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# NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter for Retired SCS and NRCS Employees

Vol. 39, No. 6

Nov/Dec, 2012

## NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

*Lennie Losh*

**Mix and Match** - With Congress not in session, it was suggested that some informational items be addressed.

**COLA Increase** - For 2013, the cost-of-living adjustment of 1.7% is one of the smallest annual increases in monthly payments to federal retirees and Social Security recipients. The increase is likely to be offset by higher Medicare premiums soon to be announced. Medical costs over the past year have increased by 4.4% (Seems low).

**Hospital "Observation"** - Be aware that hospitals have increasingly classified Medicare beneficiaries as an out-patient under "observation," instead of admitting them as an in-patient, even when they spend more than 48 hours in the hospital. The significance? Classifying as an out-patient under "observation" while in the hospital denies them coverage for post-hospital rehab therapy. Medicare coverage comes not under Part A (hospital insurance), but Part B (which normally covers doctor's services and out-patient care). What to do while in a hospital? Ask about your status each day you are there. If you are in "observation," ask your doctor if the status is justified. Make sure your doctor understands how "observation" could affect your finances.

**Taxing IRA Inheritance** - An entire individual retirement account that is inherited can be taxed rather than tax-deferred by one wrong move. Procedures exist that provide for changing the title of an existing IRA account to an inheritance IRA or as a new IRA. What if you inherit a 401(k)? That too can be changed to an inheritance IRA. Lawyers handling wills can help in this matter. Anyone living with an IRA or 401(k) should have a note explaining the importance of the need for changing IRAs.

**The Proposed 2012 Farm Bill** - The passage of this bill is unlikely in this year's session of Congress. The nutrition program (food stamps) is the over-riding issue in the House of Representatives. The urban Democrats are utterly opposed to any cuts in the proposed bill, and the Representatives are equally opposed to the current level or proposed changes.

**Year 2013** - Regardless which Party wins the Presidential election, the major issues confronting the President and the Congress will still remain. We all know what they are, so they do not need to be repeated.

**A Final Note** - This is my last "Notes to the Potomac" contribution. **John Stierna** has graciously agreed to continue to provide "NOTES" from Washington, D.C., depicting activities of interest and concern to our conservation family. John has long been active in Washington legislative matters, most recently representing The American Farmland Trust in the drafting of the current Farm Bill legislation.

As a professed "political junkie," the current political avalanche of attention in Ohio and the continual visits by both candidates and their prospective views of who would best represent this country the next four years reminds one of the rooster taking credit for each sunrise.

May each and all have a joyous and blessed Christmas and a healthy, happy New Year. We are a loving family dedicated to conservation of our natural resources. It has been my privilege to serve all of you.



**Your Dues are Due**

**See the 2013 DUES NOTICE later in this edition**

**ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES**

## PLEASE KEEP YOUR ADDRESSES UPDATED

Keeping your addresses updated is important for three very good reasons:

1. Since the hard copy of the newsletter is distributed by bulk mail, the post office is not required to forward it. This means you may not receive your copy of the newsletter in a timely manner, if at all.
2. The ARCSE postage for mailing each newsletter is approximately \$0.49. However, when a newsletter is returned due to an incorrect address, ARCSE is charged an additional fee by the U.S. Postal Service, sometimes as much as \$1.68 per returned newsletter.
3. ARCSE doesn't know if you have changed your email address unless you let us know. For those receiving the new digital version of the newsletter, please keep your email address current so that you don't miss the newsletter.



Your addresses may be updated by sending changes to [arcse@cox.net](mailto:arcse@cox.net) or to ARCSE, P.O. Box 7454, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7454.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Mark Berkland*

The Annual meeting in Fort Worth was very productive with several initiatives being identified for this year. The following are just a few of the initiatives that the Board of Directors are working on:

- 1) Pursue potential for collecting dues electronically through a secure payment process.
- 2) Develop a process for posting state newsletters on the website.
- 3) Recruit a new chronicler. **Anyone interested or someone you would recommend, please contact me.**
- 4) Make an assertive effort to fill your respective vacant state representative positions in AK, AL, AZ, FL, PR, WI, WY, CT/RI, MS. If someone from these states would like to volunteer to be their state representative, please contact me or your Regional Vice President: East-**Cecil Currin**, West-**Jerry Richard**, South-**Arnold King**, and Midwest-**Norman Kempf**.
- 5) Develop policy for the meritorious service awards program.
- 6) Regional Vice Presidents to conduct at least one teleconference with state representatives in their respective region.
- 7) Develop a process for archiving old newsletters.
- 8) Identify initiatives that will increase membership. **Suggestions are welcome, please contact me.**
- 9) Keep the Board of Directors updated on actual savings due to conversion to electronic distribution of the newsletter.

The Board of Directors and those in appointed positions are actively working on getting these and additional initiatives accomplished. We have scheduled a Board of Directors teleconference for Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss progress and what we need to do to get these things accomplished. Several initiatives are well under way. For example, **Warren Lee** has already made contacts to explore locations for our Annual Luncheon and Board meeting to be held in Reno, Nevada this coming July. As you know, we hold our Annual meeting in conjunction with the Soil and Water Conservation Society's Annual meeting, which will be in Reno next year. This past luncheon, which was arranged for by **Arnold King and Willeene** at an off-meeting site, was so good that we are looking at doing this again in Reno. **Warren** is looking at both off-site and on-site restaurants that meet our needs—steaks and seafood at hamburger prices!!

Since I will not have another chance as the next newsletter will not come out until January 2013, I want to wish each of you to have a safe and happy Thanksgiving and Christmas Season with your families.



## A BIT OF HISTORY

*Douglas Helms, Historian*

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

## THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE'S WORK IN THE HELMAND VALLEY, AFGHANISTAN IN THE 1970s

Last July I was listening to a radio interview of Rajiv Chandrasekaran about his just-published book, *Little America: The War Within the War for Afghanistan* (Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 2012). Toward the end of the interview he mentioned that "a small federal agency called the Soil Conservation Service" had been called in to work on a troubled irrigation project. Naturally, I felt a sense of pride in the agency when he said "we finally got it right but it was too late."

His chapter on the early history of the irrigation project draws heavily on the earlier work by Nick Cullather and Louis Dupree. The King of Afghanistan, Mohammed Zahir Shah, contracted with the American engineering firm, Morrison-Knudsen, to build the water-supply structures for irrigation along the Helmand River. Later, as part of the Cold War effort, the U. S. Agency for International Development funded a TVA-styled project with technical assistance by the Bureau of Reclamation.

For a number of reasons detailed by Cullather and Chandrasekaran, the project planners did not do the requisite soil surveys. Furthermore, the water supply and control works were not linked closely to the on-farm water use, especially to the needed on-farm ditches. Reservoirs and canals were built, but farmers would not temporarily vacate the land for land leveling since they feared the Afghan government might not permit them to return. The AID funding expired, but the Afghan government appealed to Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who promised to complete the project. At this point SCS was called in to work on the on-farm drainage.

Mel Davis and retired head of the Engineering Division John T. (Jack) Phelan visited Afghanistan in May 1975 to consult with the government (Current Developments, April 28, 1975). Phelan had worked on a large irrigation and drainage project in India. Furthermore, in the Soil Erosion Service and then SCS he had supervised the work of CCC enrollees on drainage and irrigation work. This experience was valuable in planning for the Helmand Project, where farmers were paid to hand-dig the on-farm drainage works.

USAID assembled a nine-person team, four of whom were SCS employees. Wally Ochs was national headquarters-based supervisor and John Geter was the SCS team leader. Other SCS staff were Harold Honeyfield, drainage engineer; Louis Burton, design engineer; and Richard Anderson, soil scientist. USAID staff were Dr. Zack Tyson, project leader from New Mexico State University; Tom Liston, heavy machinery parts specialist; Andy Anderson, construction engineer; and Jean Rosar, secretary for the team. This first team arrived in Nov. 1975 and departed in 1977, to be replaced by a much larger team.



The team laid out four pilot projects, about one square kilometer each, near four villages along the Helmand River. USAID paid farmers to hand-dig the on-farm drainage ditches, which emptied into canals. A government construction agency used rather old, decrepit draglines to dig these canals. The results came quickly. The first year after the digging of the drains, the team managed to leach the soluble salts from the soil profile on approximately 100 hectares. Farmers made a full crop the second year.

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A larger SCS team replaced the original team in 1977; however, John Geter remained in Afghanistan as SCS team leader. Work proceeded; however, the political situation changed dramatically. The Afghanistan army deposed and executed the King in late April 1978, and installed a communist government. Soon Afghan tribes rebelled against the regime. The violence that began in the northeastern part of the country spread to 24 of the 28 provinces by spring 1979. In addition to Afghan casualties, the fatalities included 100 Soviet citizens and their families and the U. S. Ambassador Adolph "Spike" Dubs.

As the situation became more dangerous, SCS Chief

Mel Davis visited the project in March 1979. He was visiting the second team that had arrived in 1977 and consisted of 10 SCS employees, with John Geter as the team leader. To expand the drainage work, the team was scheduled to receive about \$3.5 million dollars' worth of draglines, tractors and other equipment in late summer 1979. The equipment was in Pakistan, en route to Afghanistan. According to John Geter, the Soviet-backed government encouraged the team to stay. However, the U. S. government deemed the situation too dangerous, and the team left in Sept. 1979. There had been some hope that the work might continue if the violence subsided. However, a prolonged war ensued with the arrival of Soviet troops in Dec. 1979.

John Geter's recent assessment of the project was firstly, that "we did a lot of good work," and secondly, that "we had just scratched the surface." When the team arrived, some of the fields were white with accumulated salts. Geter

recalled that the team and farmers had flushed the salts from about 1,000 hectares and restored it to productivity. The thousand hectares were a pittance of the project area of several hundred thousand hectares. Portions of the Helmand Valley had been irrigated prior to the Mongol invasion of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, and Geter believes the Helmand Valley, particularly the lower part, retains tremendous agricultural potential with proper irrigation and drainage.

The episode has some echoes of the experiences and lessons learned in the United States. One of the economically valuable things that the early 20<sup>th</sup> century soil surveyors could do was to identify soluble salts in soil and recommend a drainage system if irrigation was contemplated. At first some local people would try to suppress this information but in time it was valued. A few of the early Bureau of Reclamation projects had not taken soil properties into account. They began cooperating with soil scientists in USDA to avoid these costly mistakes. Also, hard lessons were learned about the need to coordinate the on-farm delivery and drainage systems with the water control and delivery system. In fact, Congress passed the Case-Wheeler Act, under which the Bureau of Reclamation and the Soil Conservation Service were required to work together on irrigation projects. In the case of the Helmand Project, the Afghan government was uninformed about the need for on-farm drainage canals, whereas the small farmers who irrigated knew about the dangers of accumulating salts, but lacked the wherewithal to build a large, integrated system. The Bureau of Reclamation concentrated on the large reservoirs, drains, and canals, to the neglect of the on-farm water management and drainage canals. Speaking of the overall United States' foreign aid for the Helmand Project, Rajiv Chandrasekaran's assessment that "we finally got it right but it was too late" has the ring of truth.

#### Sources:

Telephone conversations with John Geter, Harold Honeyfield, and Wally Ochs.

*Current Developments.* (A weekly newsletter of the Soil Conservation Service that was mailed to field offices).

Chandrasekaran, Rajiv. *Little America : The War Within the War for Afghanistan* (New York : Alfred A. Knopf, 2012).

Nick Cullather, Nick. "Damming Afghanistan: Modernization in a Buffer State." *Journal of American History*, Vol. 89, No. 2, (Sept. 2002): 512-537

Soviet War in Afghanistan. Wikipedia, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet\\_war\\_in\\_Afghanistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet_war_in_Afghanistan)

## 2013 DUES NOTICE

**Members receiving the newsletter by hard copy:** A dues notice is included with the hard copy newsletter (yellow page insert). Please follow the instructions on the notice 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. Life members and members who have already paid their 2013 dues will not receive the email transmitting a dues notice.

## 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

## DEADLINE FOR

**JAN/FEB 2013 NEWSLETTER  
CONTRIBUTIONS IS DEC 23**

## J. MICHAEL NETHERY RECEIVES MERITORIOUS AWARD

ARSCE presented a "Meritorious Service Citation" to **Mike Nethery**, in Special Recognition and Appreciation of his 10 years of Dedicated Service to ARSCE Members, as Editor of an Outstanding News Letter. The award was given at the recent annual meeting in Fort Worth, Texas.

Mike was not able to attend the annual meeting, so President **Mark Berkland** asked **Skip Nelson** (Utah) to present the plaque to him. The plaque was presented at a family gathering at the home of a daughter and son-in-law, (**Ruth Ann and Phil Gardner**), in Bountiful, Utah.

**Mike and wife Nadine** were honored to have 9 family members present to share the recognition. He had a very distinguished career. He was an Engineer in Indiana; spent ten years in Washington, DC (Budget Branch, Watershed Planning, Watershed Operations); State Conservationist for North Dakota; and State Conservationist for Iowa.



**Mike Nethery receives "Meritorious Service Citation" from ARCSE**

## HONORARY MEMBERS

The following members of ARCSE have celebrated or will be celebrating their 91<sup>st</sup> birthdays during 2012. With this milestone, each of these members becomes an Honorary Member. As an Honorary Member, no dues are required for calendar year 2013 and thereafter.

**Frederic E. Collison**, Carmel, CA  
**Roy L. Fox**, Salem, OR  
**Elmer E. Offerman**, Storrs, CT  
**Wm A. (Buck) Morris**, Benton, IL  
**J. G. (Jodie) Jones**, Bentonville, AR

**Gordon R. Nesbitt**, Groton, NY  
**William E. Swern**, Rockville, IN  
**Richard J. Patronskey**, Lincoln, NE  
**Esther Patterson**, Ellensburg, WA

## ARIZONA

**Karl Klingelhofer**, ARCSE Representative

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

**Karl Klingelhofer** of Tucson reports that he is still having an active life at 86. "Many times it is not easy here without **Georgann** (wife of 60 years), but I don't want to leave either. I continue to play doubles tennis 3 times per week, 2 hours per session.

In April I took a 19-day tour to Southern Africa. Flew to Johannesburg in central S. Africa; then across Botswana to Victoria Falls; visited Chobe National Park; took helicopter ride over the falls plus walking adjacent to them and getting soaking wet; visited Kruger National Park; then to Cape Town and ended up going all the way to the tip of Africa. Saw all the major animals and took 900 pictures. A great trip for 19 days. The helicopter ride was my first ever.

In July I took a trip to Illinois and Wisconsin. Visited my home territory and then to U of Wisconsin where I learned to drink beer. Spent one night there on the campus and then north to visit friends and attend the AirVenture at Oshkosh. First time there and that was an experience to be remembered.

Upon my return I finished my flying lessons and was awarded my Sport Pilot license Sept. 1, 2012. I guess this was a big deal because of my age since it was written up in the Tucson paper and will be in some of the flying magazines. I know many of you had your licenses a long time ago. I enlisted in the Army Air Corps Cadet program in 1944 but never got to fly and was discharged as surplus in 1945. After **Georgann** died, my bucket list included taking one flying lesson. This occurred when I was 83 years old. However, then another, and another, and on for 2½ years. I did not intend to get a license until the very end when my instructor wouldn't let me quit. Learning to study again was difficult plus mastering the landing. What I will do with the license is a big question. Too old to get my own airplane but I will continue to fly locally for a while."

