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# NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter for Retired SCS and NRCS Employees

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

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

## NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

*John Stierna*

**Farm bill status and prospects**—A lot of sizzle but no bacon. That would be one way of expressing the situation concerning the lack of movement on the Farm Bill. While the Senate passed a comprehensive Farm Bill back in June, the House took the bi-partisan Farm Bill approved by the House Agriculture Committee, amended it, and then promptly defeated it, largely on issues related to nutrition programs. Then the House successfully passed a farm-policy-only bill containing everything other than a nutrition title. The House leadership plans on having a nutrition bill considered on the House floor after the August recess, and then may appoint conferees to work out differences with the Senate.

The Senate moved forward in July by naming conferees. Senators who will participate are **Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Sen. Pat Leahy (D-VT), Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA), Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT), Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO), Ranking Member Thad Cochran (R-MS), Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KS), Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R-GA), Sen. John Boozman (R-AR) and Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND).**

Remaining steps for a farm bill include, appointment of conferees by the House (with or without a nutrition bill), a conference between both sets of conferees to resolve differences, enactment of a conference bill by both chambers, and then have it signed by the **President**. The current Farm Bill, a short term extension enacted last New Years, will expire on September 30<sup>th</sup>. While many are hopeful of getting a farm bill passed, some members of Congress are preparing for another extension, and suggesting it should be for a two-year period.

**Appropriations**—Although the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have reported out agriculture appropriations bills for FY 2014, neither chamber has yet considered them on the floor. Appropriation bills must begin with the House, so Senate action cannot occur until the House passes a bill.

Conservation operations funding proposed by the House Appropriations Committee is \$810 million, while the Senate appropriators are proposing \$818 million. This compares to \$808 million for FY 2013 before sequestration.

Both the President's Budget and the Senate appropriators do not provide any funding for the Watershed Rehabilitation Program, but the House Appropriations Committee is recommending \$12 million for rehab work.

**People**—**Jason Weller** has been sworn in as Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. He had been Acting Chief since the retirement of Dave White last December. Jason has previously served as Chief of Staff at NRCS and earlier in positions at the House Appropriations Committee, the House Budget Committee, and the Office of Management and Budget. He hails from CA where he worked with the state legislature.

**Robert Bonnie** was confirmed by the Senate and sworn in as Under Secretary for Natural Resources and the Environment for USDA. Robert has been serving as a senior advisor to the Secretary for five years. Prior to that, he was a senior staffer at the Environmental Defense Fund.

**Krysta Harden** was confirmed and sworn in as Deputy Secretary of Agriculture for USDA. Krysta has been a strong supporter of conservation over many years in various roles that she has served, including CEO of NACD before becoming Chief of Staff for Secretary **Tom Vilsack**.

**ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES**

After a lengthy nomination process, the Senate in July confirmed **Gina McCarthy** as Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Before being nominated and confirmed as Administrator, McCarthy served as Assistant Administrator for EPA's Office of Air and Radiation. Prior to that, she served as Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection for the State of Connecticut. As EPA Administrator, McCarthy has begun to take steps to improve relationships between EPA and the agricultural community.

Chairwoman of the Senate Agriculture Committee **Debbie Stabenow** (D-Mich.) was recently honored by the Michigan Land Use Institute's first Helen Miliken Legacy Award. Named for Michigan's former first lady, the accolade recognizes a legacy of environmental advocacy and civil discourse.

**Other Developments**—Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)—The House's version of a major water policy bill is slated to be marked up when Congress returns from recess in September, Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman **Bill Shuster** (R-PA) announced recently. Shuster had originally hoped to mark up his bill before Congress left town but was widely believed to be waiting for guaranteed floor time before moving the measure. The schedule announced has received the support of House leadership.

**Agriculture Conservation Experienced Service (ACES)** —a program established in the 2008 Farm Bill is provided somewhat greater funding in the proposed 2013 farm bill by eliminating some program exclusions that limited sources of funding. The program provides grants to eligible nonprofit organizations under the Community Senior Opportunities Act to secure participants who are age 55 or older to provide technical services in support of conservation related programs. Assuming a new Farm Bill is enacted, this program will continue. If you are interested in participating, please contact your state NRCS office.

When Congress returns from recess Sept. 9, it will have only nine days in which both the House and Senate are in session to address a bevy of issues with pressing deadlines. At the top of that list: a deal to keep the government running after the fiscal year runs out.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

I wish to thank **Mark Berkland** for his leadership over the past two years. During his term as President of ARCSE, we migrated from a printed newsletter to primarily an electronic newsletter with colored pictures and plenty of space. This saves us postage on every newsletter, which has improved our budget situation significantly.

I also wish to thank **Chuck Houston** for making the local arrangements and emceeding our luncheon. We had 29 attendees, including several from CA. Senior Conservationist and pilot **Amos Garrison** and his navigator, **Stan Hobson** flew in from Boise, ID, on Amos's airplane for the event. I was fortunate to have worked with both of these great conservationists and enjoyed the opportunity to renew friendships. We all appreciated **Bruce Peterson's**, State Conservationist for Nevada, comments on the status of NRCS in Nevada and the issues they are currently facing.

Congratulations go to two individuals who received the President's Award for Meritorious Service. The first went to **James R. Canterberry** who was given the award for his efforts to stimulate the ARCSE activities in North Carolina. North Carolina has gained 22 members and held an annual picnic with 90 attendees. The second went to **Michael Kuck** for his efforts to stimulate ARCSE activities in South Dakota. Seventeen new members have joined, and a reunion of retirees in the state was held in early August.

The President's Award for Outstanding Community Service went to the very deserving **August "Gus" Dornbusch**. Gus had a distinguished career with the Soil Conservation Service and was a decorated veteran earning the Bronze Star in Vietnam. His leadership and tireless efforts didn't stop with his "official duties." He gave tirelessly over the years to the many communities he lived in, always having a positive impact on those around him. Over the years he has been involved in school activities, service clubs, and church and community activities. His passion has been to help children make a difference in their lives serving as a mentor and positive role model. He has been a coach, was active in the Boy Scouts and YMCA, and is very active in the Kiwanis having served as the President of the local chapter and Governor of Division 21 which has 193 clubs and over 6,400 members.

Some say one individual cannot make a difference, but the testimony of one individual that Gus mentored, say one can. In 1998 Gus was assigned a 6<sup>th</sup> grade Vietnamese refugee to mentor under a program, TEAMMATES, started by **Tom and Nancy Osborne** (Tom is a former coach of the Nebraska Cornhuskers). This young man was small for his age and the subject of school bullies. His behavior had become a problem and school grades suffered. As a direct result of Gus's mentoring and serving as a positive role model, this individual went on to graduate high school and obtain a BS in Computer Science. He invited Gus to attend his graduation ceremonies and has told many that he doesn't know where he would have ended up if it were not for Gus. This young man now travels around Nebraska as an ambassador for the TEAMMATES program. Church has always been an important part of Gus's life. He has served in leadership positions everywhere he lived and in two separate locations helped lead the effort to build new churches. Congratulations, Gus, and thanks for making a difference.



ARCSE is in need of a **web master**. If you have some expertise in web design and maintenance and are interested and willing to assist us in this new capacity, we would love to hear from you. If you wish more details contact Jerry Bernard ([jbernard.nrcsret@gmail.com](mailto:jbernard.nrcsret@gmail.com)), our newsletter Editor. It's not too early to put next year's meeting on your calendar. It will be held in the Chicago area in conjunction with the Soil and Water Conservation Society, July 27-30, 2014.

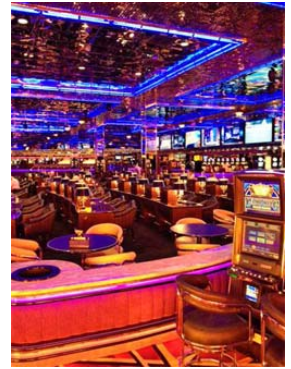
## ARCSE National Luncheon

**Comments from Bill Ward, CA:** Just wanted to let you know all the CA folks really enjoyed our afternoon at the annual National retiree luncheon Monday. I am sure you can count on Charles now to join ARCSE and probably some other CA folks when I make my next pitch.

It was great to see you (**Ron Marlow**), **Warren Lee**, **Chuck Houston**, and a half dozen others I worked with in some capacity during my career. It was also very nice to meet several new retirees from other parts of the Country and ARCSE office members as well. You folks have to be commended for all you do to keep us all up to date on what is going on with the retirees and to stay connected. **Charles Davis** is shown at the slot machines, for fun both before and after our meeting. *Editor's Note: I am sure he "broke even."*



**Charles Davis, CA State Conservation Engineer, retired.**



**Peppermill Hotel**

### Luncheon Participants (pictures courtesy of Ron Marlow):



*From left: Stan Hobson, Jerry Richards, Amos Garrison, Warren Lee, Charles Davis, and Harold Honeyfield.*



*Fore front from left: Chuck Houston, Jim Linebaugh, Bill Ward, and Dan Towery*

*Back from left: Mike Nethery, Amos Garrison, Harold Honeyfield, Stan Hobson, Charles Davis, Jerry Richards, and Warren Lee.*



*Fore front from left: Dan Towery, Hank Wyman, Yvonne Haefner, Penny Galinat*

*Back from left: Mark Twyeffort, Jim Gulliford, John Peterson, Greg Johnson, and Arnold King.*



From left: **Jim Gulliford, Mark Twyeffort, Earl Norton, Greg Johnson, John Peterson, and Arnold King.**

Others attending but not pictured above: **Rich Duesterhaus, Jude Mollenhauer, Nadine Nethery, Bill Boyer, Ross Braun, Mark Berkland, Ron Marlow, Christie Wyman, and Bruce Petersen.**

**Letter received from Mel Davis' Wife, Marilyn:** The Board was extremely pleased to receive the following letter (next page) from Marilyn Davis and in our appreciation of both Marilyn and Mel, we are sharing it with you.

## A BIT OF HISTORY

**Douglas Helms, Historian**

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

### **State Historical Marker to be Unveiled in South Carolina**

On August 29, 2013, an official South Carolina historical marker will be unveiled at the Montgomery Building in Spartanburg, SC, to commemorate the first office of NACD, the National Association of Conservation Districts, first organized as the National Association of Soil Conservation District Governing Officials, and then the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts.

As Neil Sampson recounts in *For Love of the Land*, **Hugh Bennett** stood ready to organize a national association of the conservation districts. This they did this in Chicago in 1946, and the group was captured in a photograph. There is a lone woman in the photograph, **Ellen S. Cobb**. She then worked in the Montgomery Building as an employee in the SCS southeastern regional office, headed by Bennett's personal and professional friend, **Dr. Thomas Buie**. The group in Chicago elected **E. C. McArthur** of Gaffney, SC, as its first president. McArthur was a leader in the state association, and Ellen Cobb had worked with him since 1938. The group authorized him to hire her as Executive Secretary. After returning to the Montgomery Building, she carried out voluminous correspondence for McArthur, until his death in 1947, the result of an automobile accident as he was driving home to Gaffney from Columbia. **John W. Parris** led the successful effort to commemorate the first NACD office. He joined the South Carolina conservation districts agency in 1966, became its head in 1972 and retired in 1994. In his work as director of the South Carolina Land Resources Commission, he created the Soil Conservation Districts Foundation.



**Montgomery Building, Spartanburg SC, site of first NACD office**



Ronald L. Marlow;  
Secretary/Treasurer,  
ARCSE,  
P.O. Box 7454  
Fairfax Station, Va  
22039-7454

Yuma, AZ August

Dear Ron,

As the wife of a former Administrator (Chief) of the Soil Conservation Service R. Mel Davis, I would like to thank you and our friends within ARCSE for spreading the word of Mel's death. I received so many condolences from friends who had worked with Mel and I would like all of them to know how much I appreciated their kind words.

Mel was fiercely loyal and supportive of SCS. He had an intense desire to do his work with integrity and his was a powerful work ethic. Most everyone who worked with him knew that he rose through the ranks of SCS from his very rural beginnings in sparse northwest North Dakota to becoming Administrator. He was very proud of those beginnings and very humble at the same time - And I think it was for that reason that co-workers - in their words - considered him - "friendly, comforting, unassuming, willing to help; and a wonderful supervisor" - but - as Mel would have said - "No one will say anything bad about you!!"

His ashes were interred in the N. D. Veterans Cemetery in Mandan, N. Dak. on Sept. 6 and there will be a memorial service at Gloria de Cristo Lutheran Church, 11273 E. 40<sup>th</sup> St.; Yuma, AZ 85367 on Sat. Nov. 2, 2013 at 11:00 A.M.

I especially want to thank Karl Klingelhoefer, our Southwest Rep. for being a friend and letting ARCSE members know of Mel's death.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Davis  
12523 E. Del Rio  
Yuma, N. D. 85367

## ARCSE Representatives Report

**Ron Marlow, Secretary-Treasurer**

**New Representatives.** I want to welcome two new state representatives. Upon retirement of one of our long time representatives, **George Norris**, the new state representative for Georgia is **Edward Ealy**. Edward retired in December 2011 as State Soil Scientist for NRCS in Georgia. George provided good leadership for ARCSE activities in his state, and his efforts are deeply appreciated by the ARCSE Board. **Veronica (Roni) Schadeegg** is now the representative in Wyoming, filling a position that has been vacant for years. Roni recently joined ARCSE after retiring from NRCS as an Administrative Assistant in Wyoming. The ARCSE Board is extremely pleased to see these two new members stepping forth into leadership roles.

### 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  
NOV/DEC 2013 NEWSLETTER  
CONTRIBUTIONS IS OCTOBER 25**

## MEMBERSHIP

**Ron Marlow, Secretary-Treasurer**

The following are New ARCSE Members:

<b>Carter, Ken</b>	<b>VA</b>
<b>Clearfield, Frank</b>	<b>NHQ/NC</b>
<b>Earnhart, Nery</b>	<b>IN</b>
<b>Gilgert, Wendell</b>	<b>CA</b>

### Complimentary membership

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

## ARIZONA

**Karl Klingelhofer, ARCSE Representative**

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

I (Karl) just returned from a week in Maine for my 87<sup>th</sup> birthday. Have one son and family there and my other son and his wife from CA were there for 3 days. So I had a great birthday. Two days of rain and then 3 days of perfect weather for the day of my birthday when we used the motorboat to go out on Rockport Bay for about 3 hours. We have had record heat this summer and now are in the monsoon season when we are supposed to have considerable rain. However, the storms seem to be going around where I live; thunder and lightning but no rain. Did have 1.25" a couple weeks ago and another 1.3" on 8/23. Some areas have had flooding.

**Gary R Nordstrom** of Prescott Valley reports - In August **Jayne** and I drove to KS to visit our son **David** and his family at Fort Riley, Manhattan, KS. In September we will fly east so that Jayne can attend a get-together at Harper's Ferry, WV, with several of her friends who are spouses of NRCS retirees. While they are having their get-together, the guys, **Ed Nelson, Billy Millken, Ron Clark, Herschel Read**, and I will visit and play golf for four days.

**Bill and Joyce Fobair** of Cottonwood—36 Years of Zephyring End. A few months ago, Joyce and Bill sold their 1941 Lincoln-Zephyr Coupe with custom interior. Of the 1,152 built with this body style, 77 had the custom interior and, to their knowledge, was the only one left that was authentically restored. They drove the Zephyr to local meets, trailered it to more distant ones, and ultimately racked up over 40,000 miles in pursuing the hobby. From the first judged show in 1995 to the last, it won Best of Show and Mayor's Choice. In between it won over 150 awards, among them the Best of Show at Ford's Lincoln 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1995 and Ford's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2003, both at Dearborn. It was a great hobby, one that required research and challenges in restoration but more importantly, the opportunity to meet other enthusiasts along the way.



**Bill Fobair and 1941  
Lincoln-Zephyr Coupe**



**Steve Black**, Phoenix: I traveled back to Illinois a couple of time this summer to work at my farm in Greene County, IL and to attend my 50<sup>th</sup> high school reunion. For the past three months I have been working on remodeling a condo in Sun City, AZ that I bought and now have it on the market.

**Ken and Connie Cookson** of Tucson went on a week trip to the Copper Canyon area in Mexico this spring. Highlights of the trip included an overnight stay in the resort town of San Carlos on the Sea of Cortez. It was the week prior to spring break and they were bracing for the onslaught. This is a beautiful area and beckons to tourists. Another highlight was the town of Alamos. This is a restored mining area and is very picturesque--an area we would like to go back to. The highlight of the trip was a train ride through 84 tunnels to Posadas Barrancas in the heart of Copper Canyon country. The canyon is larger than the Grand Canyon but was not formed in the same way. We got to see how the Tarahumara Indians live and their culture. They have been in this area for centuries.



