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NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter for Retired Conservation Service Employees

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Arnold King



The pandemic problems will probably continue for the near future. However, we will soon begin planning for a real face-to-face annual board meeting. Our meeting will once again be held concurrently with the annual meeting of the SWCS. The meetings will be held at Denver, CO early next summer. The Colorado folks are active, strong supporters of ARCSE, and we can look forward to a well-attended board meeting along with a great luncheon.

During the last two years we have been able to fill key positions on the board that will provide stability for the next several years. Presidents come and go like DCs, but the support staff does the real work. And we now have a tremendous, energetic support staff. We can expect to see some needed changes and modernization of our association.

We also have a new NRCS Chief, Terry Cosby, and a new Under Secretary, Homer Wilkes, both of whom are career NRCS employees. ARCSE may enjoy more support on that end – like systematically informing prospective retirees about our association. That is probably the best prospect for increasing membership. I have been informed that most NRCS retirees are not aware of ARCSE.

In the near future, you will be able to enjoy an ARCSE Facebook page designed to enhance communications and information flow. This was made possible by hiring a summer SWCS intern, Jordyn Rodriguez, who has excellent computer skills. Her salary was paid primarily by generous special ARCSE donations.

My primary goals include increasing membership numbers and continuing to develop synergism between ARCSE and SWCS. Following my term in office, Julie MacSwain, president elect, will do good things for ARCSE. So, I think ARCSE has a great future in store.

NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

Doug Lawrence and Patty Lawrence

Greetings – We hope you've had a great summer and that you, your family, and your friends have been successful in avoiding contracting COVID-19 and its growing list of variants. We are in the midst of the chaos of moving up the Potomac from Capitol Hill to Cabin John, Maryland, so this edition of Notes from the Potomac is going to be a bit shorter than usual.

A poll in 2013 found that Fall is the favorite season in the US. However, for those over 55 (I'm looking at you), Spring was their favorite season. And not many people of any age like Winter. Happy Labor Day and have a great Fall.

Personal Finance –

2022 COLA: The projected 2022 COLA for Federal retirees and Social Security recipients continues to climb, and the current estimate is a whopping 5.7%. To put that in perspective, the largest COLA since 1999 was 5.8% in 2009. Since 2009 the average COLA has been 1.4%. The official 2022 COLA will be announced in mid-October.

Whither Inflation: Inflation, or more accurately, inflation fears, have begun to dominate macroeconomics news. About a year ago, Fed Chairman **Jerome Powell** announced several policy changes, including a change to its policy on inflation by replacing its 2% inflation target with the following goal: "... achieve inflation that averages 2 percent over time."

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES

NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC (cont'd)

This change is a substantial departure from the previous “flexible inflation-targeting” approach that we are used to. Monetary policy under flexible inflation targeting was symmetric—the Fed would equally respond to overshooting and undershooting of the target. The Fed, in effect, did not attempt to make up for past inflation deviations from its inflation target.

Adopting “average inflation targeting” means that Fed policymakers will take into consideration past deviations from 2% inflation and will allow inflation to modestly and temporarily run above the target to make up for past shortfalls, or vice versa.

The Fed made this change because aggregate demand shocks to the economy – like an earthquake, a terrorist attack, a dramatic technological advance, or a government stimulus program – could drive the economy to the point where further cuts in the Fed’s interest rate are insufficient to stimulate the economy. The concern is that below-target inflation outcomes may become entrenched in lower, below-target inflation expectations. This creates a challenge for the Fed in meeting its dual goals of maximum employment and stable prices (i.e., low, stable inflation).

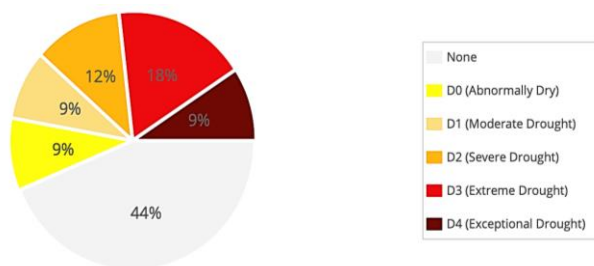
There can be several plausible long-run outcomes for the economy. One outcome is consistent with monetary policy implemented in the U.S. since the ‘80s, after inflation was tamed, and inflation expectations became anchored around the Fed’s inflation target. Another possible outcome is the low-nominal interest rate deflation observed that Japan suffered from. Average inflation targeting allows the Fed to “make up” for “lost” inflation and thereby sustain an economy like the post 80’s US economy, while avoiding the deflation and stagnation that occurred in the Japanese economy. In theory, everyone should be better off.