**Marion E. Strong** wrote: "This note is to advise you that my wife, **Ruth**, passed away yesterday, Oct. 22, 2012. She had been in declining health for about a year. She fell in Oct. of last year and suffered brain damage. Her brain bled in 2 places and she suffered severe memory loss as a result. She fell frequently over the year. It became difficult for me to care for her so she went to a group home for care. She fell on Thursday of last week and though there no signs of damage beyond a severe cut on her forehead, she began to decline in health and finally succumbed yesterday. She had passed her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday on Sept. 30. We would have been married for 68 years on Dec. 21 of this year. I've been

retired for over 32 years and passed my 94<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 2. Still reside in my own home; drive my car and am active at a much reduced level."

## ARKANSAS

**M. J. "Whitey" Spears, ARCSE Representative**

Email: [mjspears@swbell.net](mailto:mjspears@swbell.net)

Our 27<sup>th</sup> annual meeting this fall was lightly attended, but was a good one. In addition to the Pledge of Allegiance and a short memorial service for those who left us this year, there was much discussion on how to increase attendance next year. **Carl Peters** presided. **Whitey Spears** missed the meeting because of surgery, his first miss in twenty seven years. **Johnny Henry** and **George Dahlke** continue to get the Little Rock and North Little Rock group together for a luncheon and fun session. There were ten present at the recent meeting.

## CALIFORNIA

**Bill Ward, ARCSE Representative**

Email: [wardclan@comcast.net](mailto:wardclan@comcast.net)

Hello from California to all our fellow SCS and NRCS retirees across the nation. We have some very sad news to share in this report for our ARSCE Newsletter with the passing of **Gene Andreuccetti** on Sept. 28, 2012. California is dedicating our report for this issue of the newsletter entirely to **Gene and his wife Mary** and the wonderful memorial that was held for him Oct. 8. While his sudden passing is sad, there is the comfort that Gene is in heaven now as a result of his faith in Jesus Christ as his lord and savior. Following is a special Gospel Medley of Amazing Grace and I'll Fly Away dedicated to Gene and his wife Mary from a live performance of our band in June of this year: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INWXqy4kTDI>

Following is a link to Gene's Obituary published in the Sacramento Bee.

<http://www.legacy.com/guestbooks/sacbee/guestbook.aspx?n=eugene-andreuccetti&pid=160257853&page=3>. Details are also in the *In Memoriam* section of this newsletter.

I was fortunate to be one of Gene's many friends along with family members that attended Gene's touching memorial service Oct. 8 at Saint Anthony Parish in Sacramento. It was a wonderful Memorial Service for a man that was truly a friend and loved one of those who were there and many more who could not be there. After the Memorial Mass there was a reception for friends and family to gather, share a meal, memories and stories about Gene. There were many wonderful memories and stories shared to the group by friends and former co-workers of Gene that day. My personal story shared to the group was that Gene was the first State Conservationist I worked under early in my career who reached out to me with a personal interest in my career and me as a person. I was honored to have him as a friend and be of friend of his.

I do not know how many attended the memorial Mass and reception, but the photo below taken at the Lunch reception will give you an indication of the many friends Gene had. I also know that many other friends of Gene in our retiree group would have loved to be there as well but could not because of health or other challenges. There were countless warm and happy stories and memories of Gene shared by friends and family at the reception after the Mass. They all had a similar theme in describing their experience working with or knowing Gene; friend, personal, helpful, sincere, loved working with people, great working with people!

There were many of Gene's friends in attendance going back to grade school! In all it was a very special and heartwarming memorial for a very special person. Here are a couple photos from the Memorial. There was a beautiful brochure for all attendees with details of the memorial, a description of the service, and a beautiful prayer to celebrate Gene's Life.



Gene Andreuccetti



Memorial attendees at Luncheon reception for Gene Andreuccetti



Reminders of Gene's passion and love of Waterfowl, CWA

## COLORADO

**Ivan Wilkinson, ARCSE Representative**

Email: [giwik@estesvalley.net](mailto:giwik@estesvalley.net)

The major activities in and around Estes Park this time of the year are wild fires and Elk rutting. The Elk rut is a natural phenomenon and draws thousands of tourists. The latest fire (Oct. 10) in Rocky Mountain National Park was speculated to be caused by a careless camper and burned over 600 acres.

In Sept. **Ginger and Ivan Wilkinson** participated in the "Pedal the Plains" bike ride. The ride started the first day with a 26-mile ride from Yuma, CO to Wray, CO. The second day was 65 miles from Wray to Burlington, CO, and the third day was 85 miles back to Yuma. The purpose of the ride was to promote economic awareness to the eastern part of the state. Along the highway were signs bringing attention to cropping patterns, conservation practices and other natural resources. Education stops were set up at several farmsteads to allow bikers to meet with farmers and learn more about their operations. Returning to Yuma there was an NRCS booth set up where it was reported that a lot of interest had been generated, and many questions were asked by the bikers about the practices they had seen during the ride. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor of Colorado participated in parts of the ride.

**Laura and John Vescio** enjoyed a 16-day trip to Europe with 3 other couples. They visited Paris, Barcelona, Venice, Florence, Siena, and Rome. The trip was fabulous; however, **Laura** turned her foot 5 days in and ended up on a cane for the duration of the trip. It was a real balancing act getting on and off trains with luggage, and handling all the steps and cobblestones.

## GEORGIA

**George C. Norris, ARCSE Representative**

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

Your State Representative was out of town in July, and **Linda DiPietro** graciously prepared the first several paragraphs but they failed to be included in our last issue of the newsletter. More recent news will follow her report. There were 22 people present at the quarterly luncheon on July 26, 2012, in Athens. Everyone seemed to enjoy the fellowship. **Earl Brantley** attended for the first time and **Bob Stovall, Ronnie Mize, and Fred Dilbeck** were welcomed back.

**Richard (Andy) Anderson** passed away on July 19th. The group signed a sympathy card to his family. **Edna Firor** and **Lorraine Stanelle Hahn** had to miss the meeting due to health problems. **Don Stewart** had back surgery, is recovering nicely, and was in attendance with Evelyn.

**Mrs. Cecil (Gene) Martin** is feeling much better these days; however, **Cecil** reported that they lost several acres of pines to a fire in early July that started when lightning hit a tree and caused it to fall on a power line. **Mrs. Vernon (Jean) Anderson** will be having leg surgery soon. **Jimmy Dean**, recovering from an accident, still has much neck pain that is hindering his progress in therapy.

Following lunch, the Georgia retirees were treated to a presentation by retired budget officer, **Ronald Mize**. As a member of the Sons of Jubal (Georgia Baptist Ministers of Music - founded in 1954), Ronald traveled with 146 of the nearly 300 members on a very special trip to Beijing, China and Pyongyang, North Korea. They received an invitation to participate in the 28<sup>th</sup> April Spring Friendship Art Festival which is held every 2 years in North Korea. They also performed in Beijing prior to leaving Asia.

Global Resource Services, a humanitarian outreach organization working in North Korea for the past 15 years, assisted in many aspects of the travel arrangements. Their 2-week travels helped to spread American goodwill and provided musical enjoyment for many attendees at their concerts. The participants in the music group were rewarded throughout their travels with experiences of the cultures of the places visited (including the usual tourist spots like the Great Wall of China) and were participants in the many events that were taking place in commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the North Korean leader, Kim Il Sung.

On a sad note, the retirees learned during the luncheon that **George and Ellen Norris's son-in-law, Marc Zaborowski**, died the day before the luncheon. Marc succumbed to the aggressive brain cancer that he had briefly, but bravely, been fighting. George and Ellen have been supporting their **daughter, Pat**, and family in Michigan during the ordeal, and plan to return to Georgia after the memorial service on Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Memorial gifts may be made to The Old Newsboys of Greater Lansing, P.O. Box 14058, Lansing, MI 48901.

In Sept., **Jimmy Dean** distributed a lengthy accounting of his many activities involved in his recovery from the injury last year. He continues to have much pain, receives therapy, most recently at the Shepherd Center in Atlanta. He thanks his family, friends, and associates for their support, prayers and thoughts. His challenge to all of us was "Be careful and do not take anything for granted."

The Athens area retirees moved their quarterly luncheon location to Ryan's Steak House on Epps Bridge Road. Thursday, Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>, 21 retirees and spouses enjoyed the time together sharing memories and grandchildren stories and getting updates on many work days associates. Attending were **Bob Oertel, Bill and Rhu Player, Bob Stovall, Fred Dilbeck, Earl Brantley, Josh Wheat, James Huff, Carolyn Adams, Marjorie Lucas, Jim Helm, Gerald and Evelyn Sadler, Edna Firor, Bob and Frances Wilkes, George and Ellen Norris, Edward Ealy and Cecil and Gene Martin.**

We were saddened to learn of the death of ARCSE lifetime member, **Sidney Jones**. His obituary is in the *In Memoriam* section of this newsletter. Other recent deaths were **Ann Senter**, secretary in The NRCS State Office, and **Robert Owens**, long retired D.C. who continued very active until his death just one month before his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. **Bob Wilkes** shared information about the late **Richard Andersen's** soils work in Afghanistan.

**Linda DiPietro** reported that the Georgia Tech Foundation has acknowledged the retiree group's donation of \$303.71 to the E. John Patten, Jr. and Vivian G Patten Scholarship Endowment. The decision to close the group's bank account and to contribute the remaining balance to the endowment in John's memory was made at the July meeting.

**George and Ellen Norris** reported that their daughter, Pat, is spending several days with them and had accompanied them to Athens. Pat is recovering well from the loss of her husband, Marc. She chose to have lunch with a college roommate that stayed in the Athens area following their graduation from The University of Georgia and has a landscape design business there.

The Georgia group will meet again for lunch at 12:00 Noon at Ryan's Steak House in Athens on January 24, 2013. We invite you to join us.

## IDAHO

**Sharon Norris, ARCSE Representative**

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After a three-month summer break, retirees in the Boise area resumed our monthly luncheons on Sept. 27. Attendees included **Paul Malone, John Kendrick, Denis Feichtinger, Stan Hobson, Kent Foster, Don and Maxine Stewart, Lee Holstine, Bev and Gene Crisman, Jerry Larson, George James, Darrell and Gladene Gallup, and me**. Our extremely hot and smokey summer weather was a major topic of discussion, along with stories of gardens doing poorly and produce ripening slowly.

## ILLINOIS

**Dale Benz, ARCSE Representative**

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Retirees in Southern Illinois gathered for lunch and visiting in Mt. Vernon on Sept. 12. Attending were **Joe and Nancy Fasig, Bill Pohl, Glenn and Marge Shubert, Mike Gwaltney, Harold Magnuson, Jesse Keller, Dwight Esarey, and Dale and Nancy Benz**. We were sorry to learn that **Bill Pohl's** wife, **Billie** passed away in April. **Mike Gwaltney** was the most recent retiree at the gathering and sounds like he is adapting rather well - if going for coffee at 5 a.m. is adapting! After coffee he works in a greenhouse for a few hours then on to his farm and more work. Welcome to the retiree's club, Mike.

**Marge Shubert** reported that **Buck and Ernie Morris** have moved to assisted living in the Edwardsville area. **Joe Fasig** is having eye problems which requires **Nancy** to be the chief driver in the Fasig household.

Retirees gathered in Champaign on Oct. 4 for their semiannual lunch and visiting. Attending this gathering were **Dave Dalzell, Steve and Mary Anita Zwicker, Jerry Leonard, Nancy Phalen, Elsie Campbell, Wiley Scott, Salvador and Judy Velazquez, Ray Coombes, Earl and Barb Voss, Dennis and Susan Beyer, Jim and Bonnie McQuilken, Ben Mingo, Homer Kuder, Bob McLeese, and Dale and Nancy Benz**. We also had three guests that had traveled many miles to be with us: **Neil Bogner** from Catonsville, MD and **Warren and Rita Fitzgerald** from Sun City, AZ. Neil and Eleanor were in Champaign for the funeral of Eleanor's brother and Warren and Rita were here visiting with their son. Thanks for stopping to visit and renew old acquaintances--it was good to see you again.

**Jerry Leonard** said his chemo treatments for the cancer in his vocal cords is successful and hopefully is on his way to full recovery. **Jerry and Jean** took a trip to Atlanta and Savannah, GA this summer.

**Dennis and Susan Beyer** made a trip to California this summer. **Steve Zwicker** told about missionaries from Africa that they hosted this summer. Steve reminded us that **Jerry Misek** of Elizabeth was the Illinois Tree Farmer of the Year for 2011, and **Ray Herman** was the Illinois Tree Farmer of the Year for 2012. Congratulations.

**Ben Mingo** had a mild heart attack in Aug. and is now the proud owner of a stent. **Earl and Barb Voss** have a son who now lives in New York City. Earl said the last time he was in New York City was in 1971. Their 2012 trip to the Big Apple convinced him that living in Champaign has some real advantages to living in NYC. They also have a

granddaughter who lives in New York City, so the need (and desire) to travel there cancels the dreaded driving in the big city. Earl and Barb plan to make their annual winter trip to Florida and take a cruise.

**Homer Kuder** celebrated his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday with us, so we got to sing Happy Birthday to him. He said he had just taken his driver's test for his license renewal but had a little problem. It appears that the gas gauge showed empty. Homer said it was broken. The examiner would not go with him until he got the gas gauge fixed (or got some gas)!

**Bob McLeese** has been retired almost two years and is enjoying it. They have a grandchild in Southern Illinois and another one in Texas, so the traveling is frequent.

**Nancy** said her husband retired this summer so they are free to travel whenever she (or **Bill**) wants to. Nancy is still working some at a horse farm.

**Judy and Salvador** have been doing some traveling this year. They took a trip to Colorado and saw **Darrell Ivens**. They also drove Route 1 in California. This was a five-week trip. In Nov. they plan to take a one month trip to Mexico. With all this traveling Judy didn't have time to study for the Seniors Spelling Bee so did not participate this year. Judy also reported that **Curt Waggnor** had passed away on Oct. 1.

**Elsie Campbell** said she is getting used to living alone after **Dick** passed away this summer. She sings in her church choir and does some gardening.

**Warren and Rita** have been living in Sun City for 24 years. He plays golf a couple times a week and does some volunteer work.

**Neil Bogner** started his SCS career in Illinois and left the state in 1961. Neil, I was just graduating from high school then and you were halfway through your career!

The next gathering for retirees in Southern Illinois is Dec. 12 in Mt. Vernon, and the semiannual gathering in Champaign is April 4, 2013.

## KANSAS

**Deanne Lull, ARCSE Representative**

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They say if you don't like Kansas weather, wait a few minutes and it will change. As I am writing our news items, I am watching Nebraska blow by. We are experiencing wind gusts higher than our temperature. We have had some beautiful fall days, but on the other hand, we have also had over 30-degree temperature swings from one day to the next telling us that fall is definitely here.

**Gerald Karnes** was selected by the Saline County Commission of Aging as the 2012 Saline County Senior Honoree. He was recognized with honorees from other counties during the Kansas 2012 Senior Fair held in Salina in Sept. **Gerald** started his "second career" as a volunteer after retiring in the late 1990s. Some of his energies are devoted to his church by serving on mission trips to Costa Rica and Haiti; working with Salina Habitat for Humanity; and working with the Volunteer Connection and Retired Senior Volunteer Program by serving as a driver for other volunteers who don't drive anymore. However, it's not always business. On the fun side, **Gerald** spends Wednesday mornings teaching the fine art of playing pool. He grew up doing things for others and takes to heart a quote often attributed to Winston Churchill: "We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give."

**L. Janice Michaels**, Office Automation Clerk, at the Emporia Area Office retired Aug. 31, 2012. She started her SCS/NRCS career in Emporia in Dec. 1985. **Janice's** retirement plans are to catch up on housework, garden, quilt, and spoil her six grandchildren.

Yours truly had quite a scare the last several weeks. I went to the doctor to check out the arthritis that was starting in my knees and ended up with a shadow showing up on the x-ray in the area of my left lung. After several weeks of tests and lots of nerve racking worry, what a relief it was when the spot was diagnosed as "Insignificant."

I am extremely happy to say that there are no deaths to report for the last two months.

## MAINE

**John J. Simon, ARCSE Representative**

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I bet you all thought I had kicked the bucket. Nope, I'm still here. Hopefully these brief notes will fill you in on the Jan. 2012 to Oct. 2012 activities of retirees up here in Maine.

I lost my notes from the Jan. 10, 2012 breakfast, but I did note that **Charlie Boothby** and I went to the annual Ag. trade show in Augusta. I am sure that **Art Taylor and Bruce Champeon** were at the breakfast. Lucky there was no

snow. It was on the evening of the 10<sup>th</sup> that **Noreen** and I heard from the family that my sister-in-law **Lorraine** was diagnosed with possible Leukemia. Luckily she is now on the road to recovery. Hurray!!

The Feb. 14, 2012 meeting was attended by **Art Taylor, Judy and Charlie Boothby, and John Simon**. This was my grandson's birthday so I had the pleasure of singing happy birthday and playing my guitar over the internet. I have a MAC that uses iChat (similar to Skype). He loved it.

The March 13, 2012 breakfast on Tuesday at Dysarts was attended by: **Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon, Joe Bertolaccini, Judy and Charlie Boothby, and John Simon**. It was good to see Joe who has to travel a ways from over in Orrington. Joe is a Catholic like me, and we see each other a few times a year at church. The five churches in the greater Bangor area were combined into a larger Parish with services at each church limited, so the parishioners pick the church with the Mass that fits their weekend schedule. **Joe's wife Ellie** is very active in the parish outreach activities of the parish.

The April 10, 2012 breakfast was attended by the same 5 folks: **Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon, Judy and Charlie Boothby, and Me (John Simon)**. I had lost a filling earlier in the morning and after the breakfast I was lucky enough to get in with my dentist - believe it or not they had a cancellation of a 10:30 AM appointment. The filling was a large one on a lower back tooth so the procedure left me with a sore tongue for about a week!

The May 8, 2012 breakfast was attended by **Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon, Judy and Charlie Boothby, and John Simon**. Charlie turned 77 on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Charlie is as active and full of energy as you could ask for and he does a lot of community work in Bangor. Art has the plans for his home done and is preparing to install the foundation and slab. His plan is for a single floor ranch (no basement) - most Maine basements are wet - smart move. After all these years most builders in Maine still do not know how to build dry cellars. A wet cellar is a small example of "original sin," you suffer in spite of your lack of guilt.

The regular June 12<sup>th</sup> breakfast was changed to a Noon Luncheon on the second Tuesday of the month at the Coach House Restaurant in Brewer, Maine. We try to have this lunch once a summer in the Bangor area to help our older members who find it easier to attend than a breakfast. Among the 13 Attending were: **Joe Bertolaccini, Willy Dymond, Sterling Dymond, Lola and John Ferwerda, Lois and Larry Long, Judy and Charlie Boothby, Ed Snow, Bob Lagassey, Lois Bowie, and John Simon**. Sterling turned 92 on Sept. 26. Willy is 88. Both are getting weaker but are able to get around on their own and still have a smile on their faces. On June 13 through 16, Noreen and John went to Boston to be with Noreen's sister while she had a bone marrow transplant. Everything went well, and Lorraine is well on her way to recovery from the Leukemia she has. We hope and pray she is one of the lucky ones!

The July 10, 2012 breakfast was attended by **Patricia and Bruce Champeon, Ed Snow, and John Simon**. Pat looks great and is obviously enjoying retirement. Pat worked at the Maine SO of SCS for years as the SAO. I received notice from **Earland Morrison** that **Sid Emery** was placed in a nursing home. Sid will be 99 in Nov. **Dennis Erinakes** turned 72 in June. Happy birthday, Dennis. **Art Taylor** was unable to attend since he was placing concrete for the foundation of his new home. He hopefully will be finishing the house next spring and summer.

The July 11, 2012 noon luncheon was held at Cole Farm Restaurant in Gray, Maine. A great place to eat if you are going by. In Attendance were **Connie and Tom Smith, Florence and Ralph Walker and their lovely daughter Rebecca, and Noreen and John Simon**. Although the crowd is getting smaller every year, it is still great to see the folks that I spent many years working with.

The Aug. 14, 2012 breakfast was attended by **Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon, Bob Lagassey, Judy and Charlie Boothby, Ed Snow and his friend Barbara, and John Simon**. Ed will be heading to Florida in early Sept. His camp on the lake gets cold in the mornings this time of year, and he hates COLD. We will not see any of the Floridians in Sept. as they are either gone or getting their places up here winterized for the winter.

The Sept. 11, 2012 breakfast was attended by **Bruce Champeon, Bob Lagassey, Charlie Boothby, Ron Olson and John Simon**. **Ron Olson and his wife Penelope** have moved to Colorado, west of Denver, where he could be close to the ski slopes. Ron was visiting his son's family and celebrating their grandchild's birthday. Ron looks great and is looking forward to the ski season. He has already signed up to instruct the handicapped in skiing at a local resort. **Art Taylor** was unable to attend because his group, "the river keepers," were conducting a canoe trip down the Penobscot River, educating middle school kids about river ecology. He is very active with the group and loves it.

The Oct. 9, 2012 breakfast was attended by **Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon, Bob Lagassey, Judy and Charlie Boothby, and John Simon**. Everyone was in good spirits, the food was good, and the weather real nice. By now all the Florida snow birds are gone and the rest of us are getting ready for winter. I mulched the leaves on Oct. 23 for the first time. I have several mowers that do a great job of "disappearing" the leaves (cheap fertilizer too), but will need to do it again in a week or so when the rest of the leaves have fallen. According to reports from the more color sensitive population, the foliage was not as dramatic as usual this fall.

Have a pleasant and happy holiday season and God bless you all.

## MINNESOTA

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Minnesota metro retirees gathered for lunch on Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2012, at Pippins in Roseville: **Al Giencke, Margy and Micki Gangl, Vic Ruhland, John Handler, Bud Finney, Robin Martinek, Ordean and Dorothy Finkelson.** Breitbach's are enjoying a vacation in Las Vegas and yours truly, **Marlene**, had the flu.

**Al Giencke** gave folks an update on the SCS/NRCS Retirees' Reunion, held on Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> in Waite Park, MN. Thirty-five retirees enjoyed rolls and coffee in the morning, followed by a delicious lunch. All retirees introduced themselves and guests and shared some good memories.

**Jerry Hildebrandt**, retired District Conservationist in Olmsted County/Rochester, MN was unable to attend the reunion due to quadruple bi-pass surgery on Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>. He developed a hospital-born infection so is now on medication to heal the infection, making trips to the Mayo Clinic once or twice a day for medication infusion. He is feeling a little better each day, and we wish him well on the road to recovery.

**Robin Martinek and her husband, Rick**, took a seven-day journey to Green Bay, WI to raise money for "Moms and Neighbors" in Sept. When the Minneapolis Courthouse clock struck 9:00am on Labor Day morning, Rick Martinek and his wife, Robin (a Packers Shareholder), headed east from the Metrodome to Green Bay, WI, to watch the Packers take on the San Francisco 49ers. They made the 277-mile journey by bicycle.

It's something the Martinek's have talked about doing for a while. Then Rick, also known as "The Expo Guy," became involved with an organization he'd heard about from one of the participants in his trade shows. The ride suddenly became a charitable fundraiser for Moms and Neighbors. Rick and Robin have pledged 1\$/mile, and others are chipping in too.

Moms and Neighbors, based in the southern metro area, works through schools and community organizations to identify mothers and families in need. The organization creates a "care package" that may consist of food, clothing, auto repair or other needs. The gifts are made anonymously; 100% of the money raised goes directly to the cause.

The Martinek's planned their trip at an easy, 50-miles-per-day pace along bike trails in Minnesota and Wisconsin. They arrived at Lambeau Field in Green Bay (behind the statues touching the front tire to the main entrance) at approximately 12 noon for some serious tailgating before the 3:15 pm game on Sunday, Sept. 9.

**Robin**, a long time Packer Fan since she was a child growing up in Chilton, WI, recently became a Packer's Shareholder. She wanted to be the first Shareholder from Minnesota to arrive via bicycle for the opener.

**Vic Ruhland** reports: "Gee, its Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> today, our Fall luncheon. Fortunately, the Wednesday Skat card game was at nearby Florian's place and I was able to leave and drive the short distance to our luncheon. It was a good thing too – never had such lousy cards playing this game. Was able to only once get the winning bid out of 38 games we played before I left, and then they set me. Oh my, Unglaublich!! (unbelievable)

"It's Oktoberfest season now—I'm just amazed how popular it has become in recent years in our nation including our area. It's the best time for our musical group, the Bavarian Musikmeisters. We've played every weekend for a month – lots of gemutlichkeit (good fellowship), food and drink. However, our spouses don't think so!

"Our Golden Wedding Anniversary celebration back in Aug. was a great event. Thank God and the Mayo Clinic/others! (for Jean's health) Soon it will be time to store my antique cars (6 of them) for the winter. I've started working on a '27 Hupmobile Pickup at my home to get it drivable again."

## MISSOURI

**Dave Rastorfer, ARCSE Representative**

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For any of you retirees in the Columbia area that may be interested in the annual health fair, it has been scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 1, 10 am--12 noon in the USDA Training Room (Suite 232) in Parkade Center.

The annual SCS/NRCS retiree's luncheon was held on Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> at the Golden Corral in Columbia. Those attending were: **Marilyn Albin, Rex and Gertrude Arbogast, Bob Ball, Ken Benham, Mike and Pam Blaine, Muriel Broce, Brenda Cornine, Jack Cronhardt, Jerold and Mayree Sue Crowder, Maurice and Gloria Davis, Connie Doerr, Charlie Eddy, Darlene Edwards, Chris Elbert, Jess and Phyllis Epple (from OK), Peggy Fricke, Virgil and Joy Gardner, Warren and Mary George, Roger and Connie Hansen, Jean Herman, Bob and Rosie Herschbach, Ray Hudak and Jackie Moore, Robert and Diane Hummel, Walter Lane, Rich and Marjorie Koenig, Paul and Pat Larson (from TX), John and Carol McCarthy, Frank and Kay Miller, Larry and Bonnie Pollard, Dave and Phoebe Rastorfer, John and Margaret Rice, Bill and Ruby Riggs, Jack Schneider, George Simmons, Louie and**

**Jan Studer, Odie Swanegan, Inge Todd, John and Donna Turner, Gary VanDeVelde, Les Volmert, Jack and Joyce Walker, Doug Wallace, Mike and Fran Wells, Don Williams, Dave Wolf, Al Wolfe and Charlie Wright.**

**Wayne Weaver:** We are now living in a retirement community complex in Springfield. I like it fine, but Mary is taking a bit longer to adjust. We left a lot of memories and items in the old place. We had to fit everything into a small apartment. We will be looking for items for quite some time, I suspect. And some things will never appear again. That's the ache and pain of "forced" downsizing. We will adjust as time goes by. Included in rent are three meals a day, restaurant style, house cleaning once a week, and ride to doctors' appointments and shopping bus twice a week. Then they take a bus-load of the residents to Branson and other tourist places located near-by. What's not to like?

**Bob Herschbach** reports that his garden produce yield is going well. "One sweet potato I dug one day was the only one needed for Rosie and me. The thing weighed in at 13.25 pounds." He had several that have tipped the scales at 4 pounds.

**Connie Hansen**, wife of retired State Conservationist, **Roger Hansen**, underwent open heart surgery to repair the main aortic valve and double by-pass in Sept. **Connie** has been losing her energy progressively now for quite some time, so hopefully in coming months she will be able to go for walks with **Roger**.

From **Fred Gilbert** in New York: "**Mary** and I attended a reunion for the classes of 1950 through 1954 at the new Clinton High School Sept. 22. Clinton has a new High School that is impressive. It was good to see friends from high school days. We enjoyed a brief visit with our **son, Matt**, in Columbia and a lunch with some of **Mary's** family in Hillsboro on our way back to New York."

**Paula Price:** A summary of our lives: **Alan** is getting through the *Graft vs. Host Disease* and a second broken hip. We converted our hot tub porch into a bedroom so **Alan** can now be comfortable without having to climb the stairs to our bedrooms. And, the gift of all gifts--WE (this is huge) got to attend the Excelsior Springs Homecoming Parade recently where our granddaughter, **Jordin Price**, was the Jr. Attendant. She is only 4 years old and has now received her first bouquet and balloons from a little boy, ridden in a convertible in a parade, and carried the crown at homecoming coronation. She did it with ease and grace hanging on for dear life to her little escort Antonio. **Alan** didn't attend the game with us, but as Andrew and Cindy paused in front of us in the parade, and Jordin waved and said "Papa!" **Alan** said, "Now that's one of the moments I've lived for!"

**Bob Harryman:** In June, **Doris and I** celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, my 75<sup>th</sup> birthday and Fathers Day when our whole family spent a week at Disneyland in Florida. It was a great trip, and to hear one of the grand kids say "I'm sure glad I'm a part of this family" made it better. We still have some rental houses which is often interesting. I have heard most of the reasons that people cannot pay all of their rent. I spent most of one month remodeling one of those. We spent a lot of time this dry summer hauling water to 24 tomato plants and enjoyed great tomatoes. I let the rest of the garden go to pot. As a result of summer activities I tore a rotor cuff. So far it is doing well without surgery. It is always scary when the Dr. says "*At your age \_\_\_\_\_ I would \_\_\_\_\_.*" But all and all things are great. I have a good wife, I am healthy, I have a warm house, I have a great family, and we have a welcoming church home. I wish you all the best and may God's love shine on you!

**Hugh Curry:** The 12-year saga of traveling with the fifth wheel trailer has ended for the Curry's. The trailer was sold last March, and it will be back to motels, rental units, and begging to stay with friends and relatives. It was a good run with trailer visits to at least 46 states in the U.S., most of eastern and central Mexico (plus 2 trips on Mexico's western coast), and nearly all of the Canadian provinces. Thanks to some of you who provided electrical service for an overnight stay. Also, we have just returned from a 22-day trip to Eastern Europe. We did Berlin on our own and joined a tour for visits to Warsaw, Krakow, Budapest, Vienna, Bratislava, and Prague. It was interesting, and many times sobering, to learn about the Nazi terror and cold war times from the European point of view. The architecture and music made famous by these cities is great to experience firsthand.

**Keith Davis:** I stayed busy most of the summer working on my shop-to-be. My sawmill cut a lot of logs that were hard fought from an old stand of oaks on Mom's farm. Much work remains. **Eunice and I** traveled to Montana to spend time with our friends we met on our Alaska trip in '08. This is the fourth time we've vacationed with them since we first met. We spent a relaxing week with them at their cabin in the mountains, sightseeing, fishing almost every day, and soaking in a nearby hot springs where deer could be seen on the adjacent hillside. We saw elk, moose, and deer at different times, and had brook trout for breakfast several mornings. My son, Tim and his wife, Laura, finally made their trip to the Democratic Republic of Congo and brought back a beautiful little orphaned girl who now is their adopted daughter, Christiane. At 3½, this is a big new world for her, but she is doing well, considering the challenge of language, new parents, etc. She is a sweetheart. What do you expect a grandfather to say? My other daughter-in-law, Keela, will be in the Congo soon as part of her responsibility as the U.S. adoption coordinator. She and my other son, Dan, also plan to adopt a daughter from there. Deer season is upon us, so most other things have been postponed. Just this afternoon I finished processing the second of two that I recently took with my crossbow, and we have firewood (from my sawmill slabs) split and stacked on the back porch, so the winter does not look so daunting anymore. Soon the rut will descend on the deer world, and I will have to chase them again. It's just something that must be done.

**Dennis Shirk:** I have been riding my horse since it's cooled off. I spent a week camping and riding at Lesterville, MO. The fall grass is making a good come back, but there are some dead spots from the drought. I tried an experiment with forage turnips. They have made decent growth.

**Phyllis and Jess Epple** (from OK) enjoyed renewing old friendships and visiting with everyone Sept 13<sup>th</sup> at the NRCS/SCS retirees meeting in Columbia. We also did a dedicated job spoiling our Great Grand-Daughter, Holland Hope Hughes. She was trying to walk and talk when we were there. Our Grandson, James Hughes, gave us a tour of his work place before we left for Oklahoma. We were surprised at the size of the USGS campus in Columbia. James is involved primarily with the toxicology department and really enjoys it. Things at the J. P. Ranch, near Muskogee, OK are going well. We have finally had rain! We also had a hard frost on Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>. Our new fall calves are healthy, bouncing, and running everywhere and so excited to be alive. Of course, that drives their Mom's "silly" trying to keep up with them. We are preparing our spring calves for market in Nov. J. P. Ranch hands wish all of you retirees "Happy Thanksgiving" and remember turkey is good, but sirloin steaks are better.

**Bob Ball:** Now that **Lenore** is retired from the Hospitality Management Program at the University of Missouri, we spend more time at our family farm in Ohio. I have a contractor completing 3,000 feet of high-tensile fence along a township road, which will nearly finish our livestock fencing needs. The livestock water system is all completed, but this drought has forced us to temporarily reduce the number of cattle being grazed. Our new home is finished, and we love it! Actually, we've just completed a fourth bedroom in case we have company from Missouri! We've been talking for months with Better Homes and Gardens regarding a feature article about our home for use in one of their publications due out later this month. We purchased the house plans through BHG. Our daughter, Laura, is now engaged to Chris Hartmann, and they have a May 25<sup>th</sup> wedding date. **Lenore and I** will also be celebrating our 39<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary that day! Our son, Alan, works with the Farm Service Agency in administration at their state office here in Columbia. I'm serving as the Chair of the Missouri Forest Resources Advisory Council (MoFRAC) and also Chair the MoFRAC Working Group where we delve into complex issues pertaining to improving the health of Missouri's forests. I am an active member of the Missouri Chapter Walnut Council and the Ohio Forestry Association.

**Jay Lingwall:** The end of summer was a busy travel time for the **Lingwalls**. Our 6,450 mile western trip was full of fishing, hiking, camping, and jeep trails (38 days, 24 camping nights, 3 ranger cabin nights, 8 hotels, and a few nights with relatives). Glacier National Park in Montana, Big Hole River, Flaming George, MOAB jeep trails, hiking to the bottom of the Grand Canyon from the north rim, back to Utah, then coming home through southern Colorado to see Mesa Verde, Great Sand Dunes, and some great jeep trails in the mountains around Silverton, CO (pucker factor included). We made it home in time for Grandparents day at school and then a week-long trip to North Carolina with my parents to visit their granddaughter and great grandchildren (they are good soccer players). Now at home and thought we would rest but I found myself planning the next trip before bedtime.

**Mike Blaine:** The **Blaines** have been busy getting ready for the coming winter. We are looking for a fireplace insert to convert our fireplace to a more efficient wood stove. Also have done quite a bit of repair and painting of trim around our garage doors. The most exciting thing that happened lately is another run-in (literally) with a very big buck deer smashed into the left side of the car and got doors, windshield, and the mirror. This was the second major deer incident in 18 months on our car. This time the insurance totaled the car which was a 2001 model with 213,000 miles and we now have a 2011 model with 30,000 on it. It was probably fortunate that the deer got us as much as we drive. It was time for a new(er) car. I think the deer must have come to, got up, and ran away. He was gone 2 hours later!!

**Sue Teson:** I am totally enjoying retirement. I've been spending lots of time with the two granddaughters and am expecting a grandson any day now. **Larry and I** took a two week land/cruise to Alaska this summer. It was a totally awesome trip.

**Buck Burch:** We just returned from a week in Gulf Shores, Alabama. It was the time of year they celebrate their annual shrimp festival. It is worth attending if you are looking for something to do and like to eat tons of shrimp. We went for the shrimp but also in celebration of successful Deep Brain Stimulation Surgery that has taken place over the past 3 months here in Columbia. I am still going through the "tuning" process, but thus far it is controlling my Parkinson's to a great degree.

**Frank Miller:** Frank had a second hip replacement on February 8. Three months of Physical Therapy and regular exercise **Frank** was up and going again. I have kept busy at the Southern Boone Senior Center in Ashland by playing Pool on Mondays and Bridge on Tuesdays. Since I have been showing up regular at the Center they voted me as the Treasure of the Senior Center Organization for 2013. During late Summer and early Fall we spent a little time traveling to and visiting my two Sisters, **Kay's** sister and aunt, and several cousins in Kansas. We then attended a couple of **Kay's** Pen Pal gatherings in Nebraska and Missouri in Sept. and Oct. This year was family time, as we traveled by Amtrak to Chicago to my nephew's wedding. Special fun trip as my sister with her daughter and son were on the same train. I highly recommend traveling by train as the seat gives you plenty of room and you can get up and roam around for exercise. A cousin from Topeka, Kansas came and spent a day with us after attending "The Cardinals Baseball Game" that lasted 19 innings. Then Kay's brother from Tucson, AZ came by and visited us for a day.

**Jeff Lamb:** A lot of things have been happening around here. I went back to work for one. I am now a Storm Water Management Professional for JM Waller Associates, Inc. I am assisting Ft. Leonard Wood with erosion and sediment control compliance issues. As some of you may remember, I completed an assignment for NRCS and Ft. Wood for 6 years back in the 1990's planning and applying erosion and sediment control practices, so I have gone back to familiar turf. Wife **Leasa** and I have started a major renovation of our home in Houston adding a garage and an office and redoing 2 bathrooms and bedrooms. Hope to be done with it by Christmas. I took a trip to Colorado in Sept. with 3 other guys to ride dual sport motorcycles on trails in the mountains. Had a great time but did sprain an ankle. Looking forward to retirement again as life has gotten very busy!

The Columbia area quarterly retiree's breakfast was held at the Country Kitchen on Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>. Attending were: **John and Carol McCarthy, Richard and Marjorie Koenig, Clayton Lee, Bob Ball, Bill Pauls, Virgil and Joy Gardner, Warren and Mary George, Odie Swanegan, Neil and Louise Randall, Bob Herschbach, Jim Henry, Bob Hummel, Frank and Kay Miller, Don Williams, Cordes Potter, Roger Hansen, Jean Herman and Mike and Fran Wells.** The next breakfast will be at the Country Kitchen on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>.

We were saddened to hear of the death of **Roger Moe**. Roger was an engineer retired from the NTC in Lincoln. He moved to Columbia several years ago to be close to his children and mother-in-law. He had spent time in Iowa and Illinois (I think) before going to Lincoln. **Roger** went to the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville FL during the first week in Sept. where lesions were found on his liver. He was under hospice care upon returning home and passed away in mid-Oct. Our sympathies are with his family.

## MONTANA

**Dick Gooby, ARCSE Representative**

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**Gordon Decker Report:** Breakfast attendees in Sept. included: the **Schledorn's, Smith's, Lohmillers, Remers, Hunters, Ross's, Nadwornick's; and Dave Jones, Van Haderlie, Dan McLean, Gordon Watson, Jim Suit and Gordon Decker.** Breakfast attendees in Oct. included: the **Smiths, Hoags, Nadwornick's, Hunters, Remers, Lunds; and Ron Batchelor, Dave Jones, Bob Ross, Bob Lohmiller, Dan McLean, Frank Schledorn, Gordon Decker** and another that I forgot ("sometimers" is setting in).

Kathy and I have been on a couple of bus trips, through the Senior Center. We toured the Big Horn Canyon National Recreation Area (the boat had a problem, so we did our touring on land). We visited one overlook that is over 1,000 feet above the Big Horn River and was the same place I had visited while mapping soils in the Prior Mountains in Carbon County, MT in 1968. We saw wild horses and mountain sheep. We also had an overnight trip to Lewistown, MT to attend the Chokecherry Festival, ride on the Charlie Russell Cho Chew where we got robbed, etc., then drove through the "What the Hay" route looking at bailed hay sculptures.

We have also been attending grandkid football games, a 7<sup>th</sup> grader game in Frenchtown, a high school homecoming game (Yellowjackets in Stevensville), and a college homecoming game (Montana Tech Orediggers in Butte). Kathy also attended several soccer games while I stayed home, inside out of the smoke, which we have had most of July thru Sept.

This week we head out on a two-week trip to visit relatives in Beaverton, OR and Sonoma, Livermore, and Modesto, CA, then back through Oregon to see our MT Tech Oredigger freshman play football in Eastern Oregon.

**James Johnson Report:** We attended the memorial service for Senior Conservationist Bob Ross's wife Nancy last Friday. Nancy passed away on Oct. 8 at the age of 87. We visited some with Bob (he is in assisted living and seems to be doing well). His writing talent was displayed in the poem "My Nancy" that he wrote for two pages of the memorial service bulletin. Among those attending the service were **Van Haderlie, Frank Schledorn, and Bob Lohmiller** (SCSer's who worked with Bob). A couple of sentences in Nancy's Obituary read: "With Bob she traveled to all 50 states, and to 15 different countries. Nancy raised three healthy children and trained one husband."

**Scott Hoag Report:** It's been a hot, dry and smoky summer in Bozeman--and all of MT. We'll be staying put this year, except for a trip to Seattle to spend Christmas with family. Scott will ski some and work with Habitat; Nancy is undecided, hoping to write but we'll see what winter brings. She does have a story in CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE SOUL: FINDING MY FAITH, available in most bookstores Oct. 16.

**Gooby Ranch Report:** A guy was telling me about a great place to go elk hunting, but it was a long way back in the mountains. He gave us some directions on how to get there. We got up to where the fellow told us the trail was and quickly loaded everything on the horses and started out. There is a lot of beetle-killed trees, causing many windfalls in and along the trail, making the going very difficult. After several hours we finally reached the top of the mountain. We decided instead of going back down the trail from hell, we would try to figure out some other way to get back to the trailer. We had forgotten the GPS, maps, and compass, but decided to head down a ridge with the fewest trees. After essentially making a big loop, we wound up back where we started—on top of the mountain. We decided since it was getting dark we better head back down the trail from hell. At least we knew where it came out.

Since the horses were now well-trained jumpers, that saved us some time not having to work our way around so many down falls. It got so dark we couldn't see anything. When the moon came up we could see a lot better. The wolves were keeping us company as we worked down the trail from hell. Finally we hit the end of the trail just as the moon was going behind a mountain. While Mary Ann unsaddled the horses and got them loaded, I had a snack and got ready for the big drive back home.

## NORTH DAKOTA

**Robert A. Bird, ARCSE Representative**

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Former ARCSE State Representative **Neal McClure** lost his beloved wife of 70 years, **Lue**, in April. Neal has since moved to an assisted living facility, Sheyenne Crossing, in West Fargo to be closer to his two sons. Former State Hydrologist **Jerry Spaeth** lost his wife of 62 years, **Betty**, in March. My supervisor when I worked in Grand Forks and Grafton, Area Conservationist **Harold Jelleberg**, passed away Aug. 23 in the Twin Cities. These three attended many of our retiree reunions. **Roy Jefferson**, former Area Clerk in Fargo, ND, for many years passed away in July. He was very helpful to me in filling out all the forms when I first applied to work for the SCS. We also lost **Trevor Beyer** who worked at SCS, Bottineau.

**Bruce and Liz Clark** moved to Fargo, ND, at the end of Aug., just in time for the football season so they can attend games of the NDSU Bison, defending National FCS Champions. I just completed a year as the ND VFW State Commander. **Jeannie and I** were awarded a Caribbean cruise from Ft. Lauderdale to Haiti, Jamaica, Cozumel, and back to Florida on the largest Cruise ship made. We just returned from the National VFW Convention in Reno, NV. We spent time in the area after the convention and visited San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf, the Golden Gate Bridge, the ocean, Carson City, Virginia City, Lake Tahoe and visited a cousin of mine in CA that I hadn't seen in over 50 years.

We had 34 attend our annual Retiree's Reunion on Thursday, Sept. 20, 2012 at a noon luncheon at the Bismarck Elks Lodge Room. **Everett and Patricia Johnson** have had their street torn up a long time and had to park their car in a nearby church lot for about 6 weeks. Everett in his deadpan humorous way noted that their travels have been to the davenport and the front room and that he is one year older. **Gladys Demke** traveled a couple times to her son, Jim's place, and celebrated her birthday in Sioux Falls with a granddaughter. **Vi Person** noted that her husband is partially disabled. Vi has been following the advice of her former English teacher and is reading the classics, currently Anna Karenina. She enjoys MN Twins games, even though they are awful this year and her legs get worn out on Sundays trying to help the MN Vikings. **Erling "Punch" and Connie Podoll** traveled from Aberdeen, SD to be at the reunion. Punch noted that he was 87 years old, stays involved with NARFE, drove to Fredericksburg, TX, and visited the Admiral Nimitz Museum. He noted this was probably his last long driving trip since his kids don't feel he should be doing it, and he had a little heart attack at the end of July. **Myron Senechal** introduced his nurse and wife, **Cheryl**, since he had a little stroke and eye surgery and still has Agent Orange issues. He has kept busy with various organizations, does research on his ancestors, attends our Thursday Retired SCS breakfast at Krolls Kitchen, and enjoys his 5 grandchildren. **Orlin Lyng** talked about his therapy dog that he takes to nursing homes and visits the residents. He is canning 50 pints of tomatoes and making salsa. **Marc Vrem** from Dickinson noted that he has sons in Deadwood and Rapid City and a grandson and granddaughter in school. **Abner and Lorraine Lee** spend their winters in Arizona, summers with family in Minot, have a cabin at the Lake, and Great Grandkids are playing basketball and football. **Bob Boone** from Glyndon, MN, noted that his wife had a knee replaced a month ago; they spend winters in Myrtle Beach, SC and have 10 grandkids. **Wes and Mary Ewine** watch Bison football, make trips to Maryland to visit family, spent last winter in Mesa, AZ, and summers at Lake LaMoure. **Jackie Miller** celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with an Alaskan Cruise (they were gone 14 days), go to their cabin at Pick City quite often and enjoy the grandkids. **Terry Carlson** noted that he has been retired 9½ years, divorced 14 years, currently works as a consultant for NRCS, and enjoys the grandkids. **Karen Sando** attended, and **Ron** was working. She noted that he is having a hard time retiring; they have 3 grandchildren in CA, they bought a winter home in CA, and will be leaving for CA in Oct. **Wayne and Susie Moen** have been retired 14 years, still living in Steele and have 9 grandkids and 2 great grandkids. **Rodney O'Clair** of Jamestown retired in 2009, has a contract with USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, has 4 grandchildren, watch truck mud drags, and thinks he is more robotic than when he retired. **Tom and Laurie Coleman** volunteers for AARP doing taxes, and they go to Mesa in the winter at Bel Vista. Dave and Liz DeWald have been retired 20 months, does wet mitigation banking with DOT and have 2 grandkids here and SD. **Brady Kelly** from Fargo retired 3 years ago and is a project manager at his church. **Neal McClure** moved to West Fargo and had dinner with former Governor Bill Guy and his wife at his new home there. He has trouble with his eyesight, but has two sons in the area to do his paperwork. **Jim Johnson** retired Jan. 1997, they don't travel a lot, go to Fargo and Medora once in a while. **Lucy** could not attend because she is babysitting kids at Dorothy Moses School. Jim reports that getting up in the morning is an event. **Wes Wiedenmeyer** noted that he had cancer of the kidney and lost a kidney, but has been having good checkups. Wes said he heard that **Owen "Ole" Kvittum** had a stroke last week and he was hoping to see newly retired **Jon Nestoss** at the reunion. Jon moved to Park Rapids, MN, shortly after retiring. Wes reported that his wife was still with Capitol City Construction; they were in Albuquerque last Oct. for the balloon launch, suffers with

the Twins, and Mourneau of the Twins hit him in the jaw with a foul ball. **Jim Thiele** has lived in Bismarck since 1988, has 3 kids and 8 grandkids, has a farm at Sweetbriar Dam, plays pinochle at the Elks every day, and said the Reunion treasury is down to \$22, so we'll take up a collection at the next reunion.

We had invited State Conservationist **Mary Podoll**, but she got a conflict at the last minute and sent Asst. State Convst and acting SAO **Stuart Blotr** to update our group on activities at NRCS. Stuart reported that NRCS still assists landowners and is very program driven. The Chief is very into initiatives. The state has 1,600 contracts for \$90 million. Waterbank was reinstated this year, and they have 91 contracts covering 13,200 acres. Grassland Reserve has 11 contracts on 18,000 acres. Conservation Reserve has 519 contracts. Stuart reviewed changes at NRCS to include: technology is big, computers and GPS in the field, Yumas Computers with ERS built in, still doing service in the field using technology, soil health is a big issue, and the farm bill is probably not going to pass so it will be back to the 1946 farm bill.

Hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year.

## NEBRASKA

**Norman and Sylvia Kempf, ARCSE Representatives**

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President, **Dave Langemeier**, called the Aug. meeting to order with 20 attending.

**Travel reports:** **Dave Camper** had just returned from a 10-day, 2200 mile motorcycle ride in Colorado. He said he wasn't close to any of the burn areas and that color was coming to the mountains. Gary and Nancy Muckel were in the Reno, Tahoe, Elko areas of Nevada in June, in Denver in July, and Gary had just come back from St. Louis while Nancy and friends were in New York City.

**Wedding Anniversaries:** **Dave and Sandy Langemeier** celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary on Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, and **Paul and Betty Bartlett** their 56<sup>th</sup> on Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>.

The annual Oct. breakfast was held on Oct. 17th at Hy-Vee. 27 retirees and 11 spouses were in attendance. It's always good to see some of these folks that we don't get to see often. A brief meeting was held, but most of the time was spent just visiting.

**Death Notice:** The death of **Donald R. Hoppes** of Roco., NE, was reported with more details to come later. Services will not be held until Dec.

**Health Notice:** It was reported that **Mike Stout** was now on dialysis.

Dave Langemeier will be naming a nominating committee for officers for the coming year. Dave asked for volunteers and noted that if there were no volunteers he expected that those asked to serve would say "yes."

## OHIO

**Larry Tornes, ARCSE Representative**

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**Rubel, Elda M.**, age 75, of Belmont, OH, died Sunday, Aug. 26, 2012 at her home. Sympathy expressions at [grisellfuneralhomes.com](http://grisellfuneralhomes.com). See Sept/Oct Newsletter for details.

**Joe Steiger** called today to give me the bad news that **Bill Brug** passed away Sunday evening, Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Cleveland Clinic from internal bleeding. Expressions of sympathy can be sent to Shirley and their family at 6365 Byers Road NE, New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663.

**Richard Lee Christman**, age 86, passed away on Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2012. More details are in the *In Memoriam* section

## OREGON

**Don Stettler, ARCSE Representative**

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Despite the many things that keep us busy here in the Northwest during Oct., there was a good turnout for the quarterly lunch held at the Clackamas The Old Spaghetti Factory. Attending the Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> lunch were **Clifton and Marva Deal, Kay Denfeld, Roy and Linda Mann, Chad McGrath, Frank and Elisa Reckendorf, Lamont Robbins, Leland Saele, Joe Sahlfeld, Pat Straka, Gale Voge, Eldena VanderZanden, Ralph Wadleigh, Beth Zetter, Lowell and Marian Kenedy, Dick and Kathy Sylvester, Barry Southerland**, and yours truly, **Don Stettler**

**Barry Southerland**, Fluvial Geomorphologist at the West National Technology Support Center, gave us a brief talk on stream water quality, salmonid habitat, and benthic organisms, the critters on the stream bottom that fish like to eat. It was a very fun presentation.

I heard from a number who gave me their regrets. **Jack Kanalz** told me he would be in the mountains of Montana for his 53<sup>rd</sup> consecutive elk camp. **Marcine Richmond** said she would be with her daughter, who was visiting from Florida, in Seaside. **Jeff Repp** informed me that he and **Maureen** would be in Florida on a vacation. **Dee Dee Kido** said that she and **Howard** would be on a cruise in the eastern Mediterranean. They returned recently from a trip to southern China. That trip included hiking in the Huangshan Mountains which proved to be quite strenuous. **Dick Verboort** reported that he and **Theresa** had enjoyed camping at the South Beach campground in mid-Sept. Dick's mentioning the campground reminded me of the great time a number of us had with planning, designing, and constructing the 600-boat South Beach Marina, an RC&D project in the 1980s. **Marsel Tingey** emailed that he was expecting a visit from friends from Wisconsin who he has not seen for thirty year.

The winter quarter lunch will be on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Tanasbourne The Old Spaghetti Factory.



Oregon ARCSE Luncheon

## PENNSYLVANIA

**William Bowers, ARCSE Representative**

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**John Zuginaylo, Jr.**, 88, of Columbia County, PA died Saturday, Sept. 8, 2012. More details are in the *In Memoriam* section.

Pennsylvania ARCSE met and toured the Quecreek Mine Rescue site and the Flight 93 Memorial on Sept. 17, 2012.

**PA President Bill Bowers** welcomed about 50 SCS/NRCS retirees and spouses to the **Dormel Farm** in Somerset County, site of the Quecreek Mine rescue. He thanked **Gene and Diane Krotzer** who arranged the program. On July 23, 2002, 240 feet under this farm, miners broke into a flooded abandoned mine, trapping nine miners for 77 hours. The Dormel Farm became the site of a dramatic rescue of all nine miners. **Lori Arnold** shared her experiences both during and after the rescue. In addition to their farm operations, they now operate a museum and tours on the National Historic Site.

In the business meeting, President Bill reported that funds had been provided for two SWCS scholarships in 2011. A vote was taken to give another \$500 for 2012 scholarships. **Treasurer John Mickley** reported the organization was operating in the black. **NRCS StC Denise Coleman** reported that NRCS in PA ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the US in dollar output of conservation practices (12,000 practices, \$37 million annually). More than 20 retirees are helping through the ACES program. EWP funds are at \$6.8 million—75% federal, 25% local. Local funds are hard to come by. **Gary Smith, Assistant StC**, gave an example of the challenges faced. EPA has mandated a Chesapeake Bay plan be implemented on the Watson Creek Watershed in Lancaster County within two years. The watershed consists of 24 Amish farms and one English farm.

Following lunch on the Dormel Farm, the meeting moved to the **Flight 93 Memorial**. The memorial honors the 40 passengers and crew of Flight 93 who gave their lives to crash a terrorist-guided plane from reaching its goal, the White House. Crashing at a speed of 563 mph, the site is the final resting place of all on board.

Attending the meeting were **John and Ellen Mank**, **Don and Shirley Lindsey**, **Rosemarie Updegraph**, **Bill and Mary Ann Bowers**, **Ted Ifft**, **Byron and Joyce Roth**, **Francis and Joyce Lisko**, **James Burgess**, **Bob and Carole Heidecker**, **Gene and Diane Krotzer**, **Wes and Katherine Gordon**, **Donald and Susan Bowers**, **John and Donna Mickley**, **Fred Bubb**, **Lee and Jean Bentz**, **Nevin and Judy Ulery**, **Richard and Susan Shockey**, **Frank and Jane Resides**, **Rollie and Helen Swank**, **Harold and Marie Wingard**, **Sam and Maryellen Young**, **Tim and Gina Murphy**, **Tim Hann**, and **Bill Parrish**.



Pennsylvania ARSCE Meeting

## SOUTH DAKOTA

**Mike Kuch, ARCSE Representative**  
**Email: [miklon@swiftel.net](mailto:miklon@swiftel.net)**

South Dakota is slowly getting organized to have ARCSE more active in the state. We have had several new members join the ranks, and we are hoping that the number will continue to grow in the days to come. The new members are: **Jim Rezek, Ed Ensz, Dee Watson, Steve Vlieger, Verle Smith, Marvin Nelson, Kerry Stiner, Yvonne Haefner, and Julian Meyer.**

I have received emails from several of the new members saying they joined and it is good to get back in touch with old friends. We are planning on having a get-together for all retirees sometime in the summer of 2013. Right now we are planning on it being in Pierre. It will not be anything extravagant but just a place with time for everyone to get together and talk about the good old days. I'm sure we can probably line up some golf or fishing if anyone is interested. Keep your eyes on your email or mailbox for the information sometime after New Year's. If you know of retirees who have not joined ARCSE yet, get after them to pony up. It's not that expensive, and it is a good way to keep in touch. If you would drop me an email or note, I will get them in the next newsletter so everyone can keep up on what is happening in your neck of the woods. My email is [miklon@swiftel.net](mailto:miklon@swiftel.net) or my mailing address is Mike Kuck, 1706 Orchard drive, Brookings, SD 57006. I talked with **Don Bohn**, retired DC from DeSmet the other day, and he is already planning on next summer so he can catch up with everyone. Take care and we will be in touch soon. The following are a couple of the emails that I received.

**Jim Rezek** wrote: A bit late responding to your letter but finally got it done--sent in my membership dues today. I have lost about all contact with everyone--probably would not know anyone anymore. Good friend Lee Stroup just passed away--sorry to see that. I have been retired since '86 and been in S. F. since '91.

From **Verle Smith**: I was glad to get the newsletter! Even though there was no news this time from KS, NE, UT, or SD, I still saw a lot of names that I am familiar with. These included **Ed Burton, Billy Millican, and his beautiful wife** and of course others that I'm familiar with. We have been retired here in Spearfish, SD, for 12 years now and like the dry climate, except it gets a little cold in the winter. The elev. is 4,000 ft. where our house is located. Our daughter April (Vets. Hos. social worker) and husband live in Salt Lake City; son Joel is a project engineer for the KSDOT in KC; and son John manages a store in Rapid City, SD. My wife, **Anne** and I enjoy being retired and try to keep a nice yard with lots of flowers and shrubs. Some of our favorites are Asiatic and day lilies too, which the deer like also. Good trout fishing here and some walleyes and good hunting for deer (both kinds), elk, mountain lions, antelope, and turkeys. There are lots of winter sports and scenic places here.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

**Mark W. Berkland, ARCSE Representative**  
**Email: [mberkland@homesc.com](mailto:mberkland@homesc.com)**

**Dave and Teresa Demarest** just returned from a 2-week trip through New England. It started in Boston at the Boston College Clemson game. BC were great hosts for the Clemson folks--the BC band actually played Tiger Rag before the game started. **Dave** said that he never saw that done by an opposing team. BC fans were very friendly and wished them well. The Demarests stayed several days in Boston and took their time on the Freedom Trail which covers the rich history of the birth of our great country. They went whale-watching in Cape Code where a juvenile hump back whale was very curious of their boat and rubbed on it. Dave said you could see, smell, hear and feel the whale. The

naturalist said she never observed that type of behavior before. There is a large area of ocean off Cape Code that is protected, and the wildlife flourish. Dave and Teresa especially enjoyed the rugged Maine coast and the small fishing/lobstering villages. They met an elderly lobsterman who explained lobstering. What strong individuals they are. They brought their bikes and found some great bike trails to go exploring on. Dave said that the autumn foliage was ablaze with color but not any prettier than the foliage in South Carolina. Considering all Dave said, he and Teresa are always glad to come home to the best state in the nation.

The South Carolina retirees met Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> at the Ocean View Seafood Restaurant in Columbia, SC for lunch. **Luke and Laurely Nance** have made arrangements for us to eat lunch and have arranged for **Ann English** (STC), **Margie Onstad** (SAO) and **Dennis Mobley** (ASTC) to give us an update on the status of NRCS in South Carolina. Ms English did an excellent job of explaining the challenges NRCS in South Carolina is facing due to the current budget situation. We had a good turnout with the following 20 in attendance: **Dan Guy, Byron and Mary Thompson, Luke and Laurely Nance, Robert Wells, Tommy Stone, Mark Berkland, James and Sylvia Williams, Jimmy Sanders, Ann English, Margie Onstad, Dennis Mobley, Al and Linda McNeil, Jim Wilson and Ben Stuckey.**

After the retiree's luncheon, **Byron and Mary Thompson** met their daughter and grandson at the state fair and had a great time. They were joined by **Luke and Laurely Nance, Jimmy Sanders, and Dan Guy** who also attended the state fair following the retiree's luncheon. **Byron** reported he is running for County Council seat in McCormick County with no opposition. Sounds like **Byron** might get elected!

**Ben and Peggy Stuckey** got to see a lot of the east coast this summer and fall as they traveled up through all the states on the east coast north of SC and then proceeded up into Canada to Prince Edward Island. Ben said that is one of the prettiest places he has seen. **Ben** was amazed at the pastures and hayfields that run almost down to the seaside. They went over to Halifax, Canada where they saw the Citadel Fort, Halifax Gardens, and the graves of some of the Titanic crew and passengers, then down to Peggy's Cove with its lighthouse and serene but rocky setting. **Ben** reported they took a four-hour ferry ride over to St. Johns where they saw the reversible falls (all tidally affected) and down to FDR's home of Campobello, which by the way is in Canada. **Ben** said this was a long tour trip but thoroughly enjoyable.

## TEXAS (NORTH AREA)

**Arnold King, ARCSE Representative**

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The Oct. 2012 meeting of the SCS/NRCS Alumni Club will be at 10:00 AM on Friday Oct. 19th, 2012 at St Ann's Catholic Church, 100 SW Alsbury Blvd, Burleson, TX. This meeting will be the annual picnic (cook out). **Dave Stockbridge** will furnish meat, **Bernie Owen** will bring cheese, **Earl Blakley** will furnish utensils and drinks, **Joe Nichols** will furnish condiments, and **Don Newman** will provide onions and tomatoes. Everyone should bring a potluck dish.

Twenty three members were present for the Sept. 21st, 2012 meeting: **Earl Blakley, Elaine and Billy Don Davis, Don and Bernice Newman, Bernie and Maxine Owen, Joyce Petty, Don Kapalka, Dennis Gaster, Tom Hodges, Joe Nichols, Jim and Jere Rickman, Harland and Anita Dietz, Arnold King, Betty Sisson, Anita Plummer, Wes Fuchs, Dave and Barb Stockbridge, and Dennis Erinakes.** Vice President **Dennis Gaster** opened the meeting, asking for officer's reports.

**Elaine** reported a balance of \$1,382 in our treasury. A nominating committee of **Jim Rickman, David Stockbridge, and Dennis Gaster** are assembling a list of candidates to be ready by the Oct. meeting. **Dennis Gaster** has agreed to 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Arnold King to 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, **Jim Rickman** to Newsletter Editor, and **Joyce Petty** to Newsletter Distributor. We are still asking for volunteers for the offices of President, Assistant Newsletter Editor, and Secretary/Treasurer.

The program was a short slide show by **Jim and Jere Rickman** on their trip to Russia in June. Their commentary was quite interesting and informative. **Jere** displayed a lot of brochures and other keepsakes from their trip.

**Mary Wenberg** wrote on Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>: Thanks to all for the prayers, the calls and cards of encouragement, good food, kind words and so much more that there are no words to express. Today, **Dick** had his 2-week check-up. The staples were removed from the site of the surgery. The healing was described as amazing! **Dr. Chaput** gave **Dick** an x-ray picture of the screws in his vertebrae. From the comments about the type of screws, **Dr. Chaput** figured that **Dick** must be an engineer. Who else would care what kind of screws were used to stabilize the broken neck? He also showed us the x-ray that showed how close the broken bone came to piercing the spinal cord. For now, **Dick** has exceeded expectations for recovery from such a fall and surgery. We have been so blessed by supportive family and friends. **Dick** fell while walking in his neighborhood on Sept. 20, 2012. The most serious of his injuries was a broken neck.

**Mickey Black**, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist, Lubbock, Texas is celebrating his retirement on Dec. 7, 2012, with 50 years of Federal Service. From 1976 to present, Mickey has served as area and assistant state conservationist for field operations in Zone 1 for Texas. He has provided general supervision and administration of

conservation issues for 51 counties in the Panhandle and the South Plains Region, impacting land and water areas with over 31 million acres. A Retirement Reception is scheduled honoring Mickey on Friday, Dec. 7, 2012 from 4 pm to 7 pm at the American Museum of Agriculture, 1501 Canyon Lake Drive, Lubbock, Texas.

**Mrs. Darolyn Flaughier**, 67, of Belton, TX died Monday, Sept. 17th, 2012. Mrs. Flaughier retired from USDA NRCS in 1996, following 30 years as a purchasing agent. Special thanks to Glen Black and Michael Bogard for letting her friends know of her passing.

Twenty members were present for the Aug. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012 meeting: **Earl Blakley, Elaine and Billy Don Davis, Don Newman, Bernie Owen, Joyce Petty, Dave Drennan, Don Kapalka, Barbara Gillum, Dennis Gaster, Terry Evans, Rocky and Del Rockenbaugh, Tom Hodges, Joe Nichols, Mark Boysen, Jim and Jere Rickman, Harland Dietz and Dennis Erinakes**. President **Dave Drennan** opened the meeting, asking for officer's reports.

**Elaine** reported at balance of \$1,387.53 in our treasury. **Don Newman** reported the Oct. meeting would be our Annual Picnic and cook out the Nov. meeting program would be given by representatives from Blue Cross Blue Shield and GEHA. **Don** is hoping to increase the number signed up for the defensive driving course, offered on Sept. 4, 2012. **Dave Drennan** appointed a nominating committee for club officers. **Jim Rickman, David Stockbridge, and Dennis Gaster** will serve on this committee. A list of candidates needs to be ready by the Oct. meeting.

**Bernie Owen** made a presentation on how the Affordable Care Act could impact taxes. He also addressed some of the changes due with the expiration of the Bush tax cuts. IRS is trying to implement the congressional mandates on Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, but many present tax laws are going to expire and so right now everything is very fluid. After the presentation it was mentioned that 80% of the USDA budget (in the Farm Bill) is going for food stamps.

### Member News

Note from **Rocky and Del Rockenbaugh**: "Rocky and Del have almost gotten their move completed. We hope to finish soon. When you are on permanent vacation, which it seems like when you have a cook and housekeeper to do it all for you, you easily lose track of the days. Our new address is 6301 Overton Ridge Blvd, Apt 367, Fort Worth, Texas 76132 Phone number 817-292-3317.

Note from **Rickmans**: We have been travelling. Russia for 16 days, a week in St. Louis, MO with two grandkids, a week in Branson, MO with the other two grandkids, and a family reunion in San Francisco, CA, plus a couple of trips to northern Arkansas to our cabin. **Jere Rickman** said that **Judy Twitty** had some loose screws coming out of her back, and the doctor made the decision to remove all the screws. **Judy** is recovering well.

**Terry Evans** passed around some very old training photographs. These were group pictures taken in sixties.

**Dennis Erinakes** had a hacker mess up a client's computer so badly it could not be salvaged. He suggested backing up everything of value on either thumb drives or a dedicated storage device. He recommends running virus checks routinely. His son is returning from Kansas, where he spent opening day of deer season. They have seen a large buck on camera, but the deer was unsighted during the hunt. There are concerns of a disease, blue tongue disease, which can quickly kill an infected deer.

**Don Newman** shared that **Berniece** had been quite ill for the past four or five weeks. The doctors assume she has a virus but could not identify the source of her illness. Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> **Don** said she is starting to feel better, has regained her appetite and is sleeping through the night once again. We wish you a full recovery very soon **Berniece**.

Thanks to the hard work of **Don Newman**, the AARP Defensive Driver's Safety Training on Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> was very successful. There were 23 in attendance from our Alumni Club and from the NRCS center. Our Alumni Club has sponsored this training every three years for the past 12 years. Most insurance companies offer a discount on automobile insurance when presented with a certificate of the course.

**Edward L. and Faye Herriman Alexander** celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Aug. 22, 2012. They were married in Memphis, Tennessee in 1947. They are members of University Baptist Church and have lived in Fort Worth since 1971.

Received Sept. 6 from **DeWayne and Freddie Williams**: The Hospice nurse just called and they are putting **Jeff** back in the Hospice hospital. They cannot control the pain at home. Not sure what is going on with his back, but this week he has been in severe pain and very unstable. They said he needed to be back on IV pain management. Please keep us in your prayers. Just pray for rest for **Jeff**. God has been good to hear and answer our prayers, and he won't leave us now.

**Sam Brown** has announced that he will not be retiring at this time! The party scheduled for Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> has been canceled and will not be rescheduled until further notice! Please let all those that may not receive this message know about the change!

**Nelta Sloan**, long-time State Office employee {Adm. Ser. Section} passed away Sept. 6, 2012 in Temple. Services were Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at the pavilion in Hillcrest Cemetery in Temple. **Nelda** retired as an examiner with the USDA Soil Conservation Service.

**Dennis Gaster** spent some of July at a Boy Scout summer camp. In addition to that, he attended the NARFE National Convention where 1,058 members were in attendance, and had surgery on his parathyroid gland.

**Arnold King** is planning to go to Colorado for several weeks as a cook for some elk hunters. He may have to cancel, depending on how **Todd's** healing progresses.

**Dave Stockbridge** reported that **Merl Glasscock** just had hip replacement surgery.

**Betty Sisson**, who has been a long time TCU football fan, was not impressed with the seats she got this time. Her seat was located about 25 yards behind the end zone. By looking into a large TV screen, she was able to see some of the plays.

**Maxine Owen** said their son, **Steve Owen** is in the band, New Old West. They are going into the second round of competition for the Shiner Rising Star contest on Oct. 18, 2012. They will be playing at Southern Junction, 5574 Texas 276, Royce City, TX 75189. The show starts at 8:00 pm---they will flip for who goes first; competing this round with Rhythm 'n Roses band. Check out their website at <http://newoldwest.wix.com/now#!music> or on Facebook for more details of the contest.

**Bernie Owen** reported that their granddaughter, **Nicole Owen**, will play in her first college softball game on Sept. 21, 2012 in Shreveport, LA. **Nicole** is on a full softball scholarship at Angelina College in Lufkin, TX.

**Don Kapalka** purchased an expensive pair of glasses only to find his vision got worse. After going to his ophthalmologist he discovered that he had developed secondary cataracts. He had one removed (for \$500) and is now seeing much better.

**Joyce Petty** said that **Bonnie McKee** just had cataract surgery.

Contact **Elaine Davis** for address changes, if you have news for the newsletter, or for membership and dues information. Write to **Elaine** at 272 White Dove, Quitman, TX 75783, call (903) 878-2348, or e-mail her at [bdnelaine@peoplescom.net](mailto:bdnelaine@peoplescom.net). The dues are \$15.00 for the year for a couple, or \$8.00 for a single membership.

## UTAH

**Phillip J. Nelson, ARCSE Representative**

Email: [skipnel7@comcast.net](mailto:skipnel7@comcast.net)

**Mike and Nadine Nethery** recently returned from a driving trip that took them from Utah to Indiana to Virginia to New York and back home. In Indiana they attended Mike's 60<sup>th</sup> high school reunion. Sure a lot of old folks there, but they had fun. While in Indiana, they toured the largest dairy operation in the country, Fair Oaks Farm, located in NW Indiana. On the way to Virginia they visited some historic sites in Ohio. In Virginia they visited with a daughter who lives in Alexandria and with Nadine's sister's family who live nearby. Mike and Nadine then traveled to New York with their daughter to see fall colors and visit several sites of interest. One interesting place was Naples, NY, which was holding their annual Grape Festival. Their specialty is grape pie, which turned out to be quite tasty. They thought half of New York was in town for the festival. It took over 30 minutes to travel the length of town (about 10 blocks) because of the crush of people. By the time they returned home they had covered almost 6,000 miles.

## WASHINGTON

**Gerald Richard, ARCSE Representative**

Email: [gir52pdr@aol.com](mailto:gir52pdr@aol.com)

Attending recent retiree luncheons mostly at the Timber Creek Grill and Buffett were **Joe Carmack, Ken Kaul, Lenny Husa, Gary Johnson, Larry Edmonds, Harry Riehle, Jud Melton, Carl Vennes, Bob Olson and Jerry Richard**. **Larry and Jean Edmonds'** recent travels took them to Glacier Bay, AK. They stayed at the Glacier Bay Resort and were in a smaller boat to explore the glaciers and wildlife. Saw some whales up close. **Bob Olson** attended **Sylvia Russell's** 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Well over 100 friends and family attended. Many of Sylvia's dance club attended and yes, Sylvia danced at her birthday! Bob also gave us some interesting details about growing seedlings in old mines in Montana utilizing growth lights and the constant ideal air climate in some mines. **Harry Riehle** was in southern Arizona recently to help move his son and family to where they had been assigned by the Border Patrol. Harry already has stories about what happens in the desert along the border. Harry also is planning on a church-sponsored trip to Haiti for a building project and to give advice on sustainable crops. **Carl Vennes** attended his daughter's wedding in Montana. **Ken and Tina Kaul** have been busy with various family members on the old railroad train trip from Lone to Medaline Falls, visiting our local TV station KREM 2 with grand kids, a cruise trip to Alaska, and a productive fishing trip on the Columbia River with Tina catching a large Chinook salmon. **Stan and Kathy Hobson** were in a time-share facility on Lake Coeur d'Alene with their son Sheldon recently, and traveled to Spokane to spend a day with **Jerry and Phyllis Richard**. The fall weather, lunch, and conversation were great. Jerry joined his sons, grandson, and great grand kids on a weeklong fishing adventure on the Columbia River. The fishing was great! **Joe Carmack** is harvesting

the fall crops, mostly soybeans, on the family farm in Tennessee. The drought has affected yields but we will get a more detailed report when Joe returns. **Jud and Karen Melton** are enjoying spending time with and having their grandkids swim and go tubing on the Spokane River.

## WASHINGTON DC NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

**John Peterson, ARCSE Representative**

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

Received this from **Warren Lee**. “**Barb and I** had a busy travel schedule this summer beginning with a road trip to Montana to attend the Centennial celebration of my home town. Over 1,400 gathered in this town of about 1,500 to renew old friendships. Great fun was had by all. We took our grandkids to Branson, MO for a week of fun in the sun in Aug. Between trips I attended the annual ARSCE meeting in Texas. We are looking forward to an upcoming cruise through the Panama Canal in Nov. where we will be joined by our friends **Gordon and Betsy Klofstad**. Before we know it, we will be heading to Mesa, AZ for the winter months.”

Two former NHQ employees are competing in the No. VA Senior Softball League: **Owen Lee and David Ralston**. They play against each other at least twice a year. **Owen** is still active in the league, even though on cancer chemotherapy treatment, but not as a player but as a manager.

**Peter and Pat Smith**, along with daughter **Courtney** and ten-year-old twin grandsons **Emmett and Townson**, traveled to France for three weeks in Aug. Their trip was anchored by a house and car exchange with a Parisian couple. They rented a cottage in Normandy for a week and toured the battlefields and cemeteries, as well as Monet's Giverny and other historical sites. They then proceeded to the Dordogne River valley in the Southwest of France where they stayed in a friend's restored 16<sup>th</sup> century house for a week. The twins enjoyed this area's prehistoric caves and Medieval Castles. **Peter and Pat** have “sweat equity” in this house as they visited several times during restoration. **Peter** installed an American economist's version of a “French drain” at the house several years ago and, remarkably, it is still operational. The adventure ended with a week's stay in Paris and visits to the usual sites.

**Ida Cuthbertson** sends, “Just back from a 4,500-mile auto trip to visit my sister in Granville, OH, then a high school reunion in Kent, then to Cleveland to see some museums, AND the house I lived in when I was a newborn. Then To Ann Arbor to a museum, and to discover that the apt we lived in has been replaced by a huge hospital building, on up to Mackinac City and the UP. Weather was wonderful, Copper Harbor delightful; the cruise on Lake Superior to the Pictured Rocks could not have been better. Whitefish and pasties fully met my hopes. On the way home went to the Underground Railroad Museum in Cincinnati, then a distillery at Bardstown, KY, Abe Lincoln historical sites and Mammoth Cave. Sad to see the burned up corn in more than one place. Wonderful trip. Maybe I can make the Spring luncheon.

Received this from **Minerva Margo**. “John, was glad to read about this person (**Dick Wenberg**), I do not know him but I am glad he is doing better. I enjoy reading this kind of news! I know this world sometimes is crazy and takes the best and I appreciate you letting me know what is going on. I am fine after spending a couple of weeks with my family in Dallas. Next month I am going to New Mexico. Thank God my back surgery has me going. I am at the ranch and bow hunting started Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>, so I will be here and then take off again. I have someone look after the hunting part and that helps. You all take care and give my best to Blanche. Minerva.”

**John Peterson** was notified that he will receive the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) 2012 Distinguished Service Award at the NACD Annual Meeting in San Antonio on Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013. He was nominated for the award by Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD) president Ed Overton. Since John has retired, he has been volunteering with his own No. VA SWCD, is now an elected director and vice-chairman, and represents VASWCD on the NACD Board of Directors. He serves on the NACD Legislative Committee, the Farm Bill Task Force, chaired the Farm Bill Technical Assistance Subcommittee, is vice-chair of the Urban and Community Conservation Resource Policy Group, and has served on the NACD Finance Committee, TMDL Task Force, and chaired the NACD Employee certification and training Task Force. Where does he find time for all those Washington Nationals Games?



John W. Peterson to receive NACD Distinguished Service

**Maxine Barron** called and told me of another friend and colleague's passing, **Jackie Sutton**. Her obituary was in the Washington Post and is summarized in the *In Memoriam* section here. I had the pleasure of working with Jackie when we both were in Administration for SCS. Thanks for letting us know Maxine.

**Semi-annual meeting at Phillips seafood restaurant, 10/4/2012.** **Gale (Norman) Barry** stood in for the Chief and gave the group some perspectives about current conditions at the NHQ, including programs, budgets, personal, reorganization, etc. The current East region is going to be split into a Northeast and a Southeast region.



*Meeting of the Washington DC National Capitol Area*

## WEST VIRGINIA

**Peg Reese, ARCSE Representative**

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

Annual meeting: Twenty-one people attended the West Virginia luncheon at the Ali Baba Restaurant in Morgantown on Oct. 12th. **Joe Paull**, OSHER instructor, gave an insightful and entertaining presentation on "Civil War History Through Music." Those present now know who the "Yellow Rose of Texas" was and the impact she had on our history. A big hit at the meeting were the photo albums, filled with images of NRCS/SCS people, that **Dee Weston** brought to the meeting. **Jim Cooper** agreed to help organize the meeting next year. Many thanks to **Debbie Chase** for helping with the meeting this year. Attending were: **Shirley Austen, David and Patty Burns, Gordon Bayles, Debbie Chase, Jim Cooper, Andy and Kathleen Feher, Eileen and Russell Hayhurst, Dick and Annette Judy, Orland and Patty Parks, Peg Reese, Lynn Shutts, Rollin and Helen Swank, Carrie and Don Wetsch, and Dee Weston.**

**Ron Gilkeson** reported: "I had my thyroid surgery at UVA on Sept. 27. The original plan was to remove only the right lobe containing the previously identified nodule. Dr. Hanks decided at the time of surgery to do a total thyroidectomy because both lobes contained numerous nodules. The first couple days following surgery weren't much fun. My throat was very sore and swallowing was extremely difficult. I had my follow-up visit today. Swallowing is still not quite normal but improving and my voice is still a little weak, but I'm told both should improve with time. The pathology report revealed a small malignancy in the left lobe. Dr. Hanks was wise to remove the entire thyroid. The malignancy was small, only 3 mm, so Hanks feels no further treatment will be necessary."

**Jim Cooper** "...spent a week in Napa, California, with friends. He and I were Quonset roommates in Korea a long time ago. I got to see them harvest their 16-acre vineyard that produced over 68 tons of Chardonnay grapes, in about 14 hours. Of course the thousands of acres of vineyards were bustling with the harvest in full swing. Among many things to see was a castle, built for about \$12 million. No, it was a winemaker, not an SCS retiree. It was great to reminisce about Korean experiences and those COLD, COLD winters. The Songs of the Civil War program at our get-together was excellent--Way to go, Peggy."

According to **Larry Sturm**, "Life is good here, just super busy -- I guess it will always be that way. Just spent 23 days in Washington, DC supervising the birth of grandchild number 5 (Kelley's)."

## WISCONSIN

### Jim Enlow, ARCSE Representative

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

It's that time of year to plan our luncheons for 2013. The dates will be 02/14/13, 04/11/13, 06/13/13, 08/08/13, and 10/10/13, which are the second Thursday of the month. Dan Lynch has already volunteered to host the luncheon on 08/08/13 at Eagle River, WI. I'm looking for hosts for the other dates in 2013. If you would be willing to host a luncheon, please email me your preference of dates. I will accept requests on a first come basis.

**From Pat Leavenworth:** "On October 31, 2012 I will be retiring from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and moving on to other endeavors. I told the Management Team today and want to let all of you know with this brief note. I plan to do a final "News from Pat" in October. My career here in Wisconsin has been extremely rewarding. The main reasons for that are the outstanding and dedicated employees I've been fortunate to have had with me during my 18 year journey as State Conservationist of the best state in the nation!"

Her retirement celebration was on Oct. 23 in Middleton, WI. Pat Leavenworth has served as State Conservationist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service in Wisconsin since Oct. 1994.



Pat and her family live in Mount Horeb, WI, and manage a small farm in nearby Ridgeway.

## NEW SENIOR CONSERVATIONISTS

We welcome two new Senior Conservationists since the last Newsletter. They have reached the minimum age of 83 years and have completed the Senior Conservationist Questionnaire. Congratulations!

The new Senior Conservationists are:

Rodney F. Harner Lincoln, NE  
Vernon M. Hicks Belton, TX

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, Vernon M. ("Vern") Hicks

Senior Conservationist Vern Hicks was born in Hico, Texas. Soon after his birth he and his family moved to Three Rivers, Texas, where Vern grew up on his family's livestock farm. He graduated from public schools there during World War II. He enlisted and spent three years in the Army Air Corps in the Pacific Theater of War (from Okinawa to the Philippines). He was discharged in 1948 and spent the next two-plus years "roughnecking" on oil drilling rigs then "pipelining" in Ohio and Michigan. He then enrolled in Texas A&M University and graduated with a B.Sci. degree in Wildlife Management in 1954.

After his graduation, Vern was hired by SCS as a soil conservationist at the Raymondville (TX) field office in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. From 1957 to 1958 he worked as soil conservationist at Plainview (TX) on the High Plains of the Texas Panhandle. After Plainview, Vern was transferred to Fort Stockton in west Texas as Work Unit Conservationist; he was there for two years. In 1960 Vern accepted the position of State Biologist for Texas in the SCS State Office at Temple. He held that position until 1975 when he took the job of Regional Biologist for the Northeast and relocated to Upper Darby and then Broomall, Pennsylvania, when the office was moved. In 1980, Vern accepted the position of Director for the Environmental Services Division (ESD) at SCS National Headquarters (NHQ). He led ESD until the 1982 NHQ reorganization when he took the job of Assistant Director of the newly-formed Ecological Sciences Division (ECS). Vern retired in 1983 and subsequently moved to Belton, Texas. Of his early career, Vern has said that he "...very seldom got to go where he wanted to go, but from a training standpoint the locations were great."

After retirement from SCS and his move to Texas, Vern has been involved with his family and with environmental consulting. His consulting service for 20 years was to lignite coal surface mining operations for which he inventoried pre-existing vegetation as well as fish and wildlife species. He then developed post-mining revegetation plans (required for mining permits and permit renewals) for his clients. Vern and his wife, Juanita, continue to enjoy their life at "Roadrunner Hill" in Belton, Texas, and their family across the country.

# ANNUAL REPORT ON FINANCES AND MEMBERSHIP

## Monetary Contributions to ARCSE

by Ron Marlow, Secretary Treasurer

ARCSE is fortunate to have a membership that continues to make generous contributions to support our operations. During our last fiscal year that ended June 30, individual contributions totaled \$3,175, by far the largest annual total in the association's history. The Board offers a big thank you to each of the 140 members who made a contribution.

The President's Message in last year's Nov./Dec. Newsletter included a special appeal to Life Members to make a contribution. Following that appeal, 26 life Members contributed \$1,962 in FY 2012.

A review of the ARCSE records from FY 2002 through FY 2012 shows \$13,553 in contributions having been made by 451 different members. We can all be thankful for so many generous members that willingly contribute additional financial resources to support ARCSE. Cumulative individual contributions during that time have ranged from \$1.00 to a high of \$461, with 29 members contributing \$100 or more and an additional 128 contributing \$25 or more.

The Internal Revenue Service has determined that ARCSE is a 503 (c) (4) organization. Unfortunately, contributions to 503 (c) (4) organizations are not tax deductible by donors.

## ARCSE Budget and Membership Report for FY 2012

by Ron Marlow, Secretary Treasurer

### Budget Report, Fiscal Year 2012

(July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012)

Income	
Item	FY 12 Actual
Annual Mtg.-DC	1,480
Dues	14,668 <sup>1/</sup>
Interest Income	861
Contributions	1,213
Contributions (Life Members)	1,962
Reserve Funds	2,837
Total	23,021

### Expenses

Administration	2,763
Annual Mtg.-DC	6,168
Newsletter	12,180
WebPage	1,141
Awards	498
Membership	95 <sup>2/</sup>
Historian	75
Bank Charges	6
Investment Charge	95
Total	23,021

### ARCSE Assets

As of 07/01/2012, (Includes unrealized gains)

Liquid Assets	
Total Bank Accounts (Savings and Checking)	21,095.56
<b>Investment Accounts</b>	
Two Certificates of Deposit Totaling	16,528.26
OVERALL TOTAL Assets	<b>37,623.82</b> <sup>3/</sup>
OVERALL TOTAL—(07/03/2011)	40,871.18
NET CHANGE	-3,247.36 <sup>4/</sup>

<sup>1/</sup> Includes \$2550 in Lifetime Dues for 16 lifetime memberships; 670 members currently pay dues on an annual basis accounting for approximately \$12,000.

<sup>2/</sup> Memberships in CCC Legacy and National Watershed Coalition

<sup>3/</sup> This level of total assets is needed to meet future amortized lifetime membership expenses.

<sup>4/</sup> Total assets have decreased eight of the last nine years.

## NOTES: The Wonders of Iceland

Frank E. Resides submitted some notes on his trip to Iceland, Aug. 11 to 16, 2012, but there was not enough room here to include them. He recorded some interesting observations about the geothermal and geological resources, as well as the country's agricultural and tourism. If you are interested in the details, please contact Frank at [frank.resides@comcast.net](mailto:frank.resides@comcast.net).

## IN MEMORIAM

### SURNAME

(Note: These are recent notices. For a complete list, please see <http://arcse.org/nannoun.htm>)

Andreuccetti Member **Eugene Andreuccetti** (70) of Sacramento, California passed away on Sept. 28, 2012. He is survived by his wife, **Mary Andreuccetti**, daughters, **Tracy Lawson (Terry)** and **Kelly Prudek (Fred)**; 5 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. **Gene** graduated Humboldt State University in 1966 with a BS degree in wildlife management and range science. In 1966, he began a 32 year career working for the Soil Conservation Service (SCS). He served in several positions before serving as the California State Conservationist from 1982-88, the Director of

Conservation Planning Division, the Assistant Chief for the South and retiring in 1998 as Regional Conservationist for the West Region. **Gene** also served as the ARCSE Vice-President for the West from 2006 to 2008. Throughout **Gene's** life, he demonstrated a love for the land and its wildlife. This was reflected in his involvement in Ducks Unlimited and California Waterfowl Association (CWA), where he was an active life member. Remembrances may be made in his memory to CWA, 1346 Blue Oaks Blvd, Roseville, CA 95678.

<b>Barefoot</b>	<b>Jean Cooper Barefoot</b> (86) of Four Oaks, North Carolina passed away on October 7, 2012. She is survived by her husband of 67 years, Senior Conservationist <b>Everette G. Barefoot</b> who retired from SCS as a Soil Conservation Technician in 1980. Also surviving are two sons <b>Stephen</b> and <b>Michael</b> and one grandson. She was an active member of Four Oaks United Methodist Church where she was a member of the church choir. She worked for a number of years at the Smithfield Herald, then at Smithfield Savings and Loan, where she retired as Secretary-Treasurer in 1980.
<b>Beyer</b>	<b>Trevor Beyer</b> (81) of Bottineau, North Dakota passed away on May 11, 2012, at a Bottineau Hospital. <b>Trevor</b> attended the ND School of Forestry in Bottineau then served in the Army in Germany. After working a number of jobs, he worked for the SCS in Bottineau. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, <b>Viola</b> ; three sons, <b>Greg</b> of Bottineau, <b>Curt</b> of Bismarck, and <b>Jeff</b> of Bottineau; five grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; and a sister.
<b>Blankenship</b>	Member <b>Roger Blankenship</b> (78) of Keyesport, Illinois passed away on Sept. 24, 2012. He married <b>Carolyn Croster</b> on June 17, 1956 and they later divorced. Survivors include 6 sons – <b>Bradley (Karen) Blankenship</b> of Salem, IL, <b>Gregory Blankenship (Tyra)</b> of Mt. Pleasant, TX, <b>John (Christina) Blankenship</b> of Keyesport, IL, <b>Daniel (Deb) Blankenship</b> of Teutopolis, IL, <b>David (Sue) Blankenship</b> and <b>Randall (Gina) Blankenship</b> , all of Keyesport; several grandchildren and great grandchildren. Roger was employed as a soil conservation technician with the U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service. He worked in Clinton, Bond and Marion Counties for 37 years, retiring in 1994. He was a past Noble Grand of Sherwood Lodge I.O.O.F. in Keyesport and a member of Scott Lodge AF & AM Masonic Lodge 79 in Carlyle. Mr. Blankenship was also an Ainaad Shriner, a member of the First United Methodist Church in Keyesport and enjoyed fishing and hunting. Memorials in memory of Mr. Blankenship are suggested to Shriners Hospitals for Children and will be received at Zieren Day Funeral Home.
<b>Brug</b>	Member <b>William H. "Bill" Brug</b> (80) of New Philadelphia, Ohio passed away in Cleveland Clinic on Sept. 2, 2012. After graduating from high school in 1951, <b>Bill</b> joined the United States Navy where he served his country for four years. He continued his formal education at The Ohio State University, graduating in 1959 with a bachelor's degree in agriculture. At OSU, <b>Bill</b> met his lifelong partner, the former <b>Shirley B. Baker</b> . He worked for the Soil Conservation Service as a soil scientist throughout Ohio and Minnesota, retiring in 1987 as a Soil Survey Party Leader. He also shared his talents with the Soil and Water Conservation District as a supervisor. Survivors include his wife of 54 years, <b>Shirley</b> ; his son, <b>W. Patrick (Bridgid) Brug</b> of Los Alamos, NM; and four grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be directed to Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 202 East High Ave., New Philadelphia, OH 44663, Community Hospice House, 716 Commercial Ave SE, New Philadelphia, OH 44663, or the Norma Johnson Center, 2201-B Progress St., Dover, OH 44622.
<b>Burton</b>	<b>Arlen V. Burton</b> (81) of Louisa, Kentucky passed away on Oct. 15, 2012. He is survived by two daughters; <b>Sherry Burton (William) Barker</b> of Louisville, Kentucky and <b>Sonya Burton (Ronald) Wedge</b> of Charleston, West Virginia; and five grandchildren. After high school graduation he joined the United States Army to serve in the Korean Conflict for his country as a medical aid and attained the rank of Sergeant. Upon return to the U.S., he graduated from the University of Kentucky with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture. <b>Arlen</b> worked for the USDA Soil Conservation Service as a District Conservationist and retired with over 25 years of service. He was member of the Board of Supervisors with the Lawrence County Conservation District with 25 years of service, where he served as chairman for the past 5 years. He was also a member of Lawrence County Farm Bureau for over 26 years where he served as Vice-chair for the past year. He was a member of the Louisa United Methodist Church
<b>Christman</b>	<b>Richard Lee Christman</b> (86) passed away on Sept. 18, 2012. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture from The <a href="#">Ohio State University</a> . <b>Richard</b> proudly served our country in the <a href="#">US Navy</a> during the <a href="#">Korean Conflict</a> , and he continued his service in the Naval Reserves. He worked as a soil scientist for the State of Ohio Department of Natural Resources. <b>Richard</b> is survived by his wife of 62 years, <b>Mary Anne Christman</b> , two sons, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Visit <a href="http://www.schoedinger.com">www.schoedinger.com</a> to extend condolences.
<b>Davis</b>	<b>Bobby Joe Davis</b> (76) of Marlow, Oklahoma passed away on Oct. 6, 2012. He graduated from Oklahoma State University, receiving his Bachelor of Science degree in 1960. He worked as an engineer for the Soil Conservation Service, retiring after 38 years of service. <b>Bobby</b> repaired small engines and watches and was a skilled woodcutter. He was a member of the Church of Christ in Rush Springs. Survivors include his wife of 52 years, <b>Shannon Lee Davis</b> of the home; two daughters, <b>Jean Davis</b> of Midwest City and <b>Deanna (Karl) Dowell</b> of Mustang; and one granddaughter.
<b>Densmore</b>	Honorary Member and Senior Conservationist <b>Jack Densmore</b> (99) passed away on October 19, 2012. <b>Jack</b> was the first State Resource Conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service in Wisconsin. He was the Regional Forester in Lincoln, Nebraska when he retired and moved back to Madison, WI. <b>Jack</b> is survived by his wife <b>Betty</b> . A memorial service will be held at the Covenant Presbyterian Church, 326 S. Segoe Road, Madison, WI at 1:00 PM. on Friday, November 2, 2012. Everyone is invited to attend.
<b>Flaughier</b>	<b>Darolyn Flaughier</b> (67) of Belton, Texas passed away on Sept. 17, 2012. Darolyn retired from USDA NRCS in 1996, following 30 years of service as a purchasing agent. She was a graduate of Temple College. Survivors

include her husband **Lyndell Flaughier** of Belton, a daughter, a son, two stepsons, and a stepdaughter. The family requests memorials may be made to the Scott and White Vasicek Cancer Treatment Center 2401 South 31st Street Temple, Texas 76508

**Fury**

**Joyce Bino Fury** (97) passed away on Sept. 16, 2012, at her home in Spokane Valley, Washington. She was wife of Robert Connell "Con" Fury, State Administrative Officer for the Soil Conservation Service in Spokane, WA during the 1960's and 1970's. Joyce served in the [United States Navy](#) during [World War II](#) and voluntarily returned to active service for 22 months during the [Korean conflict](#). She served more than 21 years in active duty and in the reserves. In 1979 the Secretary of the Navy presented Joyce the Navy Achievement Medal. She worked for many years for the Bonneville Power Administration both in Portland, Oregon, and in Spokane. Joyce is survived by stepson **Greg Fury** and daughter-in-law **Mary**, stepdaughter **Sara Fury**, a grandson, and a great-grandson.

**Haslem**

Life Member **Donald Haslem** (86) of Albany, Oregon passed away on Oct. 15, 2012 following an extended battle with Alzheimer's. He served in the Navy in the Philippines during WWII. Upon discharge he returned to Oregon and graduated from Oregon State University in 1950 with a degree in civil engineering. After earning his Master's Degree in Engineering from OSU, **Donald** began a career as an irrigation engineer for the US Government. That work placed him in Oregon, Hawaii, India, Washington State, Pakistan, New Jersey, and finally Haiti. Upon retirement in 1981 from the Soil Conservation Service, **Donald** worked for The World Bank which found him returning to India. He retired again in 1985 and returned to Albany. Surviving are his wife of 58 years, **Dolores** of Albany; sons **Doug** of Portland and **Dave** of San Jose; and three grandchildren. Contributions may be made to the Samaritan Evergreen Hospice House Building Fund c/o Fisher Funeral Home, 306 SW Washington St., Albany, OR 97321.

**Hopper**

Senior Conservationist **Eugene 'Jake' Hopper** (90) of Madison, North Carolina passed away October 2, 2012. Jake retired in 1984 as Soil Conservation Technician in Reidsville, NC after more than 38 years of service. Jake was a veteran of WWII where he served in the Military Police in the US Army. He was preceded in death by his first wife, **Barbara Grace Jeffereys Hopper**. Survivors include his wife of 17 years, **Virginia Ann Tate Hopper** of the home; son, **Eugene Jakaway Hopper, Jr.** of Madison; two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to Hospice Home of Rockingham County, 2150 NC Highway 65, Reidsville, NC 27320 or Rockingham County Honor Guard, c/o Ray Kelly, 242 Strutton Lane, Eden, NC 27288.

**Jefferson**

**Roy E. Jefferson** (91) passed away on July 20, 2012, in Villa Maria Nursing Home in Fargo, ND. **Roy** was Area Clerk with the Soil Conservation Service in Fargo, ND, for many years retiring in 1981.

**Jelleberg**

**Harold S. Jelleberg** (87) of Perham, Minnesota, passed away peacefully on Aug. 23, 2012, surrounded by his family. **Harold** served in the Army Signal Corps as a radio repairman in Shanghai, China, until his discharge in 1946. He graduated Bottineau School of Forestry in 1949 and NDAC (NDSU) in 1951 with a degree in Mechanized Agriculture. He worked for the Soil Conservation Service in Ellendale, Forman, Bismarck, and Grand Forks where he retired in Dec. 1982 with 31 years of service as Area Conservationist for Northeast ND. He was preceded in death by three infant daughters. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, **Margot**; son **Scott (Debbie) Jelleberg** of Mount Pleasant, MI; daughters **Betty (John) Rystad** and **Mary Mooney** of Bloomington, MN; three grandchildren; and one great granddaughter.

**Jones**

Life member **Sidney Maloy Jones** (82) of Gainesville, Georgia passed away on Sept. 23, 2012, following an extended illness. **Sidney** graduated from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and received his BS degree in Agriculture from The University of Georgia. He retired from the Soil Conservation Service in 1986 following 35 years of Federal service. **Sidney** also retired from the Georgia National Guard. Early in his career he was a Soil Scientist in the metropolitan Atlanta area. He provided a complete soils map, interpretation, and analysis for the Atlanta Airport Authority to use in designing Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. He served as Area Conservationist both in Rome, Georgia and Decatur, Georgia, and as Georgia State Resource Conservationist. He was a member of Chicopee United Methodist Church in Gainesville.

**Kirkaldie**

**Louis Kirkaldie** (81) of Avondale, Pennsylvania passed away on Sept. 19, 2012. **Lou** was a geologist with the Soil Conservation Service, and worked in the Harrisburg State Office in the 1960s, after transferring from Montana. He was also at the Northeast NTC and retired in 1987 as the National Geologist at NHQ. **Lou** is survived by his wife **Jean**. He served as the ARSCSE Vice President for the East from 1994 to 1996.

**McClure**

**Luella G. McClure** (92) loving wife of retired **Neal McClure** passed away on April 19, 2012, at the Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Center, Bismarck, North Dakota. **Lue** is survived by her devoted husband of 70 years, **Neal**, who retired from the Soil Conservation Service in 1976 as the Assistant State Conservationist. Also surviving are two sons, **Brian (Dorothy)** and **Ron (Pat)** both of Fargo; and three grandchildren. **Neal** has now moved to an assisted living facility, Sheyenne Crossing, in West Fargo to be closer to his two sons.

**Meissner**

**Hildur A. Meissner** (94) of Spokane, Washington passed away on Oct. 14, 2012. She attended Wilson's Modern Business College in Seattle and graduated in 1938. She worked for a private company, then the War Department briefly, and at the Blood Bank until 1952. Then she began a career with the USDA Soil Conservation Service as a personnel management specialist until her retirement in 1977. She is survived by sons **Paul (Linda)**, **Gary (Wendie)**, **Scott (Brandee)** and **daughter Kristie (Paul)**, along with her ten grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband of nearly fifty years, **Ellert Meissner**. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Hospice House of Spokane or a [charity of your choice](#).

**Moe**

**Roger Moe** (79) of Columbia, Missouri passed away on Oct. 9, 2012. He graduated from Iowa State University,

where in 1961 he earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural engineering after serving in the U.S. Army in Japan and the Philippines. For more than 39 years, he worked for the Soil Conservation Service, retiring in 1993 as the Agricultural Engineer at the Midwest NTC in Lincoln, NE. Faith in God and commitment to family were his cornerstones. He was a member of Christian Fellowship Church. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, **Peggy**; sons, **Bruce (Pamela) Moe**, **Michael (Cheryl) Moe**, and **Jeff (Mary) Moe**, all of Columbia; ten grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Contributions may be made The Christian Fellowship Church, 4600 Christian Fellowship Road, Columbia, MO, 65203 for funding missions. Online condolences may be left for the family at [www.nilsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.nilsonfuneralhome.com).

**Nelson**

Honorary Member and Senior Conservationist **Vern R. Nelson** (92) of Olympia, Washington, passed away Aug. 30, 2012. He was born in Maddock, North Dakota. Vern thought about what he wanted to do professionally after the dust storms hit his family's farm. He saw what the Soil Conservation Service had done to help stop some of the dust storms, including strip cropping, developing springs on the various farms, and planting shelter belts. He always thought at that time that it would be nice to have a job in the conservation field. In 1946 he, his wife, and his daughter moved to Washington. He started working for the Soil Conservation Service in Olympia in February, 1949. After several years he realized that to advance he needed a college education. So at the age of 32 he started college at WSU, a well-known agronomy college at the time. At 36 he was the first in his family to get a college degree, Bachelor of Science Degree in Agronomy. His first position was in Olympia. Then he served as a District Conservationist in Shelton, Pomeroy, and Renton, WA. In 1966 he returned to Olympia to serve as the Area Conservationist serving 10 counties in southwestern Washington consisting of 8 million acres. When Mt. St. Helens erupted in 1980 he was among the first to survey the damage from the air. He was the organizer and charter member of the Olympic View Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America. He was the first president of the chapter. He served as Chairman of the Air Resource Division of the National Soil Conservation Society of America. In 1969 he received a "Commendation Award" from the Soil Conservation Society of America. In 1979 he received the "State of Washington Professional Service Award" for outstanding contributions to soil and water conservation from the Washington Association of Conservation Districts. In 1981 he was given "The Grade of Fellow" in recognition of singular professional achievement and leadership in land and water conservation and dedication to the goals and objectives of the Soil Conservation Society of America. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Virginia**, in 2006. He is survived by his daughter, **Diana (Don McQuay)**, of Seattle, Washington, 3 grandsons, 11 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-granddaughters. The family suggests memorials be made to a charity of your choice.

**Owen**

**Mary Lou Owen** (81) long-time Lincoln, Nebraska resident, passed away on Aug. 20, 2012. She was preceded in death by her husband, **William James Owen**, who was an engineer with the Soil Conservation Service at the Midwest NTC. She is survived by four daughters, a son, eight grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. **Mary Lou** graduated from Concordia Teachers College and furthered her education at the University of Nebraska earning a master's degree in Special Education. She was employed by Lincoln Public Schools teaching special education at the elementary level for many years until retiring.

**Owen**

Senior Conservationist **Robert A. Owen** (99) of Mt. Airy, Georgia passed away on Sept. 16, 2012. He was a long time District Conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service, retiring in 1971. **Robert** continued to be very active until his death just one month before his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. He also served in the Civilian Conservation Corps.

**Partin**

**Eleanor Harrell Partin** (90) of Edenton, North Carolina passed away on Sept. 5, 2012. Mrs. Partin was a native of Chowan County and lived in Edenton for almost all of her life. She worked as Area Clerk with the Soil Conservation Service for 25 years before her retirement in January 1987. After retiring from SCS, she worked part time for the Edenton Baptist church for many years. Eleanor was preceded in death by her husband, **Paul Lyman Partin, Sr.** Surviving are four sons and their wives, **Lyman (Jane) Partin** of Beaufort and **Al (Lynn) Partin**, **Mike (Denise) Partin**, and **Bob (Jackie) Partin**, all of Edenton; and seven grandchildren.

**Pederson**

**Willis A. Pederson** (83) of Fargo, North Dakota passed away on April 19, 2012. He worked for the Soil Conservation Service in Garrison and Grand Forks.

**Senter**

**Ann Rutland Senter** (76) of Athens, Georgia passed away on Oct. 12, 2012 of vascular disease. She is survived by her husband of 56 years **Samuel D. Senter**, two daughters, a son, four grandchildren and one great grandchild. She was a longtime employee of the USDA-NRCS, Athens, GA and a member of Prince Avenue Baptist Church.

**Sharp**

**Winfield Kennedy Sharp IV** (76) of Sandy Springs, South Carolina, passed away at Clemson Downs Health Care on Oct. 23, 2012, following several years of declining health. He retired from the U.S. Army Reserve following 20 years of service and retired from the Soil Conservation Service (USDA) with thirty years of service. He earned the designation of Master Tree Farmer for best practices in forestry. He was a long-time member of the Pendleton Farmers Society.

**Smith**

**John Henry Smith, Jr.** (70) of Georgetown, Kentucky passed away Sept. 3, 2012. After high school graduation, he went on to serve four years in the United States Air Force and attended the Bluegrass Community and Technical College. He worked for over four decades at the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, **Angie B. Harper Smith**, his two daughters, and two granddaughters. [Send a condolence to the family of John Henry Smith, Jr.](#)

**Spaeth**

**Elizabeth (Betty) Spaeth** (86) of Fargo, North Dakota passed away on March 17, 2012. She was the wife of retired **Jerome H. Spaeth**, and after **Jerry** retired as the State Hydrologist they settled in Fargo, ND. She is survived by

her husband of 62 years, **Jerome**; 4 sons, 6 daughters, 27 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren.

<b>Strong</b>	<b>Ruth Lucile Strong</b> (93) of Tempe, Arizona passed away on Oct. 22, 2012. She is survived by her husband of nearly 63 years, <b>Marion</b> of Tempe, who retired in 1980 as an Assistant Chief with the Soil Conservation Service. Also surviving are daughter <b>Linda (Peter) Nelson</b> of Mesa, daughter <b>Marcia (Mark) Middents</b> of Tempe, son <b>James (MaryAnn)</b> of Kent, Washington, and six grandchildren. <b>Ruth</b> worked in the men's department of Diamond's Department Store, and later at Dillard's until retirement, and was an active volunteer at her church. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in <b>Ruth's</b> memory to The Church on Mill.
<b>Sutton</b>	Life member <b>Jacqueline G. Sutton</b> (84) of Annapolis, Maryland passed away on Sept. 26, 20012 at her son's house in Needham, MA. She had cancer. <b>Jacqueline</b> was one of the first women in the Senior Executive Service with the USDA Soil Conservation Service. <b>Jacqueline Rose Griffin</b> , a fourth-generation Washingtonian, was a 1948 education graduate of the old Miner Teachers College in the District and received a master's degree in library science from Catholic University in 1964. She then joined the General Services Administration and served from 1969 to 1980 as a chief of what is now the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Training Institute. <b>Jacqueline</b> joined the USDA in 1980, moving in 1983 to the Soil Conservation Service. She retired in 1986 as the associate deputy chief of administration. Her first marriage, to <b>James Sutton</b> , ended in divorce. Her second husband, <b>Clifton Butler</b> , died in 1981 after six years of marriage. Survivors include two sons from her first marriage, <b>James Sutton III</b> of Gaithersburg, MD and <b>Bruce Sutton</b> of Needham, MA; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.
<b>Warvin</b>	<b>Dorothy "Dot" Wavrin</b> (81) of Bismarck, North Dakota passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 6, 2011. She was the wife of former SCS State Engineer, Wayne Wavrin. In 1969, the love of her life, Wayne D. Wavrin died. Dorothy devoted over 50 years to the field of education. Her first teaching job was in a one-room schoolhouse in Fessenden, ND. She is survived by three children, <b>Michael (Lori) Wavrin</b> , Bismarck, <b>Jennifer (Jpn) Leet</b> , Bismarck, and <b>Wendi (Doug) Law</b> , Omaha, NE.; five grandchildren, and five siblings.
<b>White</b>	<b>Dean E. White</b> (67) of Sagle, Idaho passed away on Sept. 1, 2012 at his home. He graduated from the University of Montana. Dean served in the U.S. Air Force during the <a href="#">Vietnam War</a> . He worked as a conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service, retiring as an Assistant State Conservationist in Spokane, WA. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, <b>Ann</b> ; two children, <b>Joe White</b> of Spokane, WA, <b>Amy White</b> of Seattle, WA; and two grandchildren. The family suggests memorials to Projects for People, P.O. box 1911, Eau Claire, WI 54702. Family and friends are invited to sign Dean's online guest book at <a href="http://www.coffelfuneral.com">www.coffelfuneral.com</a> .
<b>Zaginaylo</b>	<b>John Zaginaylo, Jr</b> (88) of Columbia County, Pennsylvania passed away on Sept. 8, 2012. He worked for the Soil Conservation Service and served a Conservation Technician in Columbia County for 34 years. <b>John</b> served with the U. S 1st Calvary Division in WWII. He also operated a dairy farm, working on it until as late as June 2012. He is survived by a son, <b>John Zaginaylo III</b> , also with SCS/NRCS and two daughters. Private family services were held on Sept. 10th. Memorial gifts may be made to Columbia County Volunteers in Medicine, 310 East Third Street, Mifflinville, PA 18631. For the full obituary go to <a href="http://www.mayofh.com/fh/obituary">www.mayofh.com/fh/obituary</a> .