*San Carlos harbor*



*Ken and Connie Cookson in Copper Canyon*



*Copper Canyon*

We were surprised at the amount of agriculture we saw on the trip. Numerous vineyards, corn, wheat, apples and peaches to name a few but also plenty of desert. We saw many miles of the famous border fence as we came back into the US.

**Rodney M. Alt**: Surprise! I went to the Masters Golf Tournament with my son **Rod** in Augusta, GA in April. My wife **Sally** and I went to two high school graduations for two grandchildren in Colorado and Maryland in May and June. I went to Scotland in July with my son Rod to play golf for 7 days. We went to Colorado in August to watch my grandson Rodeo in the Colorado Junior Rodeo.

## ARKANSAS

**Whitey Spears**, ARCSE Representative

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

Nine retirees and five wives gathered on August 9<sup>th</sup> in North Little Rock for lunch and visiting. It was an enjoyable occasion with a lot of stories, some true. It was especially nice to have the wives present, even though it may have reduced some of the tall tales. As usual, **George Dahlke** and **John Henry** were responsible for getting the group together. Those in

attendance were **Pat and Linda Bass, Tony Stevenson, Bob and Kay Bush, Bert Finch, John Henry, Robert and Dru Cantrell, Jim and Carol Arrington, George and Esta Dahlke, and Whitey Spears.**

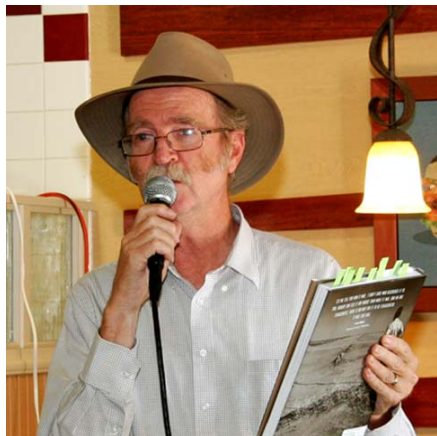
Our 28<sup>th</sup> consecutive annual meeting will happen on September 19<sup>th</sup> at the 4-H center in Ferndale, Arkansas.

## CALIFORNIA

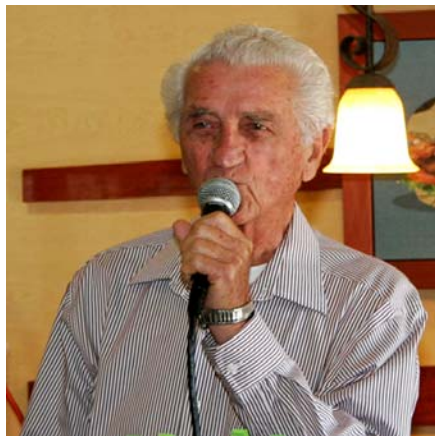
**Bill Ward, ARCSE Representative**

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

Hello from CA to all our fellow SCS and NRCS retirees across the nation. CA retirees have two exciting things to share that occurred in July and August. First, On July 10<sup>th</sup>, 32 CA retirees met for our monthly luncheon with a very special Guest, **Cal Crabill**, one of 26 Dust Bowl survivors who were interviewed in the making of the amazing Dust Bowl Documentary by **Ken Burns** that came out in November of 2012! Cal is a Davis resident and was invited to share with our retirees what it was like for him as a child and his family living in the Dust Bowl area in Colorado almost 80 years ago. It was fascinating for all of us to hear Cal talk about those times that were the impetus for the creation of our agency. We captured Cal's talk on video, and we are very happy to share that talk with our retirees across the country with the following Youtube link:



**Bill Ward introduces Cal Crabill with copy of Ken Burns "The Dust Bowl." Green tags are references shared by Cal used in the documentary.**



**Cal Crabill, Dust Bowl survivor, sharing his experience with CA retirees.**

**Burns** that came out in November of 2012! Cal is a Davis resident and was invited to share with our retirees what it was like for him as a child and his family living in the Dust Bowl area in Colorado almost 80 years ago. It was fascinating for all of us to hear Cal talk about those times that were the impetus for the creation of our agency. We captured Cal's talk on video, and we are very happy to share that talk with our retirees across the country with the following Youtube link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iewjMNOSwgA>.

Following is an excellent link from PBS with more information about Cal:

<http://www.pbs.org/kenburns/dustbowl/bios/calvin-crabill/>

You will notice below that Cal is a music lover and plays trumpet in a 19-piece big band! My opportunity to meet Cal and invite him to speak to our retirees came about as a result of us both being musicians and music lovers. Here are a few pictures from the luncheon.

Our second item to share is an original tribute song, "Our Golden Land," written to mark and celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our agency. It was written by me and my good friend and fiddle player, **Melvin Fong**. We recorded it in August, and I shared it with our National Headquarters, with our blessing to use it or share it as they saw fit. Three days later it was shared by the National Public affairs staff to all 50 states, being included as one of 6 "Daily clips," (news or items of interest) that are distributed to the State Public affairs officers.

**CA NRCS Retiree Sings a Salute to Soil Stewardship** (Youtube): Retired NRCS CA Civil Engineer **Bill Ward** and violinist **Melvin Fong** play "Our Golden Land," their thoughtful tribute to soil stewardship. The final verse: "Hard times our ancestors met, with the wind, what dust, what sorrow; But now we till our soil with wisdom, for all our children's tomorrows; It took years in the making, and tears to understand; What love and time can bring about, will heal this broken land."

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FbCU9J54JFQ>



**"Our Golden Land," written by Melvin Fong on Fiddle and Bill Ward on Guitar.**





**Cal Crabill sitting down with our retirees after his talk as I make a few closing comments.**



**Cal Crabill (far right) at the age of 88 performing with his Big Band in Davis, CA 3 weeks after his talk to our retirees.**

### **"Our Golden Land"**

#### **Verse 1**

We walk on tender soil, a sacred trust we keep  
We sow it day by day and wait to see what we will reap  
The work is never done, but the call is ours to heed  
When we listen to our Golden Land, it can give us what we need

#### **Chorus**

We will tend and heal and work to keep this holy ground far and near

God bless the hands that work to save, the soil, our life blood here  
As we're living in our Golden Land

#### **Verse 2**

For every seed that we plant, a prayer is also sown  
A bless-ed hope for harvest, our dreams become full grown  
But fire, flood, wind and rains, what dangers lie unknown  
O Lord don't wash our dreams away until they become our own

#### **Verse 3**

Hard times our ancestors met, with the wind, what dust, what sorrow  
But now we till our soil with wisdom, for all our children's tomorrows  
It took years in the making, and tears to understand

What love and time can bring about, will heal this broken land

#### **End song lyrics**

In final closing, a quote from Hugh Hammond Bennett: "Take care of the land, and the land will take care of you."

## **FLORIDA**

[idaduth23@comcast.net](mailto:idaduth23@comcast.net)

When Spring comes, **Ida Cuthbertson** hears the call of the Open Road. This year she heads to western Colorado and Utah. On May 1, she hears the weather report: snow storm coming across Colorado. Next morning in Dodge City her car is frozen shut, a rare experience for this full-time Floridian. Only one thing to do--visit Boot Hill. Then on to Montrose via US 50.

Son **Jim and Rebecca** like their Montrose home; Jim says he now enjoys the scenery that 35 years ago he moved to Colorado to see. After a weekend with them Ida drives to Zion for 3 days, then Bryce, finally Arches National Parks. Back to Montrose for Mother's Day. Two days later Ida heads east. South of Texarkana the Interstate is covered with shredded leaves, except for the tire tracks, then covered with hail. The median is filled with golf-ball hail, steaming. Breakfast at Lea's in LeCompte, LA, is ham biscuit and peach pie (with pecan pie to go)!

Then on to Eunice to hear Cajun music. Ida stops at all 3 museums, including the Cajun Music Hall of Fame, then the National Park Service's Jean LaFitte Cultural Center, where Ranger Caroline explains the crawfish lifecycle. Dinner is "Crawfish A-2-fay" as the menu states. Next morning Ida is at Fred's Lounge in Mamau for music and sausage. Back in Eunice, Ida recognizes people from Fred's and the jam session. Ida learns about Bubba's business making 250-300 pounds



**Ida Cuthbertson at Bryce Canyon N.P.**

of sausage daily. He says the crawfish buyers have stopped coming 'round, that the mudbug shells are hardening and their season is about over. He then tells about the problems he had shipping gator tail, wild turkey, guinea hen and a wild pig to the Smithsonian the year he did cooking demos during the Folk Festival on the Mall. I tell him I danced there to the Cajun bands! Today he will play fiddle (by ear), with Caroline on guitar, and men play button box and triangle. The lyrics are French. Then Bubba demonstrates preparing cracklin's and passes samples. Delicious!

Every Saturday night at the Liberty Theater in Eunice there is a radio/TV broadcast by a Cajun band. Soon the steel guitarist brings his father to the seat beside me. He performed many times on this stage, and tonight the band plays at least 5 of his compositions.

Next morning Ida drives to Lafayette for one last delicious meal, and music during lunch. Now it is time to go home. Ida drives the Gulf Coast highway through Biloxi, where she worked to rehab houses after Katrina. The area looks far more prosperous today. The next day is beautiful, but after lunch the storm gathers, Ida wonders if there is a tornado in that pitch black cloud. The sun reappears as she drives into Sarasota, 5,789 miles and 3 weeks after leaving.

## IDAHO

**Sharon Norris, ARCSE Representative**

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After a three-month summer break, Idaho retirees will resume their monthly luncheons on Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>. Visitors are always welcome to join us! We meet the fourth Thursday of each month at the Golden Corral on Emerald Street in Boise.

## ILLINOIS

**Dale Benz, ARCSE Representative**

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The retirees in southwestern Illinois gathered for lunch and reminiscing on July 10<sup>th</sup> in Litchfield. Attending were **Mary Hess, Mook and Helen Allen, Don and Martha Long, John Burns, Lee Bridgman, David and Maribeth Rahe, and John and Patty Paden**. Lots of stories and tales of past work experiences were told and everyone updated the group on their activities and family.

I had a nice visit with **Bill Hartman** recently. He is busy raising cattle and corn on his farm in Pike County.

**Neil Bogner** called recently while traveling through Champaign. I don't know if Neil, as an engineer, was examining the concrete on one of our streets from a close distance or just wanted new glasses or was not used to walking on level land, but he said he had a ride in one of our fine ambulances to one of our fine hospitals in Champaign. Neil, I am glad there were no broken bones!

I am sorry to report the death of **Bill Pohl** on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Bill retired as District Conservationist in Benton in 1986. His wife preceded him in death a year ago. We offer our sympathy to his two daughters, son, and grandchildren.

A reminder of the retiree gathering in Champaign at Ryan's Family Steakhouse on Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>. Doors open at 11:00 am. Hope you can join us for lunch and visiting

## INDIANA

**Harold Thompson, ARCSE Representative**

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We have scheduled two meetings for retirees this fall. **Jane Hardesty**, STC has graciously agreed to meet with Indiana's NRCS/SCS retirees in two locations this year. We will meet on Thursday, August 29, 2013 at the Gasthof Amish Restaurant in Montgomery, IN (Daviess County). We will plan to eat around 11:30 am (Indy time). We will then have a short program with remarks from our State Conservationist. **Earl Terpstra** has offered to show some of his antique tractors at his farm following the program. We will also meet Friday, August 30, 2013 at the Jonathan Byrd Cafeteria in Greenwood. We will eat at 11:30 am (Indy time) followed by a short program with remarks from **Jane Hardesty**. Jane spent several months in the National Office in an acting position. I am sure she can give us the most current "scoop" on current events

## IOWA

**Maralee J. Sarasio, ARCSE Representative**

As I was thinking about Iowa news, it was announced temperatures will reach 96 on Monday, August 26, 99 on Tuesday and 98 Wednesday. Some parts of the state are to exceed 100, with heat indexes from 110 – 112, running into next week. Thank goodness for AC and some wind, even if by the end of the day that is hot, also. Good Old Iowa! We didn't think spring would ever come as April was cool and wet. May 2<sup>nd</sup> rain turned to snow with more rain causing The Tulip Festival at



Pella to be cancelled. Occasionally there have been some near perfect days. The week of June 16<sup>th</sup> for the 57<sup>th</sup> annual Midwest Tour held at Clarion, IA and for the State Fair August 8 – 18. More about the car tour later.

It isn't too early to mark your calendar for our Holiday Party. It will be November 14, 11:00 o'clock at the Iowa Machine Shed in Des Moines. Contact **Volney Smith** ([vsmith@q.com](mailto:vsmith@q.com)) for details. We welcome any of you coming our way to join the party. Just contact Volney. We have a great time with retirees from around the state.

The caption above the pictures in the Sunday paper read, "Celebrating 50 years of Adventure!" Pictures were of **Art and Mary Jane Bryant**, Indianola, in their wedding attire and also wearing outdoor jackets and hats. Congratulations! May 26<sup>th</sup> was the day.

Iowa has lost three of our Senior Conservationists, **Howard Hughes and Lorne Nestrud**. While not on the Senior Conservationist list **Elinor Canwright Diehl** also was in the category.

**Howard M. Hughes** passed away July 10, 2013 at Scottish Rite Park, where he resided, two days prior to his 97<sup>th</sup> birthday. Howard came to Iowa as an Assistant State Conservationist in 1965. Prior to coming to Iowa, he worked in Kansas where he was born and raised. Howard retired in January 1977 and was instrumental in organizing the weekly breakfasts. His wife, **Shirley**, preceded him in death a few years ago.

**Lorne Nestrud** worked as a Soil Scientist at Newton prior to being in the state office. He passed away at Papillion, NE on July 21, 2013. Prior to coming to Iowa in 1967, Lorne worked in South Dakota. He retired with 36 years of service, which would have been around 1982. His wife, **Marjorie**, preceded him in death.

**Elinor Canwright Diehl**, Des Moines, was a secretary for the Planning Staff, retiring in 1982 with 22 years of service. She passed away on March 26, 2013.

For those of you who may remember **Robert Lee Warren**, I received a notice from the Ohio State Office. He lived in McConneville, OH, and passed away on July 10 2013 at the age 102.

**Roger and Donita Link** visited their daughter and family in Bryant, AR early in August. Roger said Arkansas was green compared to their visit at Christmas when there was 7 – 9 inches of snow on the ground Christmas Day. Recently they were in Elkader. While there they visited with **Ron Kuehl** and his wife **Mary**, who have retired and moved back to Elkader, which is Ron's hometown. Ron was a Soil Scientist in Northeast Iowa prior to serving as Assistant State Soil Scientist and then State Soil Scientist in Des Moines. He left Iowa SCS in 1990 and moved to Florida where he worked as a Soil Consultant and established his own consulting business. Ron and Mary established and now operate the Treats on Bridge Street Bistro near main street Elkader. Lunch, gourmet coffees, ice cream, and more are featured. Stop in and say hi if you're in the area.

**Rosie and Bob Gaudette** reported having a good winter in Myrtle Beach. Plans are to continue going as long as they can.

**Deane Glenn and Margaret Hemphill** are still volunteering at information booths at the State Fair. It's a great place to interact with people.

Last Wednesday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, **Bob Mettetal** of Leeds, AL paid a surprise visit at breakfast. Bob retired from the Design Section some years ago and then he and **Nancy** moved to Alabama where their daughter, **Jodie** lived. They were back here for a few days and it was good to see them. Bob, **Dennis Peterson** and I are the ones of the breakfast bunch who were SCSers in the late 50s and early 60s. The rest of the breakfast bunch came to the State Office later. Bob and Dennis were SCSers from beginning to end. I was there for a while, stayed home for 14 years and then came back. Bob retired about 1990, Dennis in 1994, and myself in 1995.

I haven't heard for sure, but I suspect **Duane Miller** probably drove the banana mobile along the Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI) route in July. It passed through the central part of the state this year, including Des Moines. Duane is part of a group that hands out bananas and water to the riders.

**Jack and I** participated in the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Tour (antique car tour) held in Clarion, Iowa. We had people from ND, NE, MN and IA. The tour was from June 16 – 20. On Monday the group drove to Fort Dodge, touring the reconstructed fort. After lunch we went to the Born Free Motorhome Factory in Humboldt. They showed us how they make the fiberglass body molds, build the frames and assemble the motorhomes. Tuesday we went to Mason City via Clear Lake. Our first stop was at a private collection of gas and oil memorabilia and some very old unusual trucks. The gas and oil collections were set up by companies; i.e., Texaco, Standard, Gulf. Absolutely outstanding! After lunch we went to downtown Mason City to the Music Man Square Area. Meredith Wilson of the Music Man movie was from Mason City. We toured his home and then the Square which is a creation of scenes from the movie. At the art museum nearby is a large collection of puppets from the "Sound of Music." The puppeteer was from Mason City. Wednesday we went to West Bend to the Grotto of Redemption, the largest Grotto in the world, an impressive creation. Father Dobberstein began its construction in 1912, laboring winter and summer for 42 years until his death in 1954. Others completed the Grotto which is a composite of nine separate Grottos, each portraying a scene in the Life of Christ. It was built by setting ornamental rocks and gems in concrete. The Grotto is listed on the National Register of Historic places. From West Bend we went to Algona to the Camp Algona POW Museum. During WWII, Algona was the site of a main camp for 10,000 German Prisoners from April 1944 to February 1946. The Museum features artifacts and information relating to the American military personnel and German prisoners brought

together by the war. During the encampment, the prisoners carved a Nativity Scene to a scale of half-size using concrete on frames of wood and wire with a top coat of plaster that allowed detailed carving. There are sixty figures. It is beautiful. From there we traveled to Britt to the Hobo Museum. Artifacts there are from Hobos and their families. Every year there is a big Hobo convention in the town, and Hobos come from everywhere. There is even a Hobo cemetery in town. Thursday we stayed in the Clarion area. The Heartland Museum has a large collection of farm machinery and farm toys. There was a lady from Clarion who used to give talks and tell stories about her hat collection. One area is devoted to her. There is a big teddy bear collection also. Another fact about Clarion, it is the home of the 4-H symbol. In the afternoon we went to Williams to an antique car collection. That evening was our banquet and the end of another great Midwest Tour.

## KANSAS

**Deanne Lull, ARCSE Representative**

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

After being so dry the last couple of years, KS is now getting too much of a good thing. In the first nine days of August, the state climatologist reported that across the state 144 daily precipitation records were broken. There is a lot of flooding occurring and, as our paper printed, "The ground is so saturated right now you can pour out a thimble and cause a flood." KS is experiencing an unusually wet and cool summer; however, this weather makes it crazy with mosquitoes.

The Annual Meeting of the KS SCS/NRCS Retirees Association was held June 28, 2013, at Martinelli's Little Italy in Salina, KS. We gathered mid-afternoon to visit and reminiscence. Attending were, **Nova Atwood, Don Cooper, Arlie and Dorothy Cox, Duane Evans, Bob and Dorothy Gerdes, Jean Hamilton, Robert Higgins, George and Charlene Jorgensen, Gerald and Charlene Karnes, Gary and Annette Kelley, Jim and Peggy Krueger, Deanne and Ron Lull, John and Linda Ourada, Loren and Darlene Pearson, Bernie Owen, John Reh, Bill and De Roth, Eldon and Betty Schwant, Baron Shively, Bobby and Glennis Trecek, and Lawrence and Phyllis Wetter. Malcom Strom** had made reservations to attend; however, he totaled his vehicle the evening before in the aftermath of a storm. He escaped injury.

Retiree **Jim Krueger** took time out from the wheat harvest to present the program. He compared working in the field office today with all of its technology, to the work unit office of yesteryear. He also briefly summarized the current farm programs. A memorial service was held for those deceased during the past year. **Deanne Lull** highlighted becoming an ARSCE senior conservationist and requested that she be notified of any retiree's death. Before adjourning, there was a short business meeting.

**Ruby McBee**, widow of **Charles McBee**, has received confirmation that after 60 years, her daughter's grave in Afghanistan has not been disturbed by the war in that country. She had to leave her daughter's grave behind when she and her husband left that country in 1955. Their 10-year old daughter, **Marilyn**, had died abruptly in 1954 from polio that attacked the base of the brain. She was buried at Menzel Bagh, as the couple was unable to leave the country with her remains. For nearly six decades **Ruby** has wondered if the grave was still there. "Hearing that it is still there felt good," she said.

From the KS State Office, **Lyle D. Frees**, State Agronomist/Water Quality Specialist, retired on June 30, 2013. He had 36 years of federal service. **Carman Guries**, Voucher Examiner in Financial Management, retired July 27, 2013. **Garman** started her career in 1997 with the National Resources Inventory. From the Goodland, KS, Field Office, **Fred Wedel**, District Conservationist, retired on July 31, 2013. He started his career as a WAE in 1979, converted to full time in 1987 in Colorado, and in 2000 moved to Goodland, KS, serving 13 years as the district conservationist.

**Ermal and Anita Nelson** of Lindsborg, KS, celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on June 24, 2013. They have one son, two daughters, and five grandchildren. **Ermal** farmed in the Falun and Lindsborg areas most of his life. **Anita** was employed by the Corps of Engineers, McGuire AFB in New Jersey, Smoky Hill AFB in Salina and ended her career with the Soil Conservation Service in the KS State Office.

## KENTUCKY

**Billye M. Haslett, ARCSE Representative**

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

**Billye Haslett** and **Connie McKinney** visited **Ray Barker**, retired SCT on 8-15-13, to see his rose garden. The photo of Ray and Connie was taken in the rose garden Ray planted and has tended for over 30 years. Ray lives on his family's farm in Elliott County, near Olive Hill, KY where he was born. He built his home in 1938 and has lived there ever since. He and his wife raised 7 children. **Mrs. Barker** passed away in 2005. Ray freely shares his roses with family and friends. Ray treated Billye and Connie to lunch at a local restaurant that Ray describes as the perfect place to loaf. The waitress and cashier both gave Ray a hug! Ray then provided his guests with a tour of beautiful Elliott County. It was a great day to spend in Kentucky. Ray worked in the Sandy Hook, KY field office in Elliott County, retiring in 1994. Ray is 82 years young.





**Ray Barker, retired SCT; and Connie McKinney, retired CO. The photo was taken by Billye Haslett on 8-15-13**



**Ray Barker in same rose garden, circa 1973.**

**Dwain Abell**, retired CET, is hoping to attend the next annual meeting. He is normally in Key West, FL, from early November to mid-March staying in a travel trailer on the Navy base.

**Ray Barker**, retired SCT, is doing great after two hip operations, heart surgery last year and two cancer operations. He just bought a new blue GMC 4WD pickup truck. Ray has been growing roses for over 30 years. He lives on a farm in Elliott County, near Olive Hill, KY.

**Wilson Boggs**, retired SCT, is a Jackson County Conservation District Supervisor and now is 87 years young. **John Brown Jr.**, retired DC, spends winters in FL.

**Bill Casey**, retired State Biologist, is doing well and would come to meetings if he had transportation.

**Steve Christensen**: It has been 18 years since I retired from SCS. Time really does fly. I was the Assistant SAO for part of my time in Lexington and then was asked to head up Information Resource Management (IRM). I left in 1995 on a buyout. I started a career selling and buying real estate. I started my own firm in 2011, named Calumet Realty. We now have 18 rental properties of our own and manage 10 properties for others. Our web site is [www.CalumetRealty.net](http://www.CalumetRealty.net) if you want to check it out.

**Andrea Cora** retired from Budget and Finance, SO, in 1997. Andrea is doing well and would love to tell you about her grandchildren.

**Jeff Craggs**, retired engineer, spends his retirement time hunting, fishing and sleeping.

**Lawrence Eastham**, retired SCT, winters in Florida, is active with the Nelson County Conservation District and is a current board member. He enjoys getting emails, newsletters and updates.

**Harry Evans**, retired Soil Scientist: I'm enjoying retirement greatly, although I'm busier than I thought I would be. I do a lot of work with the Pulaski County Humane Society, working at the Spay and Neuter clinics, Adoption Days, transporting dogs and other assorted jobs. I just completed training to volunteer with Lake Cumberland Hospice in their Pet Peace of Mind Program. Also, I am an occasional Earth Team Volunteer. There seems to be plenty of work around as long as you don't expect to get paid for it.

**James (Booster) Flowers**, retired SCT, is 97 years old and is living in Bowling Green, KY, according to **Tom Marcum**, retired SRC. Tom says he learned a lot about surveying and design from Booster.

**Ron Froedge**, retired DC: During the past year I completed a 30-foot by 40-foot workshop and storage building—now I can finally park our vehicles in our garage. Since I retired, I have built 4 cedar chests: one for each of our kids and one for a friend's son and daughter-in-law. My next building project will be a solid oak dining table that will seat 8. I will use 11-inch wide oak boards, but they need about 6 months of additional curing before I start the project. In my spare time, I enjoy launching my boat and fishing on Kentucky Lake, which is only 14 miles from our home. My wife **Carol** and I have also had the opportunity to spend more time with our grandchildren since we retired. After taking care of two of our grandchildren for the past two weeks, and keeping them entertained, we both need additional rest! So far retirement has been good!

**Bea Hamilton**, former area clerk, is 96 years old. She had a conversation with **Tom Marcum**, retired SRC. Tom says he hopes his memory is as good as Bea's when he's 96.

**Billy Hartsell**, State Engineer, retired January 3, 2013. A retirement celebration was held at the Lexington Green in early February 2013. Billy was joined by family, friends and co-workers. **David Neely**, former KY Engineer, now working in Florida, joined the festivities. Everyone in attendance had a great time. **Billy and Barbara** even sang a song at the end of the program. Several retirees were in attendance: **Beecher Hines, Cassie Pyle, Connie McKinney, Billye Haslett, and David Stipes**.

**Billye Haslett**, retired SAO: My husband **Carl** and I traveled to Catalina Island, CA, to celebrate Carl's daughter **Lisa's** birthday. Lisa and her husband **Tom**, live in Orange, CA. Catalina is the only inhabited island off the coast of California. It's a unique environment, complete with several hundred buffalo, which got their start from a movie filmed there in the 50s. The island was owned by the Wrigleys, as in Wrigley chewing gum. When the movie was over, the Wrigleys agreed to keep the buffalo. Now extensive management is done to maintain the herd at around 300. The family set aside most of the island under the management of a conservancy group, which has maintained its unique landscape, flora and fauna. We toured the island in a Humvee.

**Rodney Hendrickson**, retired RC&D Coordinator: I didn't do very well staying retired. I accepted the position of Executive Director of the London-Laurel County Tourist Commission on my second day of retirement. When not at work I can usually be found on long-distance bicycle rides with his wife **Alice**. We traveled by bicycle across the state of New York (500 miles) in late July of this year.

**Rodney Heilman**, retired RC, moved to Louisville in June to be closer to his daughter. They are enjoying their new patio home and trying to adjust. His health is good and life is good.

**Gerald Hart**, retired Area Conservationist, had a 38-year career with SCS, and is 78 years young. Gerald is growing vegetables on 20 acres of land and managing 12 greenhouses to produce and market vegetables on his 135-acre farm. He has four heated greenhouses plus eight high tunnel greenhouses, which are unheated but help to extend his growing season in the spring a fall. The Hart vegetables are marketed in a roadside stand adjacent to the farm.

**Don Henry**, retired Plant Material Specialist: I attended school from 1935-1940 at Benham, KY in Harlan County. The school was built in the late 1920s and is still in good shape. The school was made into a bed and breakfast, The Benjamin School House Inn, some few years ago. I've stayed there several times since the school was converted to a Bed and Breakfast. If you want a place to stay that's quiet and peaceful, I suggest you try this place.

**Earl Johnson**, Retired DC: I retired June 3, 2013, exactly 34 years on my original hire date. I have two daughters. One will be a senior in college, studying foreign language and international studies. The younger will be a freshman in college interested in business and psychology, working toward a law degree. After losing my wife of almost 28 years to breast cancer, I recently married **Kim White** (now Johnson) and am planning to move back to Mt. Sterling, KY.

**Tom Marcum** retired SRC: This has been an exciting yet busy year for me. My wife **Judy** and I traveled to California in November and stayed in Angels Camp (Calaveras County, home of the jumping frog contest). We had Thanksgiving dinner there and explored wine-tasting towns nearby and Big Trees State Park. We also drove over for a second visit to Yosemite National Park, and it was great, although some of the mountain roads were closed due to snow cover. We then went to San Francisco, ate lunch overlooking San Quentin and drove across the Golden Gate Bridge. I wasn't impressed with the bridge after driving across the Mackinac Bridge into the upper peninsula of Michigan. We drove through Napa Valley and stayed our last night there but didn't have much time to see either the valley or San Francisco, but we plan to go back to stay at least a week.

In January we spent a week in Treasure Island, FL and stayed with **David Neely**, Florida engineer (former KY engineer) and his wife **Susan**, a few nights on the front end and back end of the trip. We ate seafood every day except for breakfast. We enjoyed fresh strawberries for breakfast. It was an enjoyable week. The highlight of my year was the birth of our first grandson February 22, 2013. He's definitely a Marcum (a cutie) and we are very proud of him. I have plenty of pictures of him! Our problem is they live 30 miles south of Nashville and we don't get to see him as often as we would like.

**Connie McKinney**, retired Contracting Officer: I've been in travel mode this summer. In addition to my weekly visits to my mother in Falmouth, KY, in July I traveled to San Francisco for a few days with a friend, to the beach in Topsail Island, NC, with family and to Madison, IN, for a girlfriend weekend. When I am not traveling I work in my flower garden, work in the



church office and act as a volunteer coordinator for the nursery there. I have had to curtail my Zumba activities because of a slipped disk but hope to return to it soon.

**John Newton**, retired Assistant State Soil Scientist, is doing well and would like to attend annual meetings if he had transportation.

**Hershel Reed**, DC, retired from SCS service in 1985. Hershel is 86 years young. He says he's in general good health but doesn't do much distant driving.

**Gary Smith**, retired CET has settled in Arkansas near his son.

**Roy Toney**, retired DC and President of the SCS/NRCS Retiree association, is coordinating our KY annual meeting 7-8 October at the Barren River State Park, located near Glasgow, KY. The SCS/NRCS retirees staying overnight on the 7<sup>th</sup> will attend a hot dog roast and enjoy fellowship at a park shelter the evening before the meeting. The meeting will be held in the lodge on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Charles Turner**: I retired from NRCS in May 2011 with 40.3 years of service. I was the RC&D Coordinator for the nine-county Pennyryle Area in Hopkinsville, KY from 1983 to 2011. Now I volunteer for the Pennyryle RC&D Council in carrying out various projects and events including: constructing walking trails throughout the area; Naturefest in Hopkinsville, where over 1300 people participate; take kids fishing at Cadiz, Dawson, Greenville, and Hopkinsville with over 1500 kids participating and a similar number of adults; and Christmas at the Bend, etc. I am also serving on various boards and committees including the Hopkinsville Water Environment Authority, Superintendent Advisory Council, Christian County Board of Health, Jeffers Bend Steering Committee, Caldwell County /Dawson Springs Planning Committee, Hopkinsville Residential Enterprise Zone Committee, and the Salvation Army Advisory Board.

In Memory: **Carl Hail** retired Soil Scientist, passed away June 4, 2013. Carl is survived by his wife Catherine. **Harold Jolly**, retired economist was living in Byrdtown, TN. Harold passed away December 2, 2011, according to his wife. **Sam Vanover**, Retired DC, passed away January 16, 2013.

## MASSACHUSETTS

**Jim Wesolowski**, ARCSE Representative

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Not much excitement to report on from the conservation retiree community in Massachusetts. It's less than a week 'til the Three County Fair in Northampton over the Labor Day weekend. Then it's time for the Big E. with NRCS employees staffing the USDA booth and feasting on baked potatoes, fried butter, and who knows what else. We're losing nearly three minutes of daylight every day, so the eight-month long winter can't be far off.

July was a traumatic month for me when I hit 70. Seventy has always seemed old to me. But 70 isn't really old is it? Yeah, it is. I'm officially old. Next comes elderly, if I'm lucky.

A small group of NRCS retirees gathered in June at the Route 9 Diner in Hadley to talk about the old days and give thanks for that federal direct deposit that still happens just like clockwork. I seem to remember the participants as **John Kick** (ASTC), **Mark Zinan** (SAO), **Dennis Verdi** (CE), **Claudette Placzek** (Budget), **Steve Fischer** (SS) and **Dave Nelson** (ASCE) and me. Rumor had it that **Rudy Chlanda** (Geologist) is gainfully employed in the garden shop at the Home Depot in Greenfield.

Oh, yeah, retiree news! **Len Reno**, District Conservationist in West Wareham, decided to close out his career on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Len was recruited out of Vermont by **Dick Gallo**, another Vermont transplant to Mass. Len was a true expert in conservation for cranberry bogs and participated in an official trip to the Ukraine to offer advice to farmers there. I remember his stories of the large quantities of vodka that were consumed during his visit.

Massachusetts voters approved medical-marihuana dispensaries, and hundreds of applicants have filed for the limited number of slots in each county. They're also accepting applications from growers, and Deerfield is the local hot spot. The Selectmen have come out in favor of pot replacing pickles as a major crop. Not sure if NRCS will help farmers develop conservation plans but who knows? The only downside I can see is that growing, selling, and even possessing pot still seems to be a federal offense.



**Clockwise from top-left: Dave Nelson, Dennis Verdi, Steve Fischer, Claudette Placzek, Mark Zinan, John Kick**

Speaking of slots, the state will be granting three casino licenses in Mass with one slated for western Mass. So far MGM has plans for the south end of Springfield, Hard Rock at the Big E in West Springfield, and Mohegan Sun near the Turnpike exit in Palmer. What this has to do with conservation retirees I don't know, but it will shorten that 80-minute bus ride to get my fix of gambling.

## MINNESOTA

**Marlene Mechelke, ARCSE Representative**

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Some Minnesota Metro retirees met for lunch on Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at Pippins in Roseville: **Dave and Kay Breitbach, John Handler, Bud Finney, Al Giencke, Margy and Micki Gangl and Marlene Mechelke**. Not a big bunch, but lots of big discussions.

After 37+ years of SCS/NRCS service, **Glen Kajewski** decided to hang up his conservation boots. He has some great memories: "I started in Crookston as a GS-7 Soil Conservationist-10/12/1975, starting salary \$11,046 a year. I came in after a 'great one' had completed his training-**Al Gustafson**. Rented a spot in **Doug Christianson's** trailer for a few months before he got smart and kicked my butt out. Worked with some great counterparts through the years and great FO and SO folks and have been truly blessed and enjoyed my job and career immensely!"

I (Marlene) was fortunate one time to meet and hear **Hugh Bennett** speak at an SCS conference in St. Cloud. Bennett was the erosion control crusader during the dust bowl days who talked **President Franklin Roosevelt** and Congress into starting the U.S. Soil Erosion Service. Controlling wind and water erosion is an ongoing project. Water still runs downhill.

We stayed at an excellent bed and breakfast place at Reed's Landing near Wabasha on our way home. Across Lake Pepin from this place a huge dredging project was going on. Our host said the Chippewa River comes into the Mississippi River at that spot and dumps soil and sand into the river. It has to be dredged out every year to maintain the channel for shipping. That sounds like another critical upstream problem that should be taken care of. We headed for home on Highway 60 between Wabasha and Faribault. If you want to see some excellent water erosion controlled dairy farms using terrace and contour strips, take a drive along that road someday.



**Sign along the highway near Coon Valley, Nation's First Watershed Project**

**Russ Jongewaard**, Little Falls, MN, had an interesting trip in July through SE Minnesota, including stops in Coon Valley, Wisconsin near LaCrosse. My wife, **Kathryn**, comes from St. Charles, so our first objective was to visit 4 of her cousins in that area. One of her uncles, **Charley Taylor**, was a farmer deeply involved with soil and water conservation in the early years in the White River Watershed. My first training with SCS was in the fall of 1947 at the LaCrosse Ag. Experiment Station. I had never been in the Coon Valley Watershed project so was interested in seeing the area. This was the first watershed demonstration project in the USA.

My first State Conservationist was **Herb Flueck** who was the farm planner at Coon Valley. Others that I know and worked with who were also in on Coon Valley were **Bill Sillman, Grant Karlstad** and **Mel Cohee**. **Al Laidlaw** was the forester for the project. The Coon Creek or Coon Valley Watershed was started in 1933. The CCC camps were also started then and provided labor for Coon Creek. I signed up for the CCCs in June, 1936, and our outfit shipped from Fort Snelling to Moran State Park on Orcas Island in Puget Sound, 20 miles out of Bellingham, Washington. I worked on a survey party, which later came in handy with 4 years with the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion SeaBees in the Pacific theater and also later with the U. S. Soil Conservation Service.

Back to Coon Valley: We had a self-guided tour we got off the internet, but we couldn't find the starting point, so we roamed around, criss-crossed the area and saw some original contour strips, which seemed rather narrow and on pretty steep slopes. The higher slopes and ridges are now heavily wooded.

**Charlene Harms**, retired Area Clerk/Administrative Assistant, Duluth, MN and hubby, **Rich**, have purchased a new Lance travel trailer and are hitting the road, headed to the Canadian Atlantic Provinces (Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, Labrador) for however long they want to be gone. Isn't it wonderful to be retired and free! Accompanying them will be their new English Pointer. She's high strung and drives Char nuts! (Rich will have to be in charge of her). In October they will be taking



**Dairy Farm about halfway between Wabasha and Faribault, MN**

a river cruise from Vienna, Austria to Amsterdam for 13 days-the Danube, Rhine and Main Rivers-right through the heart of Germany. Accommodations will be quite luxurious on the River Duchess with a French balcony, so if Rich doesn't want to walk that day, he can stay on board and watch the local folks doing their thing. We'll be excited to hear the details of that trip when they get back.

## MISSOURI

**Dave Rastorfer, ARCSE Representative**

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The Columbia area retirees had their quarterly breakfast at the Country Kitchen in Columbia on August 14<sup>th</sup>. Those attending were: **Neil and Louise Randall, Virgil and Joy Gardner, Ed and Judy Smith, Jerry McElhiney, Frank Miller, Cordes Potter, Richard and Marjorie Koenig, John and Carol McCarthy, John Turner, Mike Wells, Bill Pauls and Dave Rastorfer.** The next quarterly breakfast will be on November 13, 2013.

**Ross Braun:** Motivated by an opportunity to return to work done in my early SCS career, I made a two-week trip to Yantalo, Peru. Farmers in the Yantalo community would like help to increase production and address natural resource concerns. Through the Yantalo Foundation, [www.yantalo.org](http://www.yantalo.org), I visited with farmers raising coffee, cacao, rice, bamboo, oranges, manioc yucca, and plantain. Yantalo is in a cloud forest about 3,000 feet above the Amazon basin. I am putting together a team to help the Yantalo farmers. If you, or someone you know, is conversant in Spanish and has expertise in soil fertility, pest management, soil erosion, or water quality, please contact me, [rbbraun48@yahoo.com](mailto:rbbraun48@yahoo.com). I also met with folks at the Yantalo Clinic to talk about Personal Energy Transportation (PET) for people with ambulatory disabilities. Several NRCS retirees work with PET and provided information that I presented to medical staff. Check out <http://petinternational.org/>. In an effort to do a better job as a volunteer teacher-naturalist at a nature reserve, I completed the Certified Interpretive Guide course conducted by the Missouri Dept. of Conservation for the National Interpreters Association, <http://www.interpnet.com/>. This course could be useful for anyone working to educate people about natural resources and motivate them to action. That's it for now. Going to take Junior Science Academy students on a night hike and then watch the Perseid meteor shower. For those who know me, my mules Jake and Scooter are doing fine and enjoying semi-retirement while I spend time on other interests.

**Peggy Fricke:** After a relatively quiet winter and spring it has been a summer filled with grandkids: ball games, swim lessons, church camps, water parks/pools, scavenger hunts and more. We've visited historical sites, wandered around through antique/junk shops and other various adventures. And, of course the State Fair. There were quieter times swinging in the back yard, watching movies and eating popcorn and fudge bars. In between, we managed some gatherings with various relatives and friends and attended my 44<sup>th</sup> High school Class Reunion, the first one of my reunions I'd been to. Amazing how much we all changed but how great to see everyone! Now if the rain and the Gasconade will cooperate we'll end our summer with our annual family float. Rains put almost five feet of water from the Gasconade in my daughter/son-in-laws basement and covered the corn between the house and river. Had to canoe from the house to their vehicles parked on the higher end of the lane. Still cleaning up that mess but blessed that it wasn't any worse and everyone is OK. Wish everyone a great fall and mild winter.

**Lane Thurman:** We haven't had a recent meeting of our Springfield group of retirees since last month, so no news from that group for now. But **Nancy and I** will be leaving on a long RV trip on Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> and will be gone for about three weeks or so. We are heading up into South Dakota to the Black Hills, Custer State Park and the surrounding area, then into Sheridan, Wyoming to follow the battles of Custer and his last stand at the Little Big Horn battlefield. Then on into Yellowstone for a few days to see the sights there. Wish you were going to be along to help pay for the fuel we are going to use. This trip wouldn't be so bad except for paying for the diesel we will burn. You can't take it with you though, so have fun spending it while you are here, and that is what we are doing.

**Jimbo Sturm:** Well, Jimbo has had to mow lawns dang near in the dark, to find a little coolness these days. Good thing, he has 2 fans mounted on his Johnny Deer, one behind and in front of the operator's seat. Otherwise, he has been busy helping his favorite carpenters with metal roof replacement construction. His job has been about 2 things to do: sit under the shade tree and keep quiet or go fetch more materials for the job. Hopefully, the next 2 jobs won't require much in the fetching department as the last job (420 miles). He can't wait till the fall frost comes as the ragweed is bothering a bit these summer days. He tried his luck at some fishing the other day, but didn't catch nothin'.

**Dennis Shirk:** As most of you already know, the Gasconade and Maries rivers had a repeat of the "93" flood with the same devastating results. Much loss of income, much extra work clearing debris, repairing fence, finding cattle, etc. We spent two weeks camping in Boone County at our daughter's place taking care of the animals. They enjoyed a brief vacation and a week at church camp. I got the chore of butchering chickens. I hadn't done that in about 50 years. I quickly learned the process hadn't changed much. We will be doing some camping in Sept. and Oct. You all have a good safe journey and I'll see you down the trail.

**Mike Blaine:** The highlight of the summer for the Blaines has been our annual South Carolina trip where we gather all our kids and grandkids for a week on the beach. We went to Harbor Island this year. It is far less commercialized than Hilton Head and includes a state park that takes up much of the island. We had a great week with family. The time passed much too quickly. Coming events include an August church trip to see the Creation Science Museum in KY. The summer is going by all too fast. I have accomplished little on the farm this summer. I guess it will be there when I can get to it! Best wishes to all.



**Rob Cheshier:** Everything is pretty good at the **Cheshier** house. On August 16<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate our 38<sup>th</sup> anniversary. My, how time flies! Don't know how **Debra** has put up with me all those years, but I guess we are doing something right. **Debra** is still working for the Audrain County prosecuting attorney's office as a crime victim advocate. She is not quite ready to retire yet. I am still retired and plan to stay that way. As our anniversary gift, **Debra and I** will be leaving the end of August on a road trip to VA. Neither of us has been there. We will drive to Fancy Gap, VA, take the Blue Ridge Parkway northward to the Shenandoah Valley and then on north to Front Royal, VA. Then we will head into WV. We plan to visit Blacksburg, Roanoke, Lynchburg, Appomattox, Lexington, Charlottesville, the Luray Caverns (largest in the eastern U.S.), Harper's Ferry, and then head home. Lots to see so we should keep busy. I have been to 37 states in my 66+ years and will add VA, WV, MD, and PA on this trip. As a geologist I am very excited about this adventure as the Appalachian Range contains some of the oldest rock formations in the nation, and many folks have told me it is a beautiful and very scenic drive.

**Forrest Tindall:** Well it's been a busy year. Son **Bruce** decided to help an old school friend by buying wrecked motorcycles for him to repair and they would split the profit. First step was to convert the paint booth in my barn to a shop. Then the friend just disappeared so we ended up with 5 motorcycles to fix and **Bruce** was due to return to Iraq. We fixed 2 and I hauled 3 to my brother in N.M. to fix while I went on to CA to race my vintage race car. I ran 2 events then flew home to try and keep grass and weeds from taking over the place. Flew back to CA in June, ran 2 more events and then back home picking up 2 repaired bikes on the way. I bought a big ZTR mower and boy is it fast. I think I may just win the war on weeds!

**Jay Lingwall:** **Leigh** and I just returned from a five-week 7,600 mile trip to ID, MT, UT, and CO. We drove many Jeep trails (some we should not have), visited historic sites and small towns, hiked up to high lakes for fishing, and for a week traveled with five other Jeeps. Those high altitudes take some adjusting to, and 12,000-ft.+ Jeep trails can be somewhat daunting. We had some great camping locations and met several interesting travelers. The Rubicon Jeep Wrangler still has more capability than we have "pucker," but we are closing the gap considerably. I still have not found the person responsible for mowing the yard while we were gone but what a relief that was. Now that we are home, getting back into running shape is on the list. **Leigh** is working on doing 10Ks now and she is dragging me along.

**News from ex Missouri retirees:** (From TX) **Jim Rickman:** We have been traveling a lot. Since Russia we went to Ecuador and Galapagos Islands, China, and just got back from Europe on vacation with the grand kids. We are going to Burma in Nov. and next year on a safari in Africa. My grandson and I continue to go to the farm and battle Mesquite with a bulldozer. We get to our cabin in north Arkansas about once a month and caught some nice trout last trip. I would really like to attend the annual Missouri luncheon to see old friends, but we will be in New Mexico--maybe next year. I love retirement!

(From Oklahoma) **Jess Epple:** What a contrast our summer has been compared to 2011 and 2012! We have had only 2 days that reached 100 degrees and our rains have come perfect. We finished our spring haying in early July with more hay than I expected. It's amazing to see what a few well-placed rains will do for Bermuda grass! My Father was a historian and published several books about Civil War Battles fought in Indian Territory (present day Oklahoma). The "Battle of Honey Springs" located just west of our ranch was the largest battle, and this year on July 17<sup>th</sup> it celebrated its 150-year anniversary. The Friends of Honey Springs are expecting it to achieve National Park Service status within the near future. We have already received National Historic Landmark distinction. I encourage any of you retirees traveling through this part of Oklahoma to visit the Battlefield site located north of Checotah on US 69 Hwy. You could also come by, and we will show you our grazing set-up, all done according to NRCS specs, of course!

## MONTANA

**Dick Gooby, ARCSE Representative**

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### Montana Big Sky Report

**Jim Johnson's Report:** **Joan** and I were at the August Breakfast. There were 14 in attendance. That's a real good turnout for this time of year. Most Montana NRCS retirees are out picking berries or catching fish for winter.

**Scott and Nancy Hoag Report:** **Scott and Nancy** spent the summer in Bozeman, where they hosted 20 Habitat for Humanity RV Care-a-Vanners on behalf of Gallatin HfH. The group was instrumental in completing a totally passive solar HfH house in Belgrade. The new family moved in June. Meanwhile, there were visits from our daughter and youngest granddaughter, along with our granddaughter's best friend. In 3 days they'd anticipated seeing all of Montana, but the "tour guides" were only able to show them Bozeman and Virginia City and some antelope, etc. Now **Scott and Nancy** are making plans and loading up their RV again in order to go back on the road to build with HfH in Las Cruces. Then it's on to Yuma to spend part of the winter catching up with both Stateside and Canadian friends before heading back to Las Cruces for more building and to Jackson Hole for some of the same.

**Gooby Ranch Report:** A few days ago we had a vicious wind storm that came through our area. It was very spotty and just missed us, but it really got a neighbor a little ways down the road. The wind blew so hard it blew two quarter mile long irrigation wheel lines over the fence and across the county road. He had just cut his hay and the hay blew off the field and into the road right-away. What a mess! There is so much hay on the road it had the traffic blocked off.

The wind hit town and blew the roof off buildings and hundreds of trees blew over. In order to do our part to volunteer with the clean-up, I laid out a plan on how we could be the best help. I talked to the farmer whose hay blew into the road. Since he doesn't have any cattle around here until winter, I suggested we save him a lot of work and expense by grazing our cows on the road to clean up the mess and we would charge him. **Mary Ann** herds the cows down every day and lets them graze to clean up the hay. While the cows are grazing, she heads to town and cut a Stock trailer load of fire wood to help with the clean-up in town. If she can get three or four more loads we won't have to cut any wood this fall when we go hunting. That will be a big help. Instead of Mary Ann having to cut wood, she will be able to carry my gun and backpack while we are hunting. That way I can have total focus on sneaking up on an elk. Plus I can put in a little for food and water in the pack since I don't have to worry about the extra weight.

The cows grazing on the road are really saving on our pastures and lawn. The farmer that lost the hay is not too happy. But he will be happy that we are willing to sell him enough hay to make up for the hay he lost on the road and that we are not charging him the extra work Mary Ann is putting in taking the cows down to graze on the road hay every day.

If you do prior proper planning like NRCS taught us in Management Level 2, it becomes a win-win for all the parties. I'm planning on selling the hay to him before Christmas, then I can allocate a little of the money we get for the hay to Mary Ann so she can buy me a Christmas present.

## NEBRASKA

**Norman and Sylvia Kempf, ARCSE Representatives**

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The July meeting was called to order with 20 people in attendance. **Donna Dornbusch, Clinton Johnson and Pete Jensen's wife Doris** all are celebrating birthdays this month.

**Norm and Linda Helzer** went to Vancouver to the International Kiwanis meeting and managed to do the usual Vancouver sightseeing while there. **Bill and Colleen Hance** traveled to Florence, AL for a prison ministry convention. Along the way they made stops in Salem, MO where Bill had worked, Memphis, TN (with a visit to Graceland), and visited Civil War battle sites at Shiloh and Corinth, MS. **Clint Johnson, Tom Keep, and Norman Kempf** attended the US Senior Golf Tournament in Omaha and were thrilled to see some of the "old-timers" play. **JoAnne Thiele** was in Boston for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. The highlight of the visit was seeing "Old Ironsides" go out for her mandatory annual run of 1 mile out and 1 mile back in order to retain her commission in the U.S. Navy.

Wedding Anniversary Celebration: **Steve and Jan** continued to celebrate their anniversary, this time with family in Gatlinburg, TN. Steve tried out a zip-line and a race go-cart. Steve thinks maybe he is jinxed for travel since they had a second flat on the RV on the way to Tennessee.

The August Meeting was called to order by Vice President **Gus Dornbusch** with 22 members present. **Norm Kempf**, Regional Vice-President for ARCSE, presented the **ARCSE President's Award for Outstanding Community Service to August (Gus) Dornbusch**. Gus has been very active in the Team Mates program, Kiwanis, St. Marks Methodist Church and other community activities. Norman also reported that **Mike Kuck**, State Representative for South Dakota, received the **ARCSE President's 2013 Award for Meritorious Service** in promoting retiree activities in SD. **Pete Jensen** called to our attention that August was the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the agency, first called the Soil Erosion Service, then Soil Conservation Service and now, the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

**Gus and Donna Dornbusch** entertained Gus's 15-year-old grandson last month. Golf was the primary activity while in Lincoln, with Gus coming in 2<sup>nd</sup> best. While in Des Moines, Donna took the young man, who was born and raised in Kansas City, to the IA State Fair and insisted on viewing all of the livestock. Apparently he was not thrilled with IA's claim to fame – the hogs!

**Lou Buller** offered bad news from KS: **Bill Patterson** has been ill with a combination of kidney stones, blood clots, and some broken bones in his back.

Deaths: **Dave Jefferson's wife Sherry** passed away on August 17<sup>th</sup> after a short battle with cancer. Sherry's funeral was held on their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. **Sue LeGeros**, a former employee in the National Soil Survey Laboratory passed away recently.

**Dave Camper** and friends went on a motorcycle rally through Montana, Yellowstone, the Tetons and other parts of Wyoming—put in over 3,000 miles. Upon his return to Nebraska, he went to Connecticut to visit family. Several family reunions were reported. **Jim Harder** and family vacationed on the beach near Panama City, and later met other family members in Slidell, LA where the trip highlight was a swamp tour. **Steve Scheinost's** family vacationed in Washington. A grizzly bear not 10 yards from the car in Glacial National Park, while serving as a photo op for Steve, caused a rapid exit from the scene by his son-in-law. **Steve and Jan Stover** had a 100-member family reunion in Independence, KS. The attendance of all at church the following morning caused quite a stir.

Wedding Anniversaries: Forty members of **Norm and Sylvia Kempf's** family joined them at a bed and breakfast near Lincoln for 4 days to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. An open house was held at their church on August 21<sup>st</sup> which included a renewal of their wedding vows.

## NEW YORK

**Nancy Lee, ARCSE Representative**  
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**Gene Hanchett** became eligible as a Senior Conservationist May 28, 2013. For those who remember **Bob Schnitzer**, his wife **Agnes** passed away. Bob was the former Area Engineering Technician in the Batavia Area Office who was my mentor and training guru. **Aggy** as we knew her, was born in Montreal, Canada and was 75 years young. Share your condolences at: [meyerfuneralhome.com](http://meyerfuneralhome.com).

**Bob Hartrick** writes: Been kind of a sad month for my family. My mother, **Jennie Hartrick**, passed away after a long struggle, but hopefully she is finally at rest. **Sue and I** traveled to Vermont and New Hampshire and had a great time at Story Land in NH with my grandsons then traveled to Maine in Booth Bay Harbor for some relaxation and lots of Lobsters. Stopped on the way home in York and Kittery and brought back over 50 Lobsters and distributed to family and friends. The garden is doing great, and we have had some yummy fresh tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, peppers plus canning beans, etc. Tried some crock dill pickles that are curing now and hope they come out good. Only been in the pool a couple of times with all the rain and cooler weather but hope the end of August warms up. Getting ready to get the firewood in for winter and of course the upcoming hunting season.

**Nancy Lee** writes that she and husband, **Mel**, became grandparents for the first time when **Carter Thomas Lee** was born to their son, **Andy** and wife, **Mary**, on July 24<sup>th</sup>. **Mel** had cataract surgery in August and is waiting to do the other eye sometime this fall. **Nancy and Mel** attended the NY Retirees' Picnic on July 17<sup>th</sup> at Whitney Point Park, with those attending including **Paul and Rose Dodd, Fred and Mary Gilbert, Steve Machovec, Dave Kitchie, Erwin and Gwen Rice, Tony and Kathleen Esser, Dick and Elaine Crowe**.

**Al McGuffie** writes: Became a first time grandparent Easter Sunday. My daughter had a baby girl. **Paige** has had some medical issues (Gastroschisis) but is improving all the time. Been out to visit the family in Portland, OR once and will be flying there again in September. Continue to do as much fisheries management (jigging for Lake Trout) as possible on Seneca and Keuka Lakes. I just got back from a week of walleye (75) and pike (21) harvesting in Quebec with retired NRCS employee **Doug Gillette**.

**Erwin Rice** writes: The **Rices** have had no great happenings this year, just ordinary routine activities. We do have four grand kids that are honor students, one in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, one in HS and two in college. We attended the retirees' picnic at Whitney Point and really enjoyed it.

**Cathy Scully** writes: Still enjoying my retirement years and certainly do not miss the daily grind! I started this year off by having two cataract surgeries. Everything went well, and now I only need cheaters when I read up close. I recommend it if you are a candidate! We still live in Pine Bush. **Bob** still teaches painting, and I love working at the local library just down the street from my home. We are also active in the local arts group. I also belong to the "Happy Bookers," a book club sponsored by the library. The attendees are all women, most of us retirees. My oldest son and wife have been teaching in Cambodia - that may be a trip for me one day. My other son and family are in VT, so lots of trips there. Many of you may remember when I bored you with numerous pictures of my first granddaughter - she is now 18, and will be going to the University of Vermont this fall. The other two grandkids are 9 and soon to be 11. Bob's kids and their families are all in this area, and there is always something going on. Bob and I and some friends went to Ireland again a year or so ago. We also go to the Cape a couple of times a year, if possible, and this fall we are planning a trip to Savannah, GA.

## NORTH DAKOTA

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The annual reunion of North Dakota retirees is still scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 19 for a noon luncheon at the Bismarck Elks Lodge Room. I had a letter from **Marilyn Davis** and she noted how **Mel** enjoyed getting together with friends from former years with SCS at these reunions when they had their summer home in Grand Rapids, ND.

**Mel** died June 23 and she wanted his friends in ND to know that his ashes will be interred in the ND Veterans Cemetery located south of Mandan on Sept. 6, 2013 at 1:00 PM for a short service followed by coffee at the Staybridge Suites in North Bismarck at 2:00 PM. Marilyn would enjoy visiting with Mel's SCS friends.

**Larry Bushey** and family recently made a road trip to CA to visit relatives with Larry's 16 year-old grandson doing much of the driving. **Bob and Jeannie Bird** attended a family reunion in Miles City, MT, on the way to Reno, NV, and the SWCS International Conference where Bob received the Fellow Award.



After Reno, we traveled to the Napa Valley, CA, for winery tours and tasting, then the petrified forest and the redwoods along the coastal Highway 1. We skirted a forest fire near Grants Pass, OR, and visited Roseburg, OR. Jeannie had a great-great-uncle who served in the Civil War, was a resident at one of the first Old Soldiers Homes in Roseburg, died there and was one of the first burials in the Veterans Cemetery there. We returned through Oregon's high desert. We encountered a number of places on our trip with smoke in the air.

**Bob Bird**, ARCSE State Representative from North Dakota, received the Fellow Award of the SWCD in Reno, NV, on July 23, 2013.

## OKLAHOMA

**Randy Freeland**, ARCSE Representative

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The next meeting for Oklahoma Retirees is scheduled for Friday, October 25, 2013, at the Golden Corral Buffet, 520 South MacArthur Blvd., in Oklahoma City. We invite all former SCS/NRCS employees from Oklahoma and other states to join us. No reservation is required. Oklahoma Retirees have their own website at [www.cyber-shack.net/nrcs/](http://www.cyber-shack.net/nrcs/). They have found it quite helpful in our effort to keep retirees informed. This website also has a posting of the attendees, minutes and pictures from each of the meetings.

## OREGON

**Don Stettler**, ARCSE Representative

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On July 24<sup>th</sup> thirty-one souls braved the heat wave to attend the summer quarter lunch at The Old Spaghetti Factory in Tanasborne. Those attending included **Stefanie Aschmann**, **Tom and Ceva Curtis**, **Kay Denfeld**, **Len and LaVonne Dugan**, **Bill and Jean Hughey**, **John Hedlund**, **Dave and Joan Johnson**, **Jack Kanalz**, **Lowell and Marian Kenedy**, **Terry Mitchell**, **Jeff Repp**, **Maureen O'Rourke**, **Ken Pfeiffer**, **Lamont Robbins**, **Pat Smith**, **Dick and Kathy Sylvester**, **Eldena Vanderzanden**, **Dick Verboort**, **Gail Voge**, **Ralph Wadleigh**, **Don and Diana Wallin**, **René Walls**, **Pat Willey** and yours truly, **Don Stettler**.

Several told me of their regrets for not being able to attend. Faithful attendee **Beth Zetter** said she would be celebrating her husband Butch's birthday. **Gary Formanek** told me that **Jane's** siblings were in the area to help celebrate their 47<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

**Roy Bright**, who normally makes the summer quarter lunch, couldn't come this year because his son **David** and his family were visiting from Kansas City, MO. Roy tells me he has the feeling he spending too much time golfing these days. He and **Dorothy** make it a year round activity by wintering in Oro Valley, AZ. **Marsel Tingey** told me he couldn't come to the lunch but wanted everyone to know he was still around.

**Pat Willey** told us that he and **Kris** are expecting their first grandchild. **Ken Pfeiffer** is near completion of building a barn on his property near Philipsburg, MT. **Stefanie Aschmann** recently returned from a trip to Peru. The visit was sponsored by the Yantalo Foundation. She and two others spent two weeks meeting with farmers in the region to help identify the primary



**Bob Bird receives the SWCD Fellow Award. Presenting the Award is Society President Dan Towery on the left and Executive Director Jim Guilford on the right.**



**Jack Kanalz, Len and LaVonne Dugan**



**Lowell Kenedy, Lamont Robbins, Bill and Jean Hughey**



**Ceva and Tom Curtis, and Diana Wallin**



agricultural and environmental concerns. Farmers in the region have begun to recognize that the forest is being threatened by the traditional slash-and-burn agricultural practices and are looking for assistance with alternative agricultural management for a more sustainable agriculture. **Eldena VanderZanden** told us of her work in fund raising for a number of charities. She also does volunteer work at two elementary schools in Hillsboro. **Ralph Wadleigh** passed along greetings to the group from **Mary Lou High**, **Bob High's** widow. Ralph reported that Mary Lou is now ninety and doing well. **Marian Kenedy** told of her and **Lowell's** involvement with the Oregon-CA Trails Foundation. The Association seeks to preserve the stories and legacy of the 19<sup>th</sup> century American migration encompassing the Oregon Trail, the CA Trail, the Santa Fe Trail, the Applegate Trail, the Mormon Pioneer Trail, and the Southern Trail.

The fall quarter lunch will be held on October 23<sup>rd</sup> at The Old Spaghetti Factory in Clackamas.

## PENNSYLVANIA

**William Bowers, ARSCE Representative**

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Plans were announced by **President Bill Bowers** for the 2013 SCS/NRCS PA annual meeting to be held in beautiful Chester County on Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. First stop will be the national mushroom capitol, Kennett Square, to tour the **Pietro Mushroom Farm**. From there, the meeting will move to **Longwood Gardens**, the famed du Pont masterpiece of garden design and beauty. Assisting President Bill with meeting plans are **Rose Marie Updegraff** and **Tim Murphy**. All SCS/NRCS retirees are invited to attend this time and fellowship and learning. Pre-registration and payment are required.

The Southeast PA Retirees held our summer meeting with a lunch at Roger's on July 27<sup>th</sup>. Although only nine of our faithful followers could attend, we had a great time. As usual, the food was good and the conversation flowed freely along with the BYOBs to a lesser degree in Roger's back room. Those present were: **Helen Brossman, Pat Burkett, Jim and Maria Cropper, Carolyn Gehlen, Tom livari, Jean Kirkaldie, and Frank and Jane Resides**.

A highlight was looking at 20-some pictures taken at the NENTC (Northeast National Technical Center, Chester, PA) about 1988. These were apparently taken during a visit by Wilson Scaling, former Chief, since the Texan was spotted in at least one of them. These were sent to us by **Arthur B. Holland**, a former NENTC Director. The look-back at 25 years ago was enjoyed by all! Our next meeting will be on a Saturday in November, God willing. Stay tuned for details. On a sad note: **Joyce livari** had a serious back surgery in mid-July and was in a recovery facility at the time of our meeting. Our prayers are with Joyce and her family for a complete recovery.

Green grows the gardens at the **Bowers** home this summer. Vegetable garden is doing well as the tomatoes begin to roll in. **Bill** reports the best peach crop in years with more to come. Sadly, the blueberries are all but over, with an average crop. Flowers continue to provide colorful bouquets that **Mary Ann** cuts and prepares. Bill is busy with Master Gardener activities, a native garden at the Extension office, staffing a plant clinic at the library and attending meetings (not my favorite activity). We have spent time with the grandkids, attended open houses at the Governor's residence, and family reunions. In August the whole family will meet in San Francisco for a week of redwoods and city tours. We are looking forward to visiting with you all in September at the annual meeting!

From **Pat Cecil** down in TX: I was fortunate enough to travel to Italy in April! There were only six of us that made the trip: four from Massachusetts and me and my high school friend who now lives in Rockport, TX. We spent the whole week in Taromina, Sicily, and it was absolutely amazing! We were able to walk everywhere we went. Everyone was very friendly and courteous, and we just enjoyed setting our own pace and doing as we pleased. We did take two day trips. One was to the top of Mt. Etna, which is an active volcano on Sicily. The other day trip was to an authentic fishing village in Scilla. We had a wonderful time there – absolutely gorgeous, and our driver ended up calling us the Scilla Six! We had a view of Mt. Etna from our hotel rooms, and on the morning that we left, it erupted, and we saw the lava flow as we were on our way back to the airport at 3 am in the morning! We decided that we will go back! I ended my 5-year volunteer career at our church school in May. I will miss spending time there, especially with all our wonderful students and teachers. And I also attended the closing ceremonies of the Louisiana Lions Camp where my oldest son is the director. He earned a degree in soil science and worked for NRCS a couple of years before going back to work there full time.



From **John Akers**: For those of you who visited the Chambersburg FO when I was there, probably remember our secretary, **Donna Hayes**. Donna died a couple of weeks ago from cancer, only about two months after discovering she had the disease. She was 61 years old and had worked for the District for 41 years. Her plans were to retire in another year and move to Cape Charles, VA along the Chesapeake Bay to boat and fish with her husband. On a more cheerful note, our youngest daughter **Janice**, is planning to get married on November 1<sup>st</sup> in Richmond, VA. Her future husband is a cook in the Navy. She doesn't like to cook very well, so that ought to work out well. The treasurer for the Bedford Co. chapter of the National Assn. of Active and Retired Federal Employees died in January. I have been elected as the new treasurer. We have a nice group, so I enjoy working with chapter.

From **Harvey Pinkerton**: First, **Vickie** had a shoulder replacement in July of 2012. So, she spent the rest of the year on the mend for that. She can do most anything with it now. Very good results. Second, she lost her Mother in April of 2012. She was only 92. We have been spending part of this summer reclaiming the rest of her house and getting rid of many things that were hers and no longer needed. And third, I decided to have a light stroke/TIA also in April of 2012. That delayed our getting home from FL until June of last year. But, as the doc told me, there is good and bad. Strokes are bad, but if you are going to have one, I had a good one. However, I did spend most of the time during the last year recuperating. Just have to have my afternoon naps. But suppose being 70 has nothing to do with that, either. So, we are spending the summer trying to get caught up for the last couple of years of neglect.

**Don and Shirley Lindsey** have had a busy summer. They love it, but feel a little bit of the "frog in the blender" syndrome. Our granddaughter, **Emily**, (Bruce's) got married on July 6<sup>th</sup>. Beautiful wedding! Another granddaughter, **Katie**, came from Alaska for the wedding and stayed a couple weeks. Then the **Lindsey** family reunion, and in August another wedding and a trip to Canada. See you in September!

**Alan Wood** was again planning to travel with Engineering Ministries International in early February; however the Northeast's blizzard delayed him a day--good thing as he was then able to be home for his (and wife **Judy's**) first grandchild, **Katie Quinn Denne**, who arrived 3 weeks early! Once Alan got to Niger, his team surveyed and designed a flood protection wall for a large school which had been flooded twice in the last 3 years by the Niger River. **Judy** also continued her mission trips by returning to Ethiopia in June (for the 5<sup>th</sup> time) to teach hygiene for schools.

A trip down memory lane brings us a tale from the flowing pen of **Harvey Pinkerton**: Many years ago, we had an **Ivan (McKeever)** for our State Conservationist. My first full-time assignment was at the Mercer FO. Shortly after that, another soil con by the name of **Chuck Gentry** was also assigned to Mercer. It seemed that Mercer was a favorite place to visit for Mr. Ivan. On one such occasion, **Mr. Richard (Crowley)** informed us that Mr. Ivan was making his rounds and wanted all of us to scatter. Leave early and come back late. We complied. Late that afternoon, Mr. Chuck and I got back at the same time. Low and behold there was a car sitting where my truck was supposed to be parked. Didn't know whose it was, so Chuck dared me to park behind it. So, I did. Next morning, Little Richard called me into the office and informed me that Mr. Ivan was not a happy camper. In fact he was so mad, he just went over the curb and left. **Mr. Rollie (Swank)** was also there and can relate Mr. Ivan's reaction better than I. Needless to say, neither of us tried that maneuver again.

From PA Editor **Fred Bubb**: Attics are wonderful places to store memories. A picture, a small item, can trigger memories from the past--some good, some not so good. Among recent finds is a photo of a large group with **Ivan McKeever** standing front and center. I can remember faces but I can't place when or where. It isn't just SCS because I am standing near my district chairman. I place it about 1959-60. I'll bring it along to the annual meeting. Maybe someone can solve the puzzle. My guess, it was a trip when Mac took SCS and CD people to a PL-566 dedication on Mountain Creek Watershed, Culpepper, VA.

In the bottom of a box was a name tag bearing my name. It was from the National Plowing Contest held in Hershey in August 15-16, 1957. Hanging in my closet yet is the kakhi shirt with the USDA plow logo on the shoulder which was the SCS uniform for that event. Back in a dust-covered corner of the garage second floor are two soil monoliths. One is of a new soil I found in northern Centre County in 1956. It brings back memories of digging the hole and operating a bicycle pump on a stinking hot day as **Walt Steputus** sprayed lacquer or some ether compound on the soil wall prior to removing the slice of soil to make a monolith. I said not all memories are pleasant.

**Carole Heidecker** suffered a stroke while in Florida in the spring. **Bob** brought her back to PA and she was in a rehab hospital. Later she was moved to Room 112 Cumberland Crossings in Carlisle. She remains paralyzed on the right side and cannot speak.

From **Duane Pysher**: I just wanted to let you know that my wife **B** has suffered a stroke. She is currently in the York Hospital stroke care unit. We were camping in Gettysburg when she first develop afib problems and was in Gettysburg Hosp. Then the stroke happened and she was transferred here. Has affected her right side and her speech. Starting therapy. Prayers would be appreciated. Duane also sent an update on 8/12/13: B was transferred to an acute rehab today. She is in Health South located in Reading, PA so she is home, so to speak. Will be getting 3 hours or more therapy a day (speech, physical and occupational). So good to be sending this from the Pysher house. Her speech and eyesight have shown some improvement but right arm and leg are about the same.



## SOUTH CAROLINA

**Byron Thompson, ARCSE Representative**

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

From **Mark Berkland**, former SC ARCSE Representative and Immediate Past President of ARCSE: As most of you know, **Brenda** and I are moving from South Carolina to North Carolina in a couple of weeks. Our new address (if everything works according to plan) will be 5101 Corner Rock Drive, Rolesville, NC 27571. My cell phone, which will remain the same, is 843-475-8164. My new email address will be [mberkland480@gmail.com](mailto:mberkland480@gmail.com).

We regret leaving the Charleston area, as we really have enjoyed the city and friends. **Brenda** is already missing her relaxing times at the beach and I will miss my NRCS friends and soccer games. I have really enjoyed my time as the South Carolina ARCSE State Representative and the opportunity it provided me to visit with fellow South Carolina Retirees.

However, I am looking forward to renewing acquaintances with my friends and fellow SCS/NRCS retirees in North Carolina. **Brenda** will be a lot closer to her family and will be able to help out, as they are experiencing some health issues. It will also be less expensive to fly out of Raleigh than Charleston, so I can see my grandchildren more often, which I recently did at my newest granddaughter's baptism in Atlanta. I have to show **Hallie** off a little so I am enclosing a picture of her.



**Mark Berkland with newest granddaughter, Hallie.**

After working in the Design Section of the State Office and the Florence and Anderson/Greenville Areas, **Field Engineer Eddie Martin** has retired. He had a loyal following wherever he worked. **Luke and Laurely Nance** came to Columbia 46 years ago to be with SCS. They celebrated their 51<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary on August 9<sup>th</sup>. **Joe and Terry Haugh** were in Columbia recently visiting. Joe retired from the National Office, but was a Planning Engineer with the Planning Staff in the late 60s and early 70s. **Jim Kesecker**, retired Head of the Combined River Basin/Watershed Planning Staff, has been house-bound recently with a broken ankle. His kids have been very attentive. Normally the shoe has been on the other foot, as Jim helps his friends and neighbors.

**Louis Jackson:** Life is very hectic. Mother, grandchildren, wetlands work, fishing, drinking beer, having fun with my wife, etc.

**Charles Banks:** I work part-time at J. E. Cooley Farms in Chesnee, SC. Our most recent project was the construction of a 4-acre irrigation pond. We are also constructing about 10 acres of hoop houses. I also work as a site manager for the Palmetto Conservation Foundation thanks to a recommendation from **Tommy Stone**. I am administering their contracts to restore the landscape at Cowpens National Battlefield to look like it did at the time of the battle during the Revolutionary War. We have a really great contractor, so the job is a piece of cake. And I occasionally help **Wayne Henderson** in the Spartanburg NRCS office as a volunteer. I need to go back to NRCS to have time to play golf!

**Hugh Caldwell:** In case you all haven't noticed, I'm getting older. My first Grandson, **Tyler Caldwell**, graduated from Lexington High School and is going to Spartanburg Community College majoring in Horticulture and Landscaping. The other three grandchildren will all be in High School this fall; two in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and one in the 10<sup>th</sup>. For the first summer in many years the family vacationed together, separately. My son **Andy** and his family took Tyler for his graduation trip to Daytona Beach, FL. Missy and her family and Patsy and I vacationed the same week at Edisto Beach. A much shorter drive! This fall **Patsy** and I will be busy keeping a friend's one-year old baby girl for 2 to 3 days a week. Patsy will also be substitute teaching as the need arises. She really enjoys it and is on the preferred call list. I will be helping her with the baby, especially when she is subbing, and doing my usual things trying to keep out of trouble. Looking forward to our fall meeting.

**Byron Thompson:** In addition to my landscaping, lawn maintenance and irrigation work, I have begun my four-year term on the McCormick County Council. With careful planning/scheduling we had a vacation with the family in the Smokey Mountains, Hilton Head Island, and plan to visit the Ozark Mountains in September. As most of you know, Mark Berkland has moved to North Carolina and I will try to fill his shoes as South Carolina's representative.

## TX (NORTH AREA)

**Arnold King, ARCSE Representative**

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

President **Marie Garsjo** presided over the business meeting. **Dennis Gaster** reported the club has about \$1,675.00 in the treasury. Twelve members were present for the June 21<sup>st</sup> meeting: **Earl Blakley, Elaine and Billy Don Davis, Arnold**

**King, Bernie Owen, Joyce Petty, Barbara Gillum, Dennis Gaster, Marie Garsjo, Clyde Goodman, Tom Hodges, and Dennis Erinakes.**

**Mel Davis** passed away on June 23, 2013. His obituary was in the last newsletter. Mel was highly thought of among his colleagues. **Arnold King** sent the following note: "Mel was one of the best leaders we ever had and he will be missed. I was honored last year about this time when **Mel** called me personally and asked about the retirees meeting in Ft. Worth. He and **Marilyn** attended and were given some special recognition at the luncheon." **John Peterson** also commented, "Sad news. I was with Mel just one year ago at the SWCS meeting in Fort Worth."

The August 2013 meeting of the SCS/NRCS Alumni Club will be at 10:00 AM on Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup> 2013 at St Ann's Catholic Church, 100 SW Alsbury Blvd, Burleson, TX. Refreshments will be provided by **Joyce Petty** and **Dennis Erinakes** will provide some money. A program will be presented by Bernie Owen on IRS 2013 tax details.

**Dave Drennan** presided over the business meeting. **Dennis Gaster** reported the club has about \$1,616 in the treasury. Refreshments were provided by **Dennis Gaster** and **Dave Drennan**. The October meeting (our annual cookout) will be postponed by one week in order to make sure the cook has returned from New York. **The October meeting date is now on the 25<sup>th</sup>**. A reminder will go out again in the next month's newsletter.

Twenty one persons were present for the July 19 meeting: **Earl Blakley, Elaine and Billy Don Davis, Arnold King, Bernie and Maxine Owen, Joyce Petty and granddaughter Miranda, Jim and Jere Rickman, Dave Stockbridge, Joe Nichols, Don Kapalka, Barbara Gillum, Dennis Gaster, Dave Drennan, Julius Lyons, Betty Sisson, Anita Plummer, Harland Dietz, and Dennis Erinakes.**

A program was given by **Gracy Walling** with assistance from **Mary House** on the importance of eating properly and dieting as you grow older. If you are not growing older, then you don't have to worry about this. Several members attested to the value of knowing the amount of calories you consume and the amount of exercise you should routinely do. There is a web site to assist with the correct food groups and amounts, "ChooseMyPlate.gov." Correct portion sizes are very disappointing.

**Julius Lyons**, a potential new member, attended the meeting, and was welcomed by the club, and a warm welcome back was also extended to **Don Kapalka**. He has lost a lot of weight and is progressing nicely since undergoing lung replacement surgery. Don has a new birthday, on Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>, the day he received new lungs, thanks to the donor from Oklahoma. **Arnold King** reported on **Rocky Rockenbaugh**, who has been a long time faithful club member. **Rocky** and **Del** are in a retirement community now and have not attended the past few meetings. **Maxine Owen** will follow up with a call. **Harland Dietz** reported that their daughter and son-in-law (**Sheri and Don Morris**) had to evacuate their home because of the June fire in the Black Forest near Colorado Springs, CO. Thankfully the fire missed them. (This fire destroyed over 500 homes and charred twenty two square miles.) **Jim** and **Jere Rickman** traveled to Rome, Paris, and London for two weeks with four grandchildren and their son and his wife. **Dave** and **Jean Drennan** reported an enjoyable trip to Alaska in June. Dave's brother and sister-in-law accompanied them on the trip. They stayed with Jean's sister, **Sheri Barton** in Sterling, AK, located on the Kenai River. Highlights were trips to Homer Spit and Seward. Dave reported that the Exit Glacier continues to recede. Global warming? Dave thinks so.

This was received via email from **David Moffitt**: Appreciate the newsletter each month. Maryke and I always have good intentions when the alumni meeting rolls around, but then other commitments come up. We do enjoy reading about all of the group's activities. We've had a fast summer so far.

**Thomas L. "Tommy" Powell** age 70 of Wellington died on Thursday, July 18, 2013. **Troy Manley**, retired DC, Miami, passed away July 21, 2013.

**New Conservation TV Show by Larry Butler:** Just thought I (Larry Butler) would let you know that I produce a new TV show that began on January 1, 2013, on RFD-TV. The show is called "**Out on the Land**," and is owned, produced, and hosted by me. I am retired State Conservationist from TX, Dr. Larry Butler. The show can be seen on DishNetwork channel 231, on DirectTV channel 345, and a number of cable TV outlets. Season #2 began July 2nd with episode #14 with the subject of Soil Health. In mid-2012, we began shooting episodes for 2013. We had over a million viewers in just the first few months of being on the air. More people are learning about the show each month. The show is intended to cover subjects throughout the U.S. Episodes have been shot in TX, Oklahoma, Nebraska, and Montana.

I am excited about this new season. We have a great line up. People can go to the web site and look at the SCHEDULE to see that we have shot in South TX, Central TX, North TX in the Panhandle, Oklahoma, and Montana. We have shot soils info, tillage, cover crops, grazing management, irrigation techniques, irrigation water efficiencies, water management and conservation, prairie chicken conservation, windbreak establishment, historical preservation, livestock watering and fencing to facilitate grazing management, soil health with demonstrations, construction of a house using compressed earth blocks, sage grouse conservation, NRCS assistance, and more--something for everyone.

The good Lord prepared me for this, especially through my SCS/NRCS career. I used to think that being State Conservationist in TX was my career capstone. Now I think this is it! I love showing the people in the entire United States, and Canada, what the good stewards of the land do on their properties, what the conservation practices are and how they are applied, and the many benefits we all enjoy. A half-hour show doesn't do it justice, but it is a half-hour that runs twice a week and that is an hour more every week than there has ever been on national television to highlight conservation.



To see if RFD-TV is available in your area go to <http://www.rfdtv.com/> and click on FIND RFD-TV then type in your zip code and click on SEARCH, or you can watch past episodes on line at <http://www.outhontheand.com/>: Larry D. Butler, PhD, Owner, Executive Producer and Host, *OUT ON THE LAND*, (817) 504-1604

## VERMONT

**Francis Keeler, ARCSE Representative**

**Email: [fgk1800@msn.com](mailto:fgk1800@msn.com)**

On May 11<sup>th</sup>, a large group of family, friends and former coworkers gathered at the St. Johns Club in Burlington to celebrate the life of former State Conservationist **John Titchner**. His son **Christopher** shared family memories and performed one of John's favorite songs. Longtime family friend **Paul Dodd** led the group in prayer and shared many remembrances of John's love of family and trains and his dedication to NRCS and the protection of natural resources. **Rich Duesterhaus, Fran Keeler, Judy Doerner, Dick Croft and Claire Ayer** spoke about his love of new gadgets and cars as well as the many other things that John had meant to each of them, but above all how supportive and caring he was with friends and coworkers. Fond memories and how much John was missed were also shared by his granddaughters and childhood friends. Other former and current NRCS members in attendance included **Laurie Howard, Larry Knight, Dave Van Houten, Dick Fisher, Don Hipes, Ray Godfrey, Eva Diner, Vicky Drew, Beth Ann Finlay and Lorrie Doering**. The St. Johns Club, located on the shores of John's much loved Lake Champlain, provided a fitting location for the event, and as if on cue the sun broke from the clouds to provide spectacular views across the lake. Equally as appropriate was the date, which was National Train Day.

## WASHINGTON

**Gerald Richard, ARCSE Representative**

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

On August 5<sup>th</sup> **Jud and Karen Melton** hosted a summer potluck at their Spokane riverfront home in Post Falls, ID for SCS and NRCS retirees and their spouses. Some pictures are included. Seventeen retirees enjoyed an afternoon of good food and lots of conversation. Besides Jud and Karen, others were **Jim King, Bill and Betty Weller, Carl and Paula Vennes, Harry Riehle, Hans and Katie Krauss, Gary and Elinor Johnson, Larry and Jean Edmonds, Joe Carmack, and Jerry and Phyllis Richard**.

The location was ideal for bird watching and **Katie** with her keen eye watched an Osprey carrying a fish. Several flocks of geese flew close on their journey up-river. **Ken and Tina Kaul** were in Montana for a 50<sup>th</sup> class reunion and to visit an aunt on her 75<sup>th</sup> birthday.



**Joe Carmack and Larry Edmonds**



**Gary and Elinor Johnson**



**Paula and Carl Vennes**



**Bill and Betty Weller**



**Tim King, Karen and Jud Melton**



**Jean Edmonds, Katie Krauss, and Betty Weller**

**Lennie and Florence Husa** were on a trip visiting kids and grandkids. **Jerry Richard** attended the ARCSE luncheon and board meeting in Reno. **Chuck Houston** was the MC; he also made the local arrangements and the White Orchid Room



where we had our lunch and board meeting was certainly top notch. **Stan Hobson** and **Amos Garrison** flew in from Boise in Amos' plane, and Stan gives a fond hello to all the co-workers in Spokane.

## WASHINGTON DC NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

**John Peterson, ARCSE Representative**

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

**Gerald and Marilyn Root** will celebrate with family their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary the week of Aug. 25<sup>th</sup>. They have been living at Lake Anna in Bumpass, VA for 21 happy years. **Barbara Osgood** is a finalist in a Petco video contest called "Great Ones." You can see her video on You Tube at "Old Lab Lady" (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBrqT0rkQoo>). The first prize is \$50,000 which would certainly pay a lot of vet bills! **John Chenowith** from IA suggests that an article be included telling what we civil service retirees can expect with Obama Care. He is in Blue Cross-Blue Shield and Medicare. That would be a good idea.

**Wes and Dottie Hofstad** have had a busy summer, enjoying frequent July visits from **Dottie's** family from Hong Kong and Shanghai. In late July and August, they managed to squeeze in a couple of cool weeks at their summer home in Wisconsin's north country Duluth-Superior area with **Wes's** daughter **Joy**. This time they flew to Minneapolis-St. Paul, rented a car and drove 3 hours to their cabin on Lake Nebagamon. **Joy** went hiking and picking blueberries with friends and relatives. This year they didn't see any bears. Hopefully they will see you all at our fall DC meeting in Oct. **Barb and Don Woodward** took a Baltic Sea cruise in June and July with stops in Copenhagen, Visby, Tallinn, St. Petersburg, Helsinki and Stockholm. They had the opportunity to spend 3 days in St. Petersburg, where they visited all the national sights such as Hermitage, Peterhof and Catherine Palace. They also spent two days in Reykjavik seeing all the typical tourist sights.



**Petersons and Doug Helms at the Nats vs. Padres baseball game on 7 JUL. John Peterson is the photographer.**

**Ralph Masburn** sends "**Nancy** and I have had one of the most exciting years of our lives. It started with encouraging Christmas cards and notes from dear old SCS friends such as **Ken and Connie Cookson, David and Joan Johnson, Eldena VanderZanden, Bob and Elaine Caldwell, Dan Maxim, and Dudley and Joyce Williams**; a much appreciated phone visit with **Jim Mitchell**; and frequent personal contacts with **Gene and Carrie Sullivan** (we are in the same Gideon Camp) and with **Dick and Lori Babeu** (who share our same interest: **Lori and Nancy** with shopping and **Dick** and I with fishing). In April of this year it was an exceptional privilege to be chosen by the Gideons International to go on a weeklong Bible Blitz to Wroclaw, Poland. I was on a team that helped the Polish Gideons distribute over 33,000 scriptures to schools, colleges, hospitals, and on busy street corners. It was an inspiring time for me. After completing that week, my two sons, **David and Drew**, met me in Germany and took me on a 10-day tour of famous WWII battle sites. I have wanted to do that all my adult life. It was very meaningful seeing the bridge at Remagen, Hurtgen Forrest, Malmedy, Battle of the Bulge sites, and Normandy battlefields. What a personal debt we owe to all those who fought for our freedom in WWII! In June our whole family of 16 enjoyed a cruise for a week to the eastern Caribbean. There we learned that our first grandson and his wife would soon bless us with our first great grandchild, a boy. No doubt, the Lord has blessed us this year with many fun activities and good health.

**Dick and Lori Babeu** have completed training and are now Certified Arkansas Master Naturalists. As part of their work, they both volunteer at the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's Witt Stephens Nature Center in Little Rock. In addition to volunteering at the Center, they also enjoy riding their bikes around Maumelle and Little Rock. When not volunteering or riding bikes, Dick continues to fish as much as possible. They also recently returned from a two-week family vacation on Grand Cayman.

**Ann and Ron Marlow** celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary with a 15-day trip to Hawaii, visiting four islands. Highlights included Pearl Harbor Historic Sites, hiking Diamond Head Crater, and visiting the Polynesian Cultural Center (Oahu); seeing the Na Pali coastline and Waimea Canyon by helicopter (Kauai); [Hawaii Volcanoes National Park](#) (Hawaii); and Haleakala National Park and the scenic Road to Hana (Maui). Ron says that if you ever talk to someone who is unsure whether they have ever driven the Road to Hana, you can rest assured they haven't (52 miles with 59 bridges, 46 of which are only one-lane wide, approximately 620 curves with 30 or so that are one lane!). The trip included lots of beautiful waterfalls and beaches, many hikes, great food, and much more.

**Barb and I (John P.)** enjoyed surrounding the ARCSE meeting in Reno with a few days in the Napa Valley visiting wineries and a few days in Yosemite National Park. Great fun had by all.

The next Washington DC National Capitol Area Luncheon will be on October 3, 2013, at Philips Restaurant, gathering at 11:30am.

## National Boy Scout Jamboree

The NRCS participated in planning and conducting activities along the Conservation Trail at the National Boy Scout Jamboree July 15 through 24, 2013, at the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve in the New River Gorge near Beckley, WV. This new site is also where Boy Scouts will go to experience "High Adventure" activities, such as zip lining, mountain biking, etc. The NRCS partnered with the Southern Soil and Water Conservation District in offering "hands-on" experiences for soils, plants, engineering, and a variety of other conservation-related activities.



**Jerry Bernard, Earth Team Volunteer**



*About 50,000 boy scouts and volunteers participated in the National Jamboree.*



**Gary Redden, District Conservationist, Beckley, WV; Kevin Wicke, NRCS STC, WV; Richard Simms, NRCS East Regional Conservationist.**



*Hands-on soil and water conservation activities were provided by the NRCS and District volunteers.*

## WEST VIRGINIA

**Peg Reese, ARCSE Representative**  
Email: [pegreesevw@gmail.com](mailto:pegreesevw@gmail.com)

**Tom Vance**, District Conservationist at the Lewisburg Service Center, retired on June 29<sup>th</sup>. **Bob Schnably**, District Conservationist for the Ranson Field Office, plans to retire on September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Peg Reese** drove to Florida in July to attend a partial family reunion with her oldest brother's extended family. She doesn't recommend crowded theme parks in the July heat and humidity, but did enjoy sharing a condo with her nephew and his family. The major excitement of the week happened at 2:00 a.m. on the first night. The security guard called seeking the parents of her three-year-old great-nephew who was found wandering the grounds. As **Logan** was so expert at opening the locks, the lock was jury-rigged with thick rubber bands to keep the escape artist inside for the remainder of the week. Fortunately, this low-tech trick worked to keep Logan confined and safe. On the way back to West Virginia, Peg had a brief, but very enjoyable, visit with retired State Engineer **Angela Green**. Angela, who now lives in North Carolina, enjoys being more involved in the daily lives of her family, especially her grandchild.

**Annual Meeting:** Get ready for open season by attending the annual WV Retirees Meeting at the WV State Office on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Representatives from major carriers will give a heads up on health plan changes. The meeting will begin with a reception at 10:30 a.m.

## WISCONSIN

**Jim Enlow, ARCSE Representative**  
Email: [ljenlow@att.net](mailto:ljenlow@att.net)

The Wisconsin retirees met for lunch at Eagle River, WI on August 8<sup>th</sup>. **Dan Lynch** was the host. Those in attendance included the following. **Dan Lynch and Monica Donahoe, Howard and Sue Gundlach, Stan and Marlene Dingle, Wilbur and Gloria Petroskey, Robert Weihrouch and Pattie Haack, Kim and Sue Goerg, Jim and Margaret Barnes, and Ken and Joanne Lubich.** Everyone had a good time visiting during lunch and some had a good sheephead card game afterwards, while the ladies shopped at the street fair outside the restaurant/bar in downtown Eagle River.



The next luncheon is scheduled for October 10<sup>th</sup> at Fitzgerald's Restaurant in Middleton, WI. **Jim Enlow** will be the host.

## SENIOR CONSERVATIONISTS

**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 Harris W. Judy

Senior Conservationist Harris W. Judy (Harris) was born in Maxwelton, WV. Maxwelton is a small community about 7 miles from Lewisburg, WV, in Greenbrier County. He was raised on the family farm and attended local schools. Harris graduated from Lewisburg High School in 1948. Directly from high school he enrolled in Greenbrier Military School on a scholarship. After his freshman year he transferred to West Virginia University. He was there for a couple of years while also working for his father (a building contractor) part time. This he continued until he joined the US Air Force in 1953. He married Dorothea (Dottie) Baker on May 22, 1954. He completed his two-year enlistment in the Air Force and returned home.

Back home from the Air Force, Harris worked in housing construction with his father. As it happened, one of their house contracts was with an SCS District Conservationist. One day Harris and the DC were talking and Harris learned of the Student Trainee Program. Harris made a trip to the SCS State Office in Morgantown to investigate the program and was hired as an Engineer Student Trainee at the State Office. From 1956 until his graduation with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Engineering in January 1959 Harris was a trainee on the Watershed Planning Staff in Morgantown. Indeed, during his last semester he was the de facto hydrologist on the staff due to an extended leave of absence by the staff hydrologist. Harris gives credit to his co-workers and to **Bob Kohnke** at Upper Darby for guiding him during that period.

After graduation he was hired as Hydrologist at the State Office in Morgantown; he worked there until 1966. In 1966 he was promoted to the job of hydrologist on the SCS Watershed-River Basin Staff at Syracuse, NY. In 1969 he was promoted to Staff Leader there and served until 1972. In 1972 he was promoted to Soil Conservationist on the Watershed Division at SCS National Headquarters where he reviewed watershed work plans and provided input to the Watershed Planning Manual. In 1975 he accepted the position of Soil Conservationist on the River Basins Staff at National Headquarters. In 1977 he was promoted to Assistant Director of the Watershed Division and served in that position until 1985. Harris then accepted an international assignment as Advisor to the Ministry of Forestry of the Government of Indonesia. Soil conservation authority for Indonesia was part of the Ministry of Forestry responsibilities. He worked in that capacity until 1987.

Harris retired from SCS in early January 1988 as Soil Conservationist in Washington, DC. Throughout his career Harris was recognized for his work ethic and good work; he was the recipient of several Outstanding Performance awards.

Following retirement **Harris and Dottie** stayed in the Northern Virginia area and moved to Fredericksburg. They celebrated their 59<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this year. They have three daughters, one son, and 10 grandchildren. In addition to involvement with his family, Harris has been (and continues to be) active in his local church and community. He and Dottie have been instrumental in involving not only their church, but other churches and the larger Fredericksburg community in addressing the homelessness crisis there.

Regarding his work with Soil Conservation Service, Harris has expressed his gratitude for the confidence placed in him by Watershed and River Basin leadership during his career. The technical, interdisciplinary approach required to achieve sound watershed planning is one that Harris strongly believes continues to have value for conservation employees.

## OBITUARY INFORMATION

### Ron Marlow, Secretary-Treasurer

When you receive word of someone passing with little other information provided to you, obituaries can often be found by doing an advanced search using Google of the full name of the deceased. If you do not have access to the web, I will be glad to do the search.

### IN MEMORIAM

#### SURNAME

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

<b>Achor</b>	<b>Wayne E. Achor</b> (64) of Canal Winchester, Ohio passed away on July 4, 2013. He attended Ohio University and received a bachelor's of science in engineering. <b>Wayne</b> was a former SCS/NRCS Hydraulic Engineer on the State Office Water Resources Planning Staff prior to becoming an entrepreneur. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, <b>Janet</b> , two daughters, and a son.
<b>Andrews</b>	<b>James M. (Jimmy) Andrews, Jr.</b> (72) of Washburn, North Carolina, passed away on May 6, 2013. <b>Jimmy</b> retired as Soil Conservation Technician in Rutherfordton, NC, with over 30 years of service. He also worked in Cleveland and McDowell Counties. <b>Jimmy</b> was a graduate of Cool Springs High School and attended Western Carolina University. In addition to his community service, <b>Jimmy</b> was an avid horseshoe pitcher and competed at many local, state, and regional tournaments. The highlight of his horseshoe pitching career was winning the Elders I-2



division of the National Horseshoe Pitching Association World Championship Tournament in Knoxville, TN in 2012. He is survived by his wife **Patsy**; three daughters, **Bonnie Andrews (Phil) Fisher** of Matthews, NC, **Carol Andrews (David) Winesette** of Waxhaw, NC, and **Gail Andrews (Sean) Tarlton** of Pittsboro, NC; and seven grandchildren.

- Brasch** **Rhonda Lea Brasch** (62) of Spokane, Washington passed away on July 15, 2013. She attended Spokane Community College and her degree eventually led to a long career with NRCS as a civil engineering technician. **Rhonda** retired in 2012 after 29 years of service. She is preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her son, **Allen Brasch**. Online guestbook at [cheneyfuneral.com](http://cheneyfuneral.com)
- Currin** Senior Conservationist **S. Taylor Currin** (87) of Oxford, NC, passed away on July 22, 2013. **Taylor** retired in 1986 as Engineer on the State Resource Conservationist Staff in the Raleigh state office with over 30 years of service. He graduated from N.C. State University in 1952 with a degree in Civil Engineering. Prior to college, **Taylor** served in the US Marine Corp in WWII, Pacific Theatre. **Taylor** began his career as Area Engineer for the Raleigh Area. He then served as Assistant State Engineer for Construction in North Carolina before going to South Carolina as State Conservation Engineer. He also served as a consulting engineer in Tunisia. He transferred back to North Carolina in 1973 and was on an IPA assignment with the NC Sediment and Erosion Control Commission until 1977. He also served as Civil Engineer on the Water Resources Planning Staff. After he retired from SCS, he worked for the NC Division of Land Resources, Land Quality Section. After retiring from this position, he established Currin Engineering and Surveying. **Taylor** was preceded in death by his wife of 53 years, **Anne Pitts Currin**. Surviving are daughters, **Patricia (Joseph) Gallagher** and **Cheryl Currin**; three grandsons and one great granddaughter.
- DeStefano** **Madeline DeStefano** (73) of Springfield, Virginia passed away on August 7, 2013. Marge worked for the Soil Conservation Service at the Northeast NTC, then later for the Forest Service. She is survived by her son **Peter H. DeStefano (Kristie)** and her granddaughter **Brooklyn**. In lieu of flowers contributions in her memory to Abramson Cancer Center of the University of Pennsylvania Attn: Penn Medicine Development, 3535 Market St., Suite 750 Phila., PA 19104.
- Eisenbrey** Member **William W. "Bill" Eisenbrey, Sr.** (81) of Milford, Delaware passed away Tuesday, April 23, 2013. He was a veteran of the United States Army serving his country proudly during the Korean Conflict. **Bill** served as a conservation technician for the Soil Conservation Service for 42 years, retiring 1990. That same year, he accepted a job with the Kent County Soil Conservation District and retired from that position in 2000. He was a long time member of the Milford Lions Club, holding the office of 1st Vice President and President. **Bill** was also a member of numerous other civic and professional organizations. **Bill** was a member of the Avenue United Methodist Church in Milford, where he was active with the Methodist Men. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Winnifred L. Eisenbrey**. He is survived by a son, **William W. (Lois) Eisenbrey, Jr.** of Middletown; three daughters, **Karen L. Robinson** of Lancaster, PA, **Mary Beth Eisenbrey** and **Leslie G. Eisenbrey**, both of Dover; two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.
- Fleming** **Norma Jean Fleming** (78) of Caney, Kansas passed away on April 21, 2012. On August 23, 1952, she married Edward Fleming, in Kannapolis. The couple lived in various places over the years for Edward's career in the Soil Conservation Service. They settled in Salina in 1984 to enjoy retirement. Surviving are her husband, four children, and seven grandchildren.
- Fleming** **Edward L. Fleming** (85) formerly of Salina and Altamont, passed away August 10, 2013 in Caney, Kansas where he had lived the past three years. **Edward** graduated from Kansas State University in 1954 and served two years as second lieutenant in the Army. He then worked as a soil scientist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture for 30 years, retiring in 1987 as the soils correlator on the state staff. He was a member of the Trinity United Methodist Church in Salina and the Lions Club. **Edward** is survived by three daughters, a son, and seven grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife 59 years, **Norma**. Memorial contributions may be made to the Parkinson's Disease Foundation, in c/o the funeral home, P.O. Box 45, Ellsworth, KS 67439.
- Garrett** Member **William Bernard (Bill) Garrett** (86) of Daleville, Virginia passed away on June 27, 2013, at his home. **Bernard** grew up on his parent's tobacco farm near Farmville. He joined the Navy near the end of World War II. His wartime bride was **Edna Virginia Adams**. They were wed March 6, 1945 and remained so until her death April 2, 1968. During the time they were married, **Bernard** joined the Soil Conservation Service, a career which he enjoyed for the rest of his working life, retiring in April 1994. **Bernard** and **Edna** resided in Nottoway County and had a daughter, **Elayne**, who currently resides in Botetourt County with her husband, **Morris Gill**. On December 27, 1968, **Bernard** married **Betty Fain**, who was a home economics extension agent in Nottoway County and they had a son, **William Bradley Garrett**, who resides in Texas. **Bernard**, **Bill** to many of his Botetourt friends, was always active in the Methodist church, a Sunday school teacher with a passion for innovative teaching. **Bernard** also leaves behind a granddaughter and two great-grandchildren.
- Gough** **Doris Marie Gough** (86) passed away on April 4, 2012, in Newton, Kansas. She graduated from Kansas State University, where she met **Marvin L. Gough**, her husband of 62 years. **Marvin** passed away March 5, 2011. He was a range conservationist in Linn County during the 1950's. She was a charter member of the Kansas Oldtime Fiddlers, Pickers and Singers. **Marvin** and **Doris** entertained across the North American continent as they traveled in their RV for 15 years and encouraged youth to learn music with programs at schools and the offer of a fiddle on which to learn. Survivors include five sons, 15 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren. The memorial gifts will go to the Kansas Oldtime Fiddlers, Pickers and Singers for an ongoing memorial youth fiddle scholarship.
- Hughes** Honorary Life Member and Senior Conservationist **Howard McCune Hughes** (95) passed away at on July 10, 2013. He attended Kansas State University earning a degree in Agriculture and was a member of the FarmHouse

Fraternity. After graduation he worked for K-State's Extension Office in Manhattan. **Howard** then served in the US Army as a Cavalry Officer during WWII, stationed in England, France and Germany. On July 24, 1942 he married **Shirley Glens** and they enjoyed 64 years together. Upon returning home he worked for the Jewell County Conservation District while farming near Formoso. In 1948 he became Riley County Conservationist in Manhattan, Kansas. In 1957 he moved to Hays, Kansas where he worked as the Area Conservationist. In 1965 he then moved to Des Moines and he worked as Iowa Assistant State Conservationist before retiring in January of 1977. After retirement he and **Shirley** wintered in Mesa, Arizona and traveled extensively and enjoyed life. **Howard** belonged to the American Legion and the Formoso/Mankato Masonic Lodges. Howard is survived by his sons, **Stanley (Joan)** of Lawrence, KS, **Larry (Nancy)** of Casa Grande, AZ, and **Robert** of Gilbert, AZ; three grandchildren, and two great grandsons. Memorial contributions may be directed to New Hope United Methodist Church or Scottish Rite Park.

- Ifft** **Theodore Ifft "Ted"** died on Friday, June 14, 2013 after a short illness. Husband of Beverly Ifft for 55 years; father of Richard (Beth Greenfeld) Ifft and Linda (Thomas) Jordan; grandfather of Sarah R. Ifft and Caitlin M. Jordan; brother of Harold Ifft. Internment private. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to Benevolent Care Fund of Riderwood Village, 3110 Gracefield Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20904. [www.borgwardtfuneralhome.com](http://www.borgwardtfuneralhome.com)
- Jefferson** **Sherry A. Jefferson** (68) of Lincoln, NE passed away peacefully on August 17, 2013 after a brief but valiant fight with anaplastic thyroid cancer. She worked as an insurance rater for Union Insurance Company and Continental Western Insurance Company for more than 30 years. She is survived by her loving husband, **David Lee Jefferson**, a daughter, a son, and four grandchildren. Her memorial service was held on her and David's 50th wedding anniversary date.
- Karnowski** Senior Conservationist **Edwin "Ed" Henry Karnowski** (89) Washington, NC, passed away on August 2, 2013. **Ed** retired as District Conservationist in Washington, NC with 35 years of service. He was a soil scientist for most of his career before converting to soil conservationist. **Ed** was a native of Texas and a graduate of Texas A&M University. He was a World War II veteran as a member of the United States Marine Corps where he served in the South Pacific. **Ed** was a former member of the Optimist Club, American Legion #39, VFW Post 6088, Disabled American Veterans #48, and NARFE. Surviving include his wife **Doris B. Karnowski** of the home; his son **Earl David Karnowski** and his wife **Barbara**, of Winterville, NC; two daughters: **Ellen K McMutcheon** and her husband **John** of TN, and **Ann K. Kopacz** of CA; 2 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren; 2 step sons; 1 step daughter; 5 step grandchildren; 11 step great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife **Inez R. Karnowski**.
- Kovatch** Senior Conservationist **Merle Steve Kovatch** (85) of Bozeman, Montana passed away on February 4, 2009. He grew up in Montana, served in World War II, and graduated from Montana State College (now MSU) in 1952 with a degree in agricultural engineering. **Steve** served with Company B of the 7th Regiment of the 3rd Infantry Division during their 1944 to 1945 march through France and penetration of Germany. He served as an infantryman and infantry combat leader. During his combat service, **Steve** was awarded four Purple Hearts for wounds received in combat. He also was awarded two Silver Star medals for valor in combat as well as other medals for service. He served in the National Guard and the Army Reserve, rejoining the Army in 1980, at the age of 57, as a Chief Warrant Officer. **Steve** worked for the USDA Soil Conservation Service, retiring in 1981 after 28 years of service. Survivors include his son, **James Kovatch** of Bozeman. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Meryl Kovatch** and one son, **Thomas Kovatch**.
- Lalka** **Lois M. Lalka** (84) of Spokane, Washington, passed away on June 20, 2013. **Lois** retired as Secretary for the Soil Conservation Service state office in Spokane in 1993. Lois was a member of the Retired Federal Women's Employees and a Life member of the VFW (District President). She is predeceased by her husband, **Paul Lalka** in 2010, a son and a daughter. She is survived by two daughters, 11 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren. Online guest book available at [www.riplingers.com](http://www.riplingers.com).
- LeGeros** **Sue Fumie LeGeros** (87) of Monmouth, Oregon passed away on June 27, 2013. She was born in Tokyo, Japan. **Sue's** marriage in Japan brought her to the United States after WWII, where she raised four children, **Peter, George, Mary** and **Mark**. While raising her family, Sue got her US citizenship and worked her way through college in Brookings, South Dakota. She graduated from South Dakota State University in 1977 with a Bachelor of Arts as an Art major at age 52. Sue went on to be a cartographer and later, a soil technician for the Soil Conservation Service National Soil Survey Laboratory in Lincoln, Nebraska. She retired at age 68. **Sue** is survived by her four children, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Please share your memories and condolences online at [www.FarnstromMortuary.com](http://www.FarnstromMortuary.com).
- Noll** **Natalie M. Noll** (94) passed away on August 17, 2013. She married **John "Jake" Noll** on October 26, 1946. **Jake** was the Pennsylvania State Soil Scientist for SCS for many years and died in 1990. She is survived by three children, four grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. She graduated from Hood College in Frederick, Md. with a Bachelor's degree in history. Online condolences and signing of the guest book may be entered at [www.kochfuneralhome.com](http://www.kochfuneralhome.com).
- Pate** Senior Conservationist **Preston "Pres" Parks Pate** (88) of LaGrange, North Carolina passed away on August 13, 2013, at his residence. Following service in the US Navy during WWII, **Pres** began a long and distinguished career as a Soil Conservation Technician with the Soil Conservation Service in Greene County. He was an active member of Bethel United Methodist Church, the American Legion Shirley Hill Post 94, and a retired member of the Snow Hill Fire Department. **Pres** is survived by his wife of 70 years, **Geraldine Joyner Pate**; a son, **Preston (Pat) Pate, Jr.** of Morehead City; a daughter, **Hilda Pate Barrow** of Greenville; five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to Bethel UMC, c/o Jackie Overby, 126 Point Shore Drive, Goldsboro, NC 27534. Online

condolences may be made at [www.taylor-tyson.com](http://www.taylor-tyson.com).

- Pohl** **Bill Pohl** (83) of West Frankfort, Illinois passed away on June 29, 2013. Bill graduated from University of Illinois in 1957. He worked at several locations in Illinois and retired as a District Conservationist at Benton Field Office in 1986 with 35 years of service with SCS. His wife of 55 years, **Rita**, preceded him in death in 2012. Bill is survived by two daughters, Billie Jo (Mark) Holycross and Anita Greer and one son, Patrick, 16 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and one great-great-granddaughter.
- Richards** **William Stevenson "Steve" Richards** (59) of Circleville, Ohio passed away on July 29, 2013, at his home after a long battle with pancreatic cancer. **Steve** leaves behind a wife, **Loribeth Kowalski**; his parents, **William "Bill"** (Former SCS Chief) and **Grace Richards**; and two brothers. **Steve** was a graduate of The Ohio State University. Memorial contributions may be made to Berger Hospice, 1170 N. Court Street, Ste. B, Circleville, Ohio 43113; or D.A.S.H. Animal Rescue, 13525 Hoover Rd., Ashville, Ohio 43103.
- Rogers** **George Rogers** passed away Sunday, June 30, 2013. His service was Tuesday, July 2nd at 2:00P.M. at The First Baptist Church. He is survived by his wife Mrs. George (Hattie) Rogers, 220 E. Hwy 190, San Saba, TX 76877-7739 -Phone: (325) 372-3321 and e-mail: [rogers1950@gmail.com](mailto:rogers1950@gmail.com).
- Rozsa** Senior Conservationist **Gabriel Rozsa** (91) of Wintersville, Ohio passed away on August 6, 2013. Gabriel was a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, where he taught CCD classes for 30 years. He retired in 1986 as a soil conservation technician from the former USDA Soil Conservation Service. He was the father of Jefferson SWCD District Administrator **Irene Moore**. Gabriel is survived by his wife of 65 years, **Irene (Laposki) Rozsa** and ten children: **Irene Moore (Dale)** of Hopedale, **Patricia Cornelius** of Greer, SC, **Mary Lou Linville (John)** Franklinton, NC, **Helen Grimm (Jerry)** of Steubenville, OH, **Gabriel Rozsa (Ginny)** of Wooster, OH and Veszprem, Hungary, **Catherine Woods (Ed)** of Bloomingdale, **James Rozsa (Beth)** of Harrisburg, NC, **John Rozsa (Liz)** of Orchard Park, NY, **Kevin Rozsa (Debbie)** of Silver Lake, OH, **Lisa Poole** of Wintersville, OH. Also, **James E. Brundage** (Hinckley, OH), a very special member of this family, 25 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, two great-great grandchildren. **Gabriel** was Farmer Brown on the former wstv radio show. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Catholic Central High School, Lanman Hall Renovations, 320 West View, Steubenville. Offer condolences, [www.mostifuneralhome.com](http://www.mostifuneralhome.com).
- Sauer** Life Member **Elmer Frank Sauer** (81) of Palmetto, Florida passed away of an unexpected illness on July 23, 2013. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, **Dolores**; sons, **G. Michael Bryner** (wife **Asita**) of Weston and **Matthew E. Sauer** (wife **Nicole**) of Palmetto and predeceased daughter **Cheryl Bryner** of Harless, and three grandchildren. **Elmer** served in the 3rd Infantry Battalion, presidential honor guard, Ft. Myer, VA. He received his bachelor's degree in Soil Science and Agriculture from the University of Maryland in 1957. He began his career with the Soil Conservation Service in Baltimore, MD. After serving as an Area Conservationist in MD and NJ, he served as an AC in Palmetto until his retirement in 1994 with 39 years of service. **Elmer** and his wife created their personal scholarship program called PROMISE and contributed more than 15 scholarships to graduates from Palmetto High, encouraging further education in Florida colleges and universities, and also established several four-year scholarships to Take Stock in Children. He was a guardian ad litem for several years in Bradenton and a mentor to children and caregivers going through the court process. Memorials may be made in his name to The Therese Gerda Sauer Scholarship Fund State College of Florida, Take Stock in Children, The Humane Society of Manatee County, Tidewell Hospice, or Meals on Wheels.
- Sawyer** **Norman L. Sawyer** (77) of Topeka, Kansas passed away on July 5, 2013, at Plaza West Care Center. He graduated from KSU with a BS in agriculture in 1958. **Norman** worked for the USDA Soil Conservation Service for 36 years before retiring in 1994 as a resource conservationist (IPA) for Northeast Kansas headquartered in Topeka with the State Conservation Commission. He then worked for Shawnee County Soil Conservation District for eight years. Norman is survived by his wife of 55 years, **Gail**, three daughters, 12 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Faith Lutheran Church or Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66675. To leave a message for the family online, please visit [www.PenwellGabelTopeka.com](http://www.PenwellGabelTopeka.com)
- Siegenthaler** **Frieda N. Siegenthaler** (85) of West Liberty, Ohio passed away on Saturday, June 22, 2013. On November 24, 1946, she married **Vaughn Leland Siegenthaler**, retired Soil Scientist with the Soil Conservation Service in west central, Ohio. He preceded her in death on January 23, 1991. Surviving are three sons, two daughters, twelve grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Messiah Lutheran Church Memorial Fund, 1013 E. Lawn Ave., Urbana, OH 43078.
- Stringer** **Freddie Charles Stringer** (66) of Fort Smith, Arkansas passed away on May 17, 2013 in Fort Smith, Arkansas. **Fred** graduated with a Bachelors of Science Degree in Agricultural Engineering in 1970 from the University of Arkansas. He was a Project Engineer and RC& D Coordinator for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. He retired in 2009 after 43 years of service. **Fred** leaves behind his wife of 46 years, **Lea Stringer** of the home; a daughter, a son, and a grandson. Memorials may be made to the Hon Cemetery Fund, c/o Heritage Memorial Funeral Home, P.O. Box 358, Waldron, Arkansas 72958.
- Whittington** **Wanda Faye Whittington** (80) of Charleston, Arkansas passed away on May 13, 2013, in Fort Smith. She was a retired elementary school teacher, graduating from the University of Arkansas in 1954. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, **Paul Whittington**. **Paul** retired as an Area Conservationist with SCS in 1990. Also surviving are three daughters, **Elizabeth Passmore (Mike)** of Greenwood; **Margaret Meredith (Roger)** of Greenbrier, AR; **Jennifer Sikes (Marty)** of Conway; and six grandchildren. Memorials may be made to the First United Methodist Church, PO Box 35, Charleston, AR 72933.