In short, monetary policy will look different than we are used to. The Fed may choose to allow inflation rates to remain above 2% for longer than they have in the past.

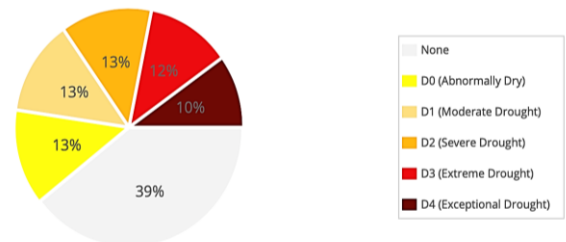
2021 Drought –Since our June edition of *Notes from the Potomac*, the percentage of the US affected by Severe Drought (D2), Extreme Drought (D3), and Exceptional Drought (D4) has increased from 35% of the land area to 39%.

Continental U.S. Percent Area in Drought monitor Categories

August 17, 2021

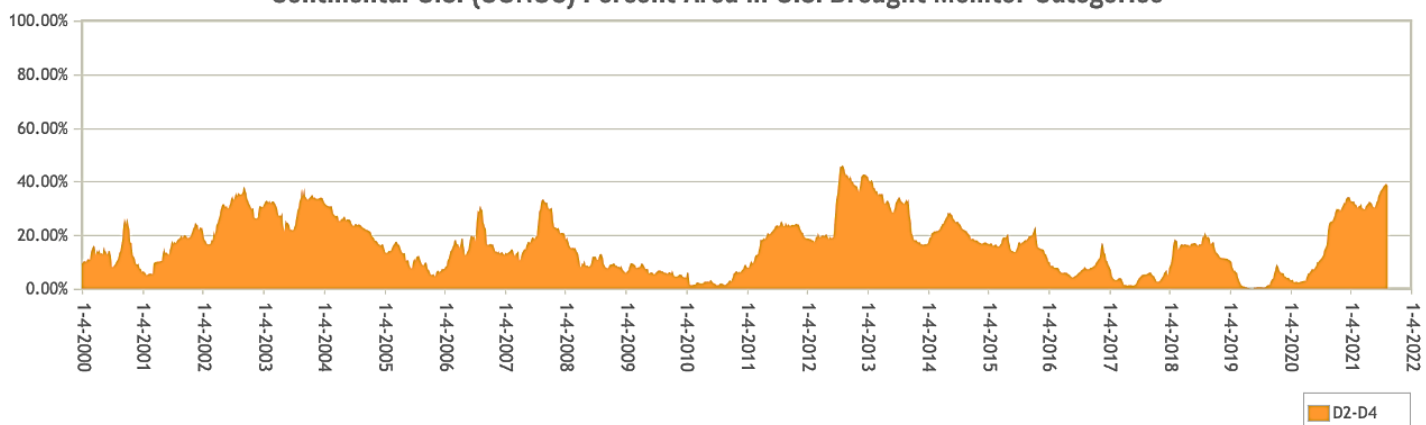


June 22, 2021



The following graph puts the 2021 drought in historical context with drought conditions from the past two decades. The shaded area of the graph includes the percent of the US in drought categories D2, D3, and D4. In terms of the extent of the current drought, it ranks second to the 2012-2013 drought.

Continental U.S. (CONUS) Percent Area in U.S. Drought Monitor Categories



Finally, here’s a comparison of how the location of drought-designated areas changed from June 22nd, 2021 to August 17th, 2021. The upper Great Plains and the West Coast appear to have had the most dramatic increase in drought intensity, while the drought in the Great Basin appears to have had a decrease in drought intensity.

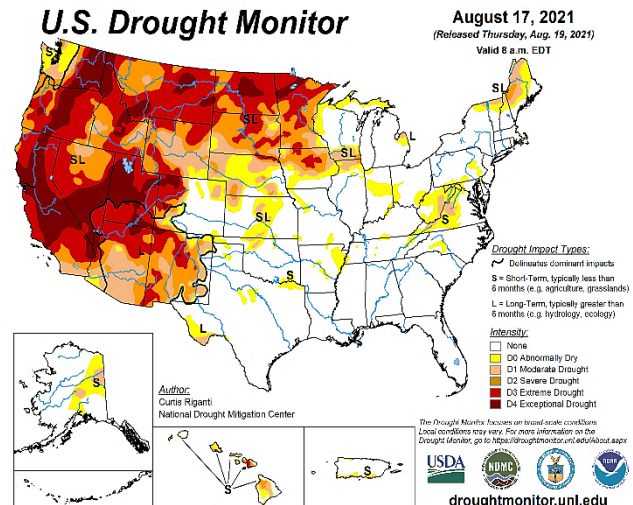
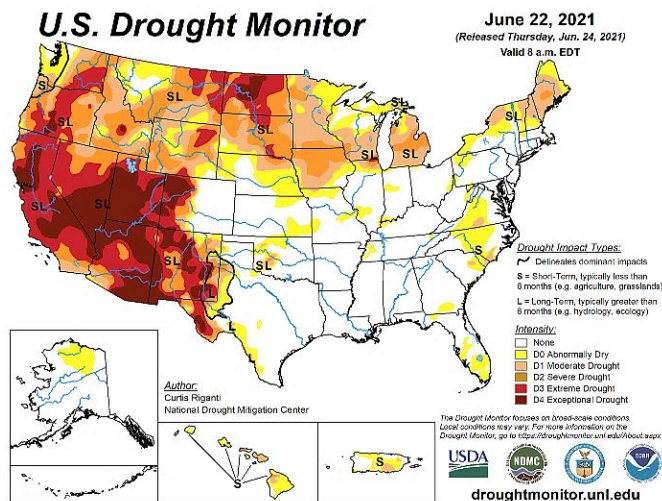
CONSERVATION PROGRAMS UPDATE—

Conservation has not been in the USDA headlines much since June. In fact, there has only been one NRCS program news release since the last newsletter. I wouldn’t interpret much into that, other than that emerging policy interests, a shifting COVID landscape, and threats from fire, wind, and rain have occupied the lead. Investments in rural development – notably in health, rural water, biofuels, and broadband infrastructure led the news, joined by news about safety net programs, food security, and food waste reduction. Climate change news linked to food waste and feeding programs continued to support agricultural innovation focused solutions. NRCS programs (EQIP and EWPP) were called out in disaster response and recovery, along with risk and indemnity program counterparts. However, FSA programs, from CRP to the newly created

Klamath Pilot and Heirs' Property Relending Program (HPRP) dominated the conservation news cycle – both important issues that NRCS has been engaged in and deploying program resources to for many years, so it's good to see our sister agency join in the effort. Meanwhile, during these quiet two months, NRCS conservationists have no doubt been out in the field *helping people help the land*.

June 22, 2021

August 17, 2021



Conservation Reserve Program

On August 23rd, 2021, USDA announced that it had accepted 2.8 million acres in offers from agricultural producers and private landowners for enrollment into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in 2021. This year, almost 1.9 million acres in offers have been accepted through the General CRP Signup, and FSA has accepted over 897,000 acres for enrollment through the Continuous Signup. The Continuous Signup remains open, so USDA expects to enroll more acres into all of CRP than the 3 million acres that are expiring.

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/news-releases/2021/usda-accepts-28-million-acres-for-the-conservation-reserve-program>

On July 12th, 2021, USDA announced the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Grasslands signup through August 20th. This year, USDA updated signup options to provide greater incentives for producers and increase the program's conservation and climate benefits, including setting a minimum rental rate and identifying two national priority zones.

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/news-releases/2021/usda-announces-dates-for-conservation-reserve-program-grasslands-signups>

Klamath Basin Drought Pilot

On August 2nd, 2021, USDA announced \$15 million for a new drought pilot focused on the Klamath River Basin. The funds will assist agricultural producers impacted by worsening drought conditions to provide relief to impacted California and Oregon producers in the Klamath River Basin. The effort was announced as the Secretary of Agriculture traveled to the state for events focused on drought and wildfire resiliency. This pilot complements the \$41.8 million announced by NRCS in June, 2021 to help agricultural producers in Arizona, California, Colorado, and Oregon alleviate the immediate impacts of drought and other natural resource challenges on working lands.

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/news-releases/2021/usda-invests-15-million-in-klamath-river-basin>

Heirs' Property Relending Program (HPRP)

On July 29th, 2021, USDA announced that USDA is providing \$67 million in competitive loans through the new Heirs' Property Relending Program (HPRP), which aims to help agricultural producers and landowners resolve heirs' land ownership and succession issues. Intermediary lenders – cooperatives, credit unions, and nonprofit organizations – can apply for loans up to \$5 million at one percent interest. FSA will open the two-month signup window in late August.

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/07/29/biden-administration-invest-67-million-help-heirs-resolve-land>

Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy

On July 15th, 2021, USDA announced a Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy to help support a diverse economy, enhance community resilience, and conserve natural resources through strategic investment of \$25 million in financial and technical resources. Multiple USDA agencies, including the Forest Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Rural Development, will consult with Tribes and work together with partners and communities in Southeast Alaska to identify priorities for investment that reflect the diverse needs and opportunities in the region, including for recreation, fisheries and the fishing industry, mariculture, renewable energy, sustainable timber management including for young growth, traditional and customary cultural uses, and carbon sequestration.

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/07/15/usda-announces-southeast-alaska-sustainability-strategy-initiates>

United Nations Food Systems Summit

On July 26-28th, 2021, USDA participated in the Food Systems Pre-Summit in Rome; the USDA delegation led by Deputy Secretary, **Dr. Jewel Brunaugh** advanced anti-hunger and climate initiatives. The United States announced support for new initiatives at the Pre-Summit, including: Global School Meals Coalition (emphasizing school feeding programs), Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (building continuing support for climate change innovation), and Coalition on Food Loss and Waste (food loss and waste are a major contributor to the climate crisis). The United Nations Food Systems Summit will be held in September.

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/07/30/us-government-advances-anti-hunger-climate-initiatives-food-systems>

Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP)

On June 30th, 2021, USDA announced up to \$17 million for conservation partners to help protect and restore critical wetlands on agricultural lands through WREP. WREP enables effective integration of wetland restoration on working agricultural landscapes, providing benefits to farmers and ranchers and to the communities where the wetlands exist. NRCS will be prioritizing proposals that focus on assisting historically underserved producers. Proposals from partners were due August 15th, 2021. WREP funding is for fiscal year 2022, which begins on Oct. 1st, 2021.

USDA Senior Staff Changes –

June 28th, 2021–**Randy Moore, Chief, U.S. Forest Service** – Chief Moore will become the 20th Chief of the US Forest Service when **Chief Christiansen** stepped down on July 26th, 2021. Previously he served as Regional Forester in the Pacific Southwest Region in California since 2007, and he served as the Regional Forester for the Eastern Region headquartered in Milwaukee, WI. Moore started his career in conservation in 1978 with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service in North Dakota. Moore will serve as the first African American to hold the role of Chief of the Forest Service.

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/06/28/agriculture-secretary-tom-vilsack-announces-randy-moore-new-forest>

July 27th, 2021–**Adrienne Wojciechowski, Nomination to serve as Assistant Secretary of Congressional Relations**. Most recently, Wojciechowski served as a Professional Staff Member on the US Senate Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, serving as the lead advisor on farm production, conservation, climate change, marketing, education, and other programs. Previously, she was the principal advisor to **Senator Leahy** on matters related to agriculture, environment, energy, climate change, and forestry.

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/07/27/statement-agriculture-secretary-tom-vilsack-nomination-adrienne>

July 29th, 2021–**Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young, Nomination to serve as Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics**. Since 2014, Dr. Jacobs-Young has served as Administrator of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), and previously she was the ARS Associate Administrator for National Programs, where she led the Office of National Programs and the Office of International Research Programs. **Secretary Vilsack** noted that Dr. Jacobs-Young “has a deep understanding of USDA’s commitment to science, research and education and of the importance of advancing scientific knowledge to best serve the American people.”

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/07/29/statement-agriculture-secretary-tom-vilsack-intent-nominate>

July 30th, 2021–**Phyllis Fong, USDA Inspector General appointed as the Acting Inspector General of the Federal Housing Finance Authority**. Fong has served as Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) since 2002, where she was the senior official responsible for audits, investigations, and other oversight activities relating to USDA’s programs and operations. Fong will continue to serve as the IG for USDA while she serves as the Acting FHFA IG.

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/07/30/statement-agriculture-secretary-tom-vilsack-appointment-phyllis>

Janie Simms-Hipp, Confirmed as USDA General Counsel. Nominated on March 15th, 2021, the Senate confirmed Janie Simms-Hipp as General Counsel. In her role, she will carry out duties to enforce the laws and regulations of the USDA and ensure the interests of the American public are served by USDA’s programs and services. Simms-Hipp held several senior roles at USDA, including as senior advisor for tribal affairs and then as director of the Office of Tribal Relations in the Obama Administration. Simms-Hipp is a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation.

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/07/30/statement-agriculture-secretary-tom-vilsack-confirmation-janie>

Aug 10th, 2021–**John Rapp, Director of the Office of Budget and Program Analysis (OBPA)**. Previously, Rapp held the role in an acting capacity while simultaneously serving as the Budget Officer, Chief Risk Officer, Chief Evaluation Officer, and Performance Improvement Officer. Prior to being named in the acting role, Rapp served as the director of Strategic Planning, Budget, and Accountability for the Forest Service. Prior to his career with the Forest Service, Rapp spent almost 10 years with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. He holds a Master of Science degree in Forested Wetland Ecology from North Carolina State University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Science from the Pennsylvania State University.

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/08/10/us-department-agriculture-announces-key-staff>

July 22nd, 2021–**Jennifer Eberlien, Regional Forester for the Pacific Southwest Region**. Eberlien replaces incoming Chief **Randy Moore** who has served as regional forester in the Pacific Southwest Region since 2007. Eberlien is currently stationed in Washington, DC, where she has served as associate deputy chief for the national forest system since October 2020.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/news/releases/forest-service-chief-announces-new-regional-forester-for-pacific-southwest-region>

MEMBERSHIP REPORT**Paul Benedict, Membership Chair****New Member**

Ronald L. Hilliard – Haskell, Texas

New Honorary Members

The following 10 members of ARCSE have celebrated or will be celebrating their 91st birthdays by the end of 2021. With this milestone, each of these members becomes an Honorary Member. As an Honorary Member, they are no longer required to pay annual dues for calendar year 2022 and thereafter. However, those honorary members who wish to receive a printed copy of the newsletter are still required to pay a \$12 fee for that service. I do not have a record of birthdays for about 40 members. If you qualify for Honorary membership, please let me know.

First Name	Last Name	St.
Hardy	Cloutier	TN
David W.	Dalzell	IL
Harlan E.	Dietz	KS
Eugene C	Hanchett	NY
Donald S.	Henry	KY
Harold R.	Honeyfield	CA
Edwin L	Minnick	CA
Wayburn D.	Mitchell	TX
Frank	Richardson	TX
Keith O.	Schmude	VA

ARCSE 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

NOTE: Dues payment includes receipt of the bimonthly electronic newsletter only. All members (both life members and those who pay annual dues) who desire a hard copy of the newsletter must pay an additional fee of \$12.00 per year.

Please submit Dues to ARCSE at P.O. Box 8965 Moscow, ID 83843

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Donna Beggs, Treasurer

ARCSE Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021

INCOME	
Dues- Annual	5,725
Life	2,600
Contributions	6,573
Hardcopy Newsletter Fee	1,017
Misc Inc (prepaid dues, other)	186
Memorials	-
Total	\$16,101
EXPENSES	
Admin Exp (postage, supplies, etc.)	3,414
Newsletter	4,198
SWCS Intern	5,000
Webpage/Internet Exp (Zoom, PayPal, etc.)	1,081
Total	\$13,693
NET CHANGE	\$2,408

Due to some generous contributions from ARCSE members, income for the past fiscal year has increased compared to the previous year. This allowed the board to approve, for the second year, the sponsorship of another SWCS intern; the intern has been instrumental in improving the ARCSE social media presence and outreach. On the other hand, annual membership dues have decreased by 10%, while lifetime memberships have doubled, compared to the previous year. Another influence on the organization's bottom line has been that there were no annual meeting expenses because the meeting was held virtually. Next year it is anticipated that the meeting will be held again in person.

ARIZONA

Kenneth Cookson, ARCSE Representative

Email: ckcookson@aol.com

Steve Black Report: I just got back from a week at my farm in Illinois where I was spraying weeds, mowing, and doing other maintenance tasks around the farmhouse and buildings. The corn and soybeans really look good this year as have had plenty of rain over the growing season. The genetics of the new crops is amazing as compared to years ago. A month ago, we received a Bicentennial Farm designation from the State of Illinois as the land has now been in the family for 200 years. The original land (480 acres) was purchased in January 1821 at the Government Land Office sale for \$1.25 an acre. Only 143 acres remain in the family today.

Ron Moreland Report: Ron and Barb Moreland spent a month earlier this summer having adventures and seeing family. We started with time in Durango, CO. and then at our son's home west of Denver. On to hiking in the Tetons and Yellowstone where we were lucky to see bears and an up-close view of a beautiful gray wolf. We then went to Bigfork, MT for a week of more hiking, good golf, and a day flyfishing the Flathead. Barb did her runs in this area, carrying bear spray along with water. The highlight

then was a long awaited and awesome family reunion in Park City – 12 of us. Ron and Barb finished the month with some days of hiking and golf in the Aspen area.

Karl Klingelhofer Report: In my new home! I moved to California on August 6th. When I tell somebody this, they reply "Why would you do that?" Only one reason and that is to be near my son. His place is only eight miles from my new home. The other son is in Maine, and I am not interested in moving there. The big question for my family was "where are you going to be for your 95th birthday on August 11th?" As you can see, it was California, and I had family come from all over the country.

I came here from a senior care community that provided most of the needed amenities where I was for 10 months. Its name was All Seasons, Oro Valley, AZ; but I still had no family within 400 miles. However, at All Seasons I had a friend by the name of **Chuck Doud** who had been with SCS for 34 years, mostly west of the Mississippi. Before that I was in SaddleBrooke, the active adult community, about 30 miles north of Tucson, AZ, where I lived for 30 years. The rather large house that **Georgann** and I had built became too much to care for, especially after I fell and broke my hip in April of 2020. Georgann had passed in 2008 after 60 years together.

This place is called Silvergate Rancho Bernardo (you can look it up on Google) and is about 20 miles north and a little east of San Diego. My address is 16061 Avenida Venusto, San Diego, CA 92128. I have a 2-bedroom apartment, and it is a great community for seniors. It provides all the needed amenities and I like it very much.

Gordon Odell Report: On August 6th, **Gordon and Carol Odell** were able to take their first vacation trip in two years on a cruise to the southern Caribbean. The Celebrity cruise was excellent with low guest occupancy rate, great food, interesting island tours, and good weather. All guests and crew tested COVID-Negative at the end of the cruise. Air travel leaves much to be desired, however. Back home we have many butterflies in our garden due to above-normal rain in our monsoon season. Enjoy life and stay safe!

DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS IS OCTOBER 25TH, 2021.



Gordon and Carol Odell

Rod Alt Report: Sally and I flew to Lubbock, TX on June 15th to visit my son **Rod** and wife **Mary**. While we were there, I played with my son in the annual invitational Wing Ding Golf Tournament at the Amarillo Country Club. There were 124 players in the tournament, consisting of 14 teams in eight flights over three days of golf. It was a two- person best ball tournament, and we were able to win our flight. We have played in this tournament several times, but this is the first time that we won.

On July 14th, Sally and I flew to Baltimore, MD where Sally's daughter **Alisa** picked us up, and we traveled to the Outer Banks of North Carolina. We spent 10 days there going to the beach every day. Then we spent three days in Middletown, MD where Alisa lives, before coming home



CALIFORNIA

Bill Ward, ARCSE Representative

Email: bluegrassbillward@gmail.com

Greetings from California.

We hope all our fellow retirees across the nation are doing well as summer is in full effect here, and California Wildfires are making the nightly news almost every night.

Sadly, like virtually all states, California is experiencing a significant increase in new virus cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. Fifty-three percent of Californians are fully vaccinated, and 66% have received at least one shot. Unfortunately, it looks like the challenges we have with this virus will be with us for some time.

I am sad to be sharing this news of the passing of **Hank Wyman**, a man very dear to all NRCS folks who had the opportunity to work with him. Hank retired in California as Assistant or Deputy State Conservationist. He also spent considerable time working in Hawaii and Oregon. Thanks to Hank's wife, **Christie**, I have a video recording to share of the very nice Celebration of Life event for Hank, July 17, 2021: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7PS37FS9Tc>.

California continues to enjoy a monthly retiree zoom meeting even if it is a small group like we had the last couple months. Here is the group we had in August.

I recently enjoyed reconnecting with an old friend and fellow retiree **Ed Moody**, after 45 years. Ed was the field office Engineer in Ukiah, CA, my first duty station out of college in 1975. Ed currently lives in Maryland and was on a road trip across the country, visiting friends and family he had not seen in some time. We had a nice visit reminiscing about our time together back then and the people we worked with. Thanks, Ed for reaching out to **Dana** and me.



Helen Flach, Bill Ward, Ed Schmidt, Harold Honeyfield, Walt Sykes.



Bill Ward and Ed Moody

Update on **Danny Maxim** from **Tom Smith**. "Hi Folks, I know Civil Engineering Technician Danny Maxim has some strong connections that go far beyond California to include New York and Arkansas. For all who ever worked with Danny, that name will instantly ring a bell. I am sure there will be retirees from those areas who will appreciate this update on Danny, recently provided to me by his close friend and fellow retiree Tom Smith." Thanks for sharing this for all of us, Tom.

"Hi Bill, made a trip to see Danny last Sunday, I found him alive and kicking. He definitely knew who I was, and I shared some pictures from the ranch where we used to do the annual "Full Moon in June" celebration with **Ralph Blair** and **Bobby Snieckus**. Also some pictures of my kids who always enjoyed being around Danny. He was conversational with all that, but did drift off on tangents every now and then that I didn't understand, but I just listened. He is definitely looking older, but content with where he is and how he's cared for.

Regards, Tom"



Danny Maxim and Tom Smith

As the West Region VP for ARCSE I participated in our recently concluded ARCSE annual meeting. Following is a welcome video I prepared on behalf of ARCSE for the meeting attendees, with background music provided by my Western Lights Band.
<https://youtu.be/CwJWYRCEnhM>.

Well, that is it from California, until next time, wishing all Retirees the best and to be safe!

COLORADO

Jack Carlson, ARCSE Representative

Email: pspicata@gmail.com

Dennis Lytle reconvened the monthly Breakfast Club in Fort Collins in early August, and all agreed it was nice to get back together. Joining Dennis were **Bernie Shafer**, **Steve Ekblad**, **Jason Restad**, **Wendall Oaks**, **Chuck Hart**, and **Frank Geter**.



Sunset from Shenandoah through the smoke from distant fires in the West

Jack and Vicki Carlson spent three weeks back east, one in the Shenandoah Valley and two house-sitting in Mt. Pleasant (WDC) for two granddaughters and their parents. Daughter **Sara** works for USAID on biodiversity projects, and her husband is a research economist for the World Bank. Weather cooperated and we saw some nice sunsets over the Appalachians through smoke from the west. Jack was able to fire up Zoom from the kitchen counter and host the ARCSE virtual annual webinar meeting from there without a hitch. He and Vicki drove over to Salt Lake City in June to watch their eldest granddaughter play in a soccer tournament. She, siblings, and parents flew up from Albuquerque. Heat dome that week, but luckily matches were in the early morning.

Steve Park hosted his annual PAP Foundation Charity Golf Tournament on August 2nd in Littleton, rescheduled from June. Steve noted that there were a few “less cats to herd” this year, but despite the shift in dates, the event proved successful and provided a great opportunity for participants to catch up. **Allen Green** decided to forego hosting his 11th golf outing this year but intends to resume next year.

FLORIDA

Bill Kuenstler, ARCSE Representative

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It has been a good summer so far for my wife and me here on the Florida Gulf coast. We have had a couple of tropical storms come close to our home in Santa Rosa Beach, but they have not caused any problems. However, we are entering the most active period for storms, so we're not out of the woods yet. We will keep our fingers crossed.

Since we received our COVID vaccinations early in the year (second jab was early February), we felt comfortable taking a couple of trips, one unplanned and one planned. My oldest brother (he was 87) died April 30th, contracting pneumonia in the hospital a few days after falling and breaking his femur, so we made a trip back to Illinois for his funeral.

A couple of weeks later, we made a trip to Austin, TX to visit our daughter, Jackie, and her husband Matthew. We had not seen them in person for over 15 months, so we particularly enjoyed that trip. I continued with my South Walton Turtle Watch volunteer activities again this year. I walk two different sections of beach, one on Saturday morning and one on Sunday morning, looking for sea turtle nesting activity. I have been fortunate this year to find two nests. The picture shows me with a nest that I found June 6th. That nest hatched two weeks ago. When we dug it out to evaluate hatch success, we found that out of 100 eggs, 28 hatched, 46 were unfertilized, and 26 contained undeveloped embryos. This nest had water over it twice during the incubation period, which explains some of the low hatch rate. Sea turtle egg development is very temperature-sensitive. A significant change in temperature during incubation can affect embryo development. Water over the nest lowers the temperature, which probably explains why so many of the embryos did not develop. We felt fortunate that we had 28 live hatchlings from the nest.

We both continue to be thankful for our good health.



Bill at a sea turtle nest that he had found.

IOWA

Mark Jensen, ARCSE Representative

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In July a group of 15 retirees, mostly from southwest Iowa, met in Crescent at Henry's Diner for breakfast and socializing. The breakfast was good; the socializing even better. We sat around the table inside for a couple of hours, then we moved to the parking lot for the picture. A pretty good percentage of the group was still in the parking lot talking when I left at noon.

While thinking about southwest Iowa, I'm reminded of one day in July when my wife met up with some of her friends in Council Bluffs for lunch. I decided to slip across the border and go down to Beaver Lake to visit **Norm and Barb Koester**. Norm was trimming a tree and had a load of branches on his pickup. He had me get in the pickup with him, and he proceeded to give me a tour of the Beaver Lake garbage dump. When he realized that he couldn't get rid of me that easily, he accepted the idea that I was going to be there for a while, so he gave me a nice tour of the Beaver Lake area. We had good discussions about their dam, lake, water supply system, and a lot of other topics. After a good lunch at Mom's Café in Plattsmouth, we went back to his place where he took me out on their pontoon boat and gave me a really good tour of the actual lake. Beaver Lake is a very nice development. Thanks to Norm and Barb for the kind hospitality.

Marty Adkins reported the following: "We're having a good summer and trying not to be TOO whiney about hot weather. We all know that summer will be gone all too quickly. We're up to all the usual stuff, but I will especially mention that we enjoyed having all of our kids and grandkids here for the 4th of July. One highlight (among many) was having Nathaniel preach at our church. Nathaniel is our oldest son; he is training at Wartburg Seminary to become a Lutheran pastor after having been an elementary school teacher. After the service, we all unmasked long enough to get a family photo."

Brian Rodman reports that northeast Iowa retirees meet bimonthly. They alternate between Elkader and Manchester. Attendees at the July get-together are pictured. The caption under the picture shows their name, their last office, and the year they retired.



Southwest Iowa Group at Henry's Diner, L-R: Lee White, Dick Hall, Norm Koester, Mark Jensen, Steve Stover, Larry Hammitt, Gayland Hall, Dennis Perkins, Bill Hammitt, Tom Bottoms, Dale DuVal, Greg Mathis, Ron Petersen, Marion Plumb, and Kevin Holcombe.

A group of northwest Iowa retirees have been meeting for a long time. One of their most recent get-togethers was their largest group to date with eleven folks and included two first timers in **Scott Osborn** and **Renee Braun**.



Northwest Iowa Group (starting in the front and going around the table clockwise): Terri Sage (retired biologist from Colorado), Marla Conley, Roger Braun, Scott Osborn, Renee Braun, Jerri Ducommun (wife of Wayne Ducommun), Judy Clause, Dick Hall, and Guy Hempey.

Jim and Betty Reel report that they are staying close to home. They provided the following: "We are looking forward to moving to Fairfield on October 15th! Our grandchildren will be visiting us one last time at the farm. **Jonny Reel** with his wife and son will

be visiting us this weekend. Then on Wednesday our grandson **Jonny Taylor Hill** from Connecticut will be meeting us in Osceola. Our granddaughter **Kelsey Kroph** and our two grandchildren will be coming to the farm in a few weeks."



Northwest Iowa Group: (starting on the left and going around the table clockwise) Renee Braun, Jerri Ducommun, Judy Clause, Dick Hall, Guy Hempey, Sheila Cox, Terri Sage, and Marla Conley

Thanks to **Jason Johnson** and the Iowa Current Developments for the following information. In June the Soil and Water Conservation Society announced their Leaders in Conservation Awards. This year, three Society Fellow Awards were given. This award is in recognition of SWCS members who have performed exceptional service in advocating the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources. Fellowship is an honor bestowed upon the best in the conservation profession. This year one of the awardees included **Lynn Betts**. Lynn was the longtime Public Affairs Specialist in Iowa. Since his retirement, he has continued taking photographs, shooting videos, and writing stories for several national agricultural magazines. He has also continued to do contract work for NRCS and other organizations, such as SWCS.



Northeast Iowa Retirees, L-R: Jerry Muff, West Union, 2010; Rick Cordes, West Union, 2006; Jim Wolfe, Decorah, 2012; Ron McCarthy, Epworth, 2014; Leroy Petersen, Epworth, 1996; Brian Rodman, West Union, 2019; Dave Gibney, Elkader, 2010; Ed Andrews, Maquoketa, 2006; and Agnes Kenney, Elkader, 2009

Lyle Asell reported the following: "We vacationed with our entire family in July and had a wonderful time in NW Wisconsin. Dubbed "The Great Asell Getaway 2021," it was the first time we had all been together since COVID began. **Stacy**, one of our Daughters-in-law, found a perfect spot with lots of privacy, scenery and great company. We hope to do it again next year. While there, we met up with long-time friends, **Deb Ryun** and **Steve Rassler**. Deb formerly was the Executive Director for the Conservation Districts of Iowa. We also spent an afternoon with **Shirley Stout** and **Warren Johnson**, both retired Iowa RC&D Coordinators. They live in Iowa but have a beautiful cabin in WI."



Charlotte and Lyle Asell



The Great Asell Getaway 2021 (standing left to right): Jeff (son), Michelle (Jeff's wife), Russ (son), Lyla (granddaughter), Lyle, Evan (grandson), Andy (son), and Charlotte. (sitting): Abby (granddaughter) and Stacy (Andy's wife)

Eldon Weber reported that he and **Jeannie** had a great trip to Dallas to spend time with their son, **Brad**, and family. After returning home he had colon surgery on July 6th. A month later, he is getting out and about and starting to get his appetite back. While in Dallas, they all attended a Texas Rangers game. He said, "It felt good inside the Ranger ballpark. