conservationist/Agricultural Economist on the Water Resources Planning Staff in the Kansas State Office. He was a member of the National Association of Federal Employees and the First Christian Church Salina, Kansas. Survivors include son, Darroll (Lanis) Atwood of Ozawkie, Kansas; daughter-in-law, Sherrie Atwood of Salina, Kansas; and one granddaughter. He is preceded by his wife, Dorothy (Jones) Atwood ; and son, Doyle D. Atwood . Memorial contributions may be made to First Christian Church, 2727 E. Crawford, Salina, Kansas 67401.	
Borchard	Raymond Clyde Borchard (89) of Carmichael, California passed away peacefully October 1, 2014. He suffered a massive stroke just 20 days after losing his dear wife of 66 years Shirley on September 4, 2014. Ray was an active member of Sunrise Community Church where he taught Bible study for many years. He was raised on the family farm in Oxnard, CA where he raised truck crops with his father. Like many young men of his generation, he served in the Army Air Corp during WWII as a copilot on a B17. He was a graduate of the California State University, San Luis Obispo. Ray worked for Allis-Chalmers to support his farming habit before leaving the farm to begin a career with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS). His career with SCS required the family to move to several communities in northern CA, finally settling in Carmichael in 1973. Position at retirement, Area Conservationist, Sacramento, CA. He is survived by his sons Mike (Janice) Borchard of Orangevale, CA; and Steven (Donni) Borchard of Medford, OR; fourteen grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to a beloved charity in his name.	
Cooper	Honorary Member and Senior Conservationist John Cooper (93) of Point Pleasant, West Virginia passed away peacefully in his sleep, on September 14, 2013. After home-schooling by his mother, he attended a two-room school in Cox's Mills, and graduated at the age of 16 from Glenville High School. He graduated from WVU in 1940 with a degree in agriculture and began work in Taylor County with the Farm Security Administration, the forerunner of the Farmers Home Administration (FHA). In 1942, John volunteered for duty in the U.S. Navy as a radio man on the battleship USS New Jersey, where he served in more than 20 combats in the Pacific Theater, including the Battle of the Philippines. He received nine major battle stars. John took great joy in being on the battleship's radio, and being the first person on the battleship to learn the Japanese had surrendered. Following his honorable discharge in 1945, he resumed employment with the FHA in Beckley, WV. In 1947 he took a job with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service (SCS), which assigned him to Spencer, West Virginia, in Roane County. He retired from the SCS in 1979. John was active in many religious and civic organizations throughout much of his life. He had a particular interest in older farmers and did a series of articles in The Point Pleasant Register on Mason County farmers who were octogenarians, in addition to his weekly articles, which totaled around 20 years writing newspaper articles. He was selected by the SCS to train newly-hired SCS agents, and he tutored 12 new professionals during his SCS career. He was also founder in 1995 of "Life, Liberty, and Freedom," an organization to preserve the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights. Later, a second chapter was organized in Ohio and a third in Charleston, WV. At the age of 92 he was inducted into The West Virginia Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame at WVU Jackson's Mill in 2012. John is survived by his children, Rev. John and Dr. Elizabeth Cooper-Martin of Rockville, Maryland; and Mary Jane and Richard Cole of Pinch, West Virginia; and six grandchildren. Mr. Cooper was preceded in death by his wife, Mary . In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations be made to Trinity United Methodist Church building fund in Point Pleasant, or the charity of their choice in memory of their father.	
Crowe	Clement Eugene "Clem" Crowe (92) of Princeton, West Virginia passed away on October 21, 2014 at his residence. Clem was employed as an engineering technician by the USDA Soil Conservation Service working in Monroe County for eleven years before transferring to Princeton in 1959. After retiring in 1980, he was employed by the Southern Soil Conservation District and the Mercer County Commission. He was a faithful member of the First United Methodist Church in Princeton where he formerly served as Chairman of the Administrative Board and President of the United Methodist Men. Clem was a 70-year member and Past Master of Monroe Masonic Lodge #77, AF & AM, and Past President of the Bluegrass Ruritan Club in Monroe County. His wife of 65 years, Cora Pumphrey Crowe ; four sisters; and two brothers preceded him in death. Survivors include one daughter, Dr. Judith Crowe Carter of Princeton. Memorial contributions may be made to the First United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 304, Princeton, WV 24740. Online condolences may be made by visiting www.seaverfuneralservice.com .	
Dester	Eugene P. "Gene" Dester (84) passed away August 23 rd in Enterprise, Kansas. Growing up in Deer Creek, Gene attended local schools, graduated from Deer Creek High School, and attended Bethel College from 1948 to 1951. From 1951 to 1953, he served in the U.S. Army in the Pacific Theater stationed in Japan. Gene graduated from Oklahoma State University and taught Vocational Agriculture. He worked for the Soil Conservation Service in Winfield, Ness City, Larned, and Meade before making their home in Abilene in 1976. He was the District Conservationist in Dickinson County, retiring in 1992. Gene was a member of the Abilene First United Methodist Church and Kiwanis. Survived by: wife of 60 years Daisy I. Sawyers Dester , Enterprise; son Steve (Janice) Dester , Solomon; two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. The family suggests memorial contributions in his name be given to the Elsie Brooks Cancer Fund. Condolences: http://dannerfuneralhome.net/ .	

Dunnigan Member and Senior Conservationist **Lorn P. Dunnigan** (87) of Lincoln, Nebraska passed away on October 16, 2014. Borne in Cavalier County ND, Lorn was a U.S. Navy veteran 1945-1946. He graduated from NDSU in 1951 with a degree in soil science. He retired from the Soil Conservation Service in 1989 as Head of the Soil Mechanics Lab. Lorn is survived by his wife of 63 years, **Cecilia** and children and spouses: **David (Joy) Dunnigan**, Clatonia; **Diane (Tom) Lamb**, Lincoln; **Joan Dunnigan and (Bob Cohn)**, Louisville, KY; **Karan Dunnigan and (Gary Connelley)**, Billings, MT; and **Brian (Jody) Dunnigan**, Lincoln; 13 grandchildren, and nine great grandchildren. Preceded in death by daughter, **Beth Louise Dunnigan**; four brothers and one sister.

Durban **Clarence W. Durban** (93) of Plain City, Ohio passed away on October 22, 2014. Clarence was a WW II US Navy Veteran (1944-1946) Fireman First Class stationed on the USS Laub and USS Stevenson. He was a Darby High School Graduate and member of the Plain City Presbyterian Church. Clarence traveled nationally and abroad for the conservation of our national resources. He was an active member and past president of the National Association Conservation District (NACD) and Ohio Federation Conservation District (OFCD) for Land and Soil Conservation. He met with President Reagan regarding the Farm Bill in the early 1980s. He was the NACD president who led the effort to purchase the NACD building in DC among other accomplishments. He is survived by his wife, **Polly Scheiderer Durban**; a daughter, **Barbara (Joe Jenkins) Bruning**; two step-children; 12 step-grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Fischer **Robert S. Fischer** (93) passed away in Fargo, North Dakota on September 7, 2014. He began his SCS career in 1952 as a Project Engineer and worked on projects in the Grand Forks area, Larimore area, and the Fargo area before retiring in 1987. He is survived by three sons and four daughters: **Steve (Sue)**, Kent, WA; **Doug (Kay)**, Scottsdale, AZ; **Diann**, Fargo, ND; **Keith (Wanda)**, Fargo, ND; **Carol**, Maple, Grove, MN; **Susan**, Fargo, ND; **Mary**, Eden Prairie, MN; and his special companion **Fern Andersen**, Ulen, MN. He is survived by eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; three brothers and four sisters. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Katherine**; one son, one grandson, four brothers and two sisters.

Haderlie Member **Van K Haderlie** (86) passed away on October 15, 2014 in Logan, Utah, surrounded by family. His heart finally gave out. He was born in Auburn, Lincoln, WY, in the beautiful Star Valley he loved. He graduated from Utah State Agricultural College (Logan, Utah) with a Bachelor of Science in agronomy; and from the University of Montana (Missoula, MT) with a Master of Resource Administration. Van served a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (North Central States Mission) and in the Infantry and Army Medical Corps in World War II. A long career in the USDA Soil Conservation Service had him and his family moving to many locations around Montana, with a couple of years in Nevada and Texas. He served as a State Conservationist, retiring in Bozeman in 1984 after a two-year assignment in Indonesia. In 2013, Van and **Bernice** returned to the place their family journey began, Logan, UT. He served in several leadership positions in the LDS church. He had three daughters: **Brenda Lynn (Doyle Milton Wright)**, Orem, UT; **Jo Nell (John Stanley Bird)**, Stockton, MO; and **Sheri**, Logan, UT; then five sons, **Dennis K (Margaret [Peggy] Lee Blackwood)**, Belgrade, MT; **Merrill K (Mae Louise Pledge)**, Logan, UT; **Brad K (Heidi Ann Walls**, deceased), Bozeman, MT; **Kevan K (Bertha Maria Dominguez-Vazquez)**, South Salt Lake, UT; and **Bryan K (Wendy Suzanne Green)**, Stafford, VA. There are currently 45 grandchildren, 59 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

Harrison **Glenn Walker "Shot" Harrison** (87) of Knoxville, Tennessee, passed away peacefully early August 19, 2014, at Island Home Park Health and Rehab. He graduated from Tennessee Tech in 1951, where he majored in agronomy. This led to a career of over 30 years as soil conservationist and supervisor for the USDA Soil Conservation Service in Knox, Bledsoe, Cannon, Smith, and Sumner counties. He is survived by longtime companion, **Barbara**, a daughter, a son, and a granddaughter. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Nature Conservancy.

Heise **Theresa H. Heise** (85) of El Dorado, Kansas passed away on August 16, 2014. She is survived by her husband of 65 years **Harold D. Heise** who retired in 1987 as the District Conservationist at the El Dorado Field Office. Survivors include: husband, **Harold**; son, **Rick (Jane) Heise**; and five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Hicks Life Member **Robert Nolen Eugene Hicks** (78) of Lansing, Michigan, passed away on June 12, 2014. He grew up on a family farm in Tennessee, and his life-long passions were the conservation of wildlife and its natural resources. He received a B.S. degree in Agriculture from Tennessee State University. He served in the U.S. Army for three years in research and development all over the world, including the Greenland Ice Cap, and at the Pentagon in Washington, DC. Bob retired from the USDA Soil Conservation Service as a Resource Conservationist in 2008 after 47 years of service. Bob was a member of Our Savior Lutheran Church where he faithfully served in different stewardship roles. He was involved in Habitat for Humanity, the Neighborhood Watch program, Farm Bureau and **Rotary International**. Bob was preceded in death by his loving and devoted wife, **Thelma L. Hicks**, of 51 years of marriage. He is survived by his children, **Derrick N. Hicks** and **Belinda N. (David) Kammeraad (Hicks)**; and two grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Our Savior Lutheran Church and School. Condolences may be left for the family at www.EstesLeadley.com

Horgan **Purdy Horgan** (94) of Cavalier, North Dakota and formerly of Neche, ND passed away on September 1, 2014 at Wedgewood Manor, Cavalier, ND. Purdy worked as a WAE in the Cavalier office for many years. He is survived by sons: **James**, Thayer, MO; and **Tim**, Cavalier, ND; three grandchildren; three great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, **Edna Mae** in 1999; a son, and a brother.

Krug	Kenneth D. Krug (67) formerly of Torrington, Wyoming passed away on March 3, 2014 at his home in Rapid City, SD, and cremation has taken place. He graduated with a B.S. in Biology from Fort Hays State in Hays, Kansas in 1968. Ken went to work for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service soon after college graduation and worked in several SCS offices in Wyoming before transferring to St. Paul, Minnesota. While working in St. Paul, Ken met his wife Sandi Skarda , and they were married on Sept. 3, 1977. He transferred to the SCS office in Aloha, OR and finally finished his long career with the SCS (renamed NRCS) in Rapid City, SD. During his career as a biologist, he had traveled all over the middle and western United States, Alaska, Hawaii, and Guam, coordinating water resources projects and being a technical advisor on NEPA environmental requirements for wetlands protection. Ken was preceded in death by his wife in 2002.
Mackey	Senior Conservationist Carl Edward Mackey (90) of Kingfisher, Oklahoma passed away on February 15, 2014. He graduated from Kingfisher High School and from Oklahoma State University, formerly known as Oklahoma A&M College. He served in WW II, stationed in England. Carl taught vocational agriculture in Hitchcock for three years. He farmed in Dover for five years and was a telephone lineman. He went to work for the USDA as a soil conservationist trainee in Enid, working in Medford, Hugo, Fort Cobb, Shattuck and Purcell. Carl retired in 1986 with 30 years of service and moved back to Kingfisher in 1990. He was a member of the First Baptist Church, the Lion's Club, Rotary Club and the American Legion. Survivors include his wife of 66 years, Jeanne of the home; five sons, Steve (Shelia) Mackey of Duncan; Stan (Almeda) Mackey of Fort Cobb; Burl (Betty) Mackey and Dr. Bruce (Sharri) Mackey all of Edmond; and Kirk (Angeli) Mackey of Norman; nine grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.
Maluski	Richard "Dick" Lee Maluski (74) passed away September 6, 2014 at a Minot, ND hospital. Dick was District Conservationist in Stanley, ND for 20 years. He is survived by his wife, Sheila ; daughter, Kimberly (Pierre) Sarte , Richmond, VA; stepdaughters, Stephanie Rents , Bellevue, WA and Stacy (Jaime) Marrujo , Granville; seven grandchildren; 4 sisters; and a brother. Dick was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, and a stepson.
Milani	Member Mario John Milani (80) of Stockton, California passed away peacefully on October 9, 2014. He graduated from California Polytechnic College, San Luis Obispo. He served in the United States Air Force and Air Force Reserves. His career as a civil engineer for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service began in 1955. He enjoyed a productive 46-year career. During his employment he worked on construction issues in California, Nevada, Washington, Utah, Hawaii, Iowa, and the Pacific Basin, retiring as the State Construction Engineer. Mario received many awards and certificates. Throughout his career he made many lifelong friends. He was active in Little League Baseball and Indian Guides when his children were young. After his retirement he worked as an Earth Team volunteer for the NRCS. He enjoyed NRCS retirement luncheons for many years. He also served as the ARCSE Representative for California. Mario is survived by his wife of 56 years, Virginia , sons Paul and David , and wife Patty , daughter Janet (Ronald) Montano ; four grandchildren; and one great granddaughter. Please make donations to Hospice of San Joaquin or charity of your choice.
Moss	Clifford Wayne (Toby) Moss (81) passed away October 14, 2014, at his home in Stillwater. He graduated from Ponca City High School in 1951 and graduated from Oklahoma A&M College in 1955 with a bachelor's of science degree in geology. Toby began working for the USDA Soil Conservation Service in 1955 as a core drill geologist in the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program at Clinton, Oklahoma. He later became a planning staff geologist at Chickasha, Oklahoma City and Claremore. In 1974, Toby was appointed environmental specialist for USDA-SCS programs in the USDA state office in Stillwater. He retired from the USDA in 1988 after 33 years of service. He is survived by two sons, two daughters, two stepsons, and eight grandsons and five great-grandsons. Condolences may be emailed to the family and an online obituary may be viewed by visiting www.strodefh.com .
Nelson	Senior Conservationist Russell L. Nelson (92) passed away on September 9, 2014 at Ebenezer Ridges Care Center in Burnsville, MN. He served as District Conservationist in Griggs, Steele, and Walsh Counties, ND, retiring in 1981 as Area Conservationist for Southwest North Dakota in Dickinson, ND. Since retirement he also lived in Fargo and Grand Forks, ND. He is survived by four sons, Everett , Trumansburg, NY; Rodney (Colleen) , Andover, MN; Paul , Burnsville, MN; and Kenneth (Cindy) , Whitefish, MT; two sisters; four grandsons, three granddaughters and one great-grandchild. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Ruth , second wife Esther , his parents, one brother and two sisters.
Nichols	Member Joe Dean Nichols (81) of Fort Worth, Texas passed away on October 21, 2014, in Fort Worth. Upon discharge from two years in the Army, he enrolled at Oklahoma State University. He was awarded a bachelor of science degree in 1955, followed by a master of science degree in 1956. Joe was hired by the USDA Soil Conservation Service and worked as a field soil scientist, a county party leader, state soils correlator in Oklahoma, and state soil scientist in Colorado. A promotion in 1971 brought him to the Fort Worth National Technical Center as assistant principal soils correlator. Joe retired in 1993 as head of the soils staff at the NTC. An accomplished writer, Joe had 35 papers and book chapters in print and was cited for making a major contribution to the chapter in "Soil Taxonomy on Desert Soils." Retirement did not mean idleness for Joe. He was an adjunct professor at Texas Christian University for several years. He also worked part time for Texas A&M University. He participated in the Soil Conservation Society Retirement Group and the Tarrant County Archeology Society. He served on the church council and board of trustees and as president of Methodist Men at Genesis United Methodist Church in Fort Worth. His artistic skills as a woodcarver won him many ribbons for his birds at the State Fair. He was preceded in death his wife, Mary Nichols . Survivors: Daughter, Lynn Ann Nichols of Boston, Mass.; a brother,

Olliff	Bobby Nichols (Melvalene) of Okemah, Okla.; and nephews and nieces.
	Honorary Member and Senior Conservationist J.B. (John Benjamin) Olliff (96) of Douglas, Georgia passed away on September 25, 2014. He graduated from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and the University of Georgia. He also studied at North Carolina State University. J.B. retired in 1975 as a District Conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service and then ran an agronomy and forestry consulting business. His next career field was agribusiness, serving as Assistant Vice President at Trust Company Bank of Coffee County alongside longtime friend Garland Thompson . This led to his third career in forestry consulting and management. He was a Rotarian for many years serving two counties as president, and being named a Fellow by his club. J.B. was preceded in death by Florence his beloved wife of 65 years, and by his son David who worked with him in forestry concerns. He is survived by his son Benny (Avis) Olliff of Valdosta; daughters, Nancy (Bill) Faircloth of Fort Valley, Betty (John) Boatwright of Willacoochee; daughter-in-law Kay Olliff of Jacksonville, Florida; eight grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to a charity of your choice.
Reinsch	William E. Reinsch (88) of Lincoln, Nebraska passed away on September 25, 2014. He worked as an agronomist for the USDA SCS. William was a veteran of the United States Army serving in WWII and the Korean War. Survivors include his children, William (Pamela) Reinsch , Karen (Greg) Dietrich , Stephen (Beth) Reinsch , Cheryl (David) Schneider ; ten grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy . Memorials are suggested to St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Parkinson's Foundation, or the Wounded Warrior Project. Online condolences may be left at www.bmlfh.com .
Richards	Johnnie L. Richards (91) of Olathe, Kansas passed away on Oct. 4, 2014. He graduated from Decatur Community High School in 1942. He was a Marine in World War II. Johnnie retired in 1988 as a Soil Conservation Technician in the Olathe Field Office. He farmed and was a member of United Methodist Church, the American Legion and VFW. He was preceded in death by a daughter and a grandson. Survivors include his wife of 68 years, Christine Richards of Olathe; children, Michael (Tammi) Richards of Belton, Missouri; Dallas (Sharon) Richards of Hays, Kansas; and Rick (Shelly) Richards of Overland Park, Kansas; son-in-law, Reid Buturlia of Independence, Missouri; 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Memorials may be given in his name to the Olathe Medical Center or ALS, Keith Worthington Chapter. Online condolences may be left at www.paulsfh.com .
Shaffer	Morris E. Shaffer (91) of Athens, Georgia passed away on September 15, 2014. He is survived by his wife of sixty-one years, Louise , and a son, Thomas Michael Shaffer of Athens. Morris was a World War II veteran, serving in the European Theatre. He resumed his college education after the war, graduating from the University of Florida in 1950. In 1952 he began his career with USDA-Soil Conservation Service in Mississippi. In 1965 he transferred to Athens, GA and retired in 1980 as the State Soil Scientist of Georgia for the SCS. Morris was an active member of St. James United Methodist Church for 49 years, serving in numerous capacities. He was an accomplished woodworker, artist and gardener. He crafted many pieces of fine furniture for family and friends, always sharing his talent with others. Morris will be remembered for his kind and generous spirit.
Shanklin	Donald W. Shanklin (77) of Granbury, Texas passed away on, September 30, 2014, while visiting friends in Ruidoso, NM. Don was born Feb. 13, 1937, in Washington, DC. His recreational passions included watching sports, fishing, hunting, church and civic choir. He never met a stranger. He worked 42 years as a civil engineer with the NRCS and developed many friendships throughout his career, retiring as the Construction Engineer on the National Design Center staff at Ft. Worth. Survivors: His loving wife of 54 years, Helen Shanklin ; children, Jim and wife, Peggy , Julie and husband, Ron , Joe and wife, Tammy , John and wife, Christine ; and nine grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the First United Methodist Church in Granbury food pantry, American Cancer Society or American Heart Association
Sites	George Kenneth Sites (86) of Norman, Oklahoma passed away on October 12, 2014. He graduated in 1952 from Stillwater A&M (before it became OSU) with an Agricultural Engineering Degree. From 1952 to 1954, as a Second Lieutenant with the Army Corps of Engineers, he served in Korea as a combat engineer. He worked for and retired in 1985 from the Soil Conservation Service as an Area Engineer. He was preceded by his wife of 64 years, Billie Jean Sites , who died January 8, 2013. He is survived by sons: Harold G. (Randy) Bass of Sunray Texas; and Garry K. (Cassandra) Sites of Stillwater; daughter Georjana K. (Tim) Mauldin of Norman; five grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. Donations in his honor may be made to: Alzheimer's Association Oklahoma Chapter 2448 E. 81st Street, Suite 3000 Tulsa, Oklahoma 74137-4250 or online at www.alz.org
Thayer	William "Bill" Brooks Thayer (84) of Raleigh, North Carolina passed away on October 4, 2014. Bill retired in 1985 as Area Engineer in Raleigh, NC. He was born in Columbia, SC, and at an early age the family moved to Spartanburg, SC where Bill attended school. After graduation from Spartanburg High School in 1947, Bill entered Clemson College. He received a degree in Agricultural Engineering in 1952 and entered the US Air Force the same year. He served for two years in the Air Force reaching the rank of 1 st Lieutenant as air police officer. In 1952, Bill was employed as an Engineer with the Soil Conservation Service in Greensboro, NC. He served in various positions during his career with SCS. Bill was a loyal supporter of Clemson. He loved to golf, talk on the short wave radio, ski, hike and build and fly remote control airplanes with his son, David . In addition to his parents, Bill was preceded in death by his wife, Frances Moore Thayer and his son William David Thayer .
Tully	Stephen Richard Tully (66), a longtime Stillwater, Oklahoma resident, passed away on September 27, 2014.

Steve is a Vietnam veteran who served in the US Navy from 1967 to 1971. Most of his tour was spent on destroyers in the Pacific fleet. After his discharge, he attended OSU and received a BS degree in Zoology. After graduation, Steve began his career with the NRCS, formerly the SCS, as a Soil Conservationist in Chandler, Oklahoma. He was then transferred to Claremore as a Wildlife Biologist, and then promoted to State Biologist in Stillwater. Steve retired from the NRCS in January 2012. He leaves behind his wife **Terri**, of the home; three children, two stepchildren, and four grandchildren and eight step-grandchildren. Condolences may be emailed to the family and an online obituary may be viewed by visiting www.strodefh.com.

Vaught

Honorary Member and Senior Conservationist **William L. Vaught** (93) of Rio Rancho, New Mexico passed away peacefully on October 4, 2014 in Albuquerque, NM. He led a full and productive life. **Bill** retired from the Soil Conservation Service in December 1975 as the Director of the South National Technical Center in Fort Worth, Texas.

Velasquez

Life Member **Charles Velasquez** (80) of Marysville, California passed away on September 27, 2014. Chuck served his country honorably in the Army in The Korean War from June 16, 1953 to June 16, 1956. He was a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and enjoyed participating in events to recognize and honor our veterans. He came to work for the Soil Conservation Service in 1959. His career with the agency included work as a Field Office engineer, Area engineer and Assistant State Conservation Engineer at various locations in California, and included being an expert at getting Emergency Watershed Protection work done. Chuck retired in 1994 after 35 years with the agency. He married **Sally Broad**, the love of his life in 1969. They were happily married for 35 years until her sudden death in 2004. With their marriage Chuck got to experience the joys of being a father as Sally had a son **Bill** at the age of about 10 from a previous marriage. Later Chuck got to experience the joy of being a grandparent when Bill and his wife brought a little girl, **Mackenzie** into the world. Chuck and Sally did everything together and enjoyed an amazing array of activities and hobbies. He was a first-degree black belt in Judo in the 70s and 80s. He collected and worked on cuckoo clocks and at one time probably had close to 20. He collected ukuleles and guitars. After Sally's passing, Chuck decided he would like to see more of the world and traveled alone to visit a number of European Countries, including England, Portugal, Denmark and Spain. Chuck enjoyed being part of many social groups including the Yuba City Moose Lodge and the Widowed Persons Association of California.

Vogel

Thomas Eugene Vogel (83) of Ness City, Kansas passed away in September 14, 2014. Thomas retired in 1993 as a Soil Conservation Technician in the Gove Field Office. He was a veteran of the United States Air Force, a member of the Sacred Heart Church and the Knights of Columbus. He is survived by his son, **Kelly Vogel (Yi Zhi)**, Lawton, Oklahoma; two daughters, **Shelly Gomez (Wayne)**, Denver, Colorado; and **Christy Vogel**, Pearland, Texas; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Sacred Heart Church, Ness City.

Vollan

Lorraine Vollan (83) passed away on September 28, 2014 at Sanford Health, Bismarck, ND. Lorraine retired in 1987 after working 24 years as a secretary for federal agencies. She is survived by three children, **Teressa Larson**, Fargo, ND; **Tim (LaDora) Vollan**, Fairfield, CA; and **Tracey (Michelle) Vollan**, Bismarck, ND; two brothers; eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, **Eugene**; her parents; one sister and one brother.

Wallenmeyer

Daniel Wallenmeyer (81) passed away on April 12, 2014, at Hawks Ridge in Hood River, Oregon. He grew up in Evansville, Indiana, graduating from high school in 1949. After graduation, he joined the Air Force and served four years as a Crew Chief in the armament during the Korean War. He continued his education at Washington State University, earning his bachelor's degree in agriculture in 1959. Dan was the District Conservationist for the USDA Soil Conservation Service in Ritzville, Washington, and in Canyon City and McMinnville, in Oregon. He retired after 28 years. Dan is survived by his wife of nearly 60 years, **Patricia**; two sons, two daughters, 12 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. The family encourages memorials to The Wounded Warrior Project in Daniel's name.

Whelpley

Robert E. Whelpley (88) passed away September 30, 2014. Robert retired in 1986 as the District Conservationist in the McPherson Field Office. He retired in 1986 as the District Conservationist in the McPherson Field Office. He was a United States Navy Veteran of WWII, serving in the Pacific from 1944 to 1946. He graduated from Kansas State University in 1951. Robert was preceded in death by his wife of 64 years, **Mary Louise Randall**, on November 24, 2011. Survivors include: three sons, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be given to MCDs or Alzheimer's Assn. in care of Stockham Family Funeral Home, 205 North Chestnut, McPherson, KS 67460.

Wingenbach

Arlen "Andy" Wingenbach (44) died August 31, 2014 at Pelican Rapids, MN. **Andy** began his 24 year career at NRCS in New England, ND, and went on to work in Ashley, McClusky, Minot, Forman, Towner, and Devils Lake. At the time of his death, he was serving as the Assistant State Conservationist for field operations in Devils Lake, ND. He is survived by his parents, six brothers and four sisters. He was preceded in death by his grandparents and two brothers.

Zimmerman

James F. Zimmerman (78) passed away on October 4, 2014, in Lebanon, PA after an extended illness. Jim was the husband of **Elizabeth Vass Zimmerman**. **Liz** was the Area Clerk and then Computer Specialist in Lebanon for many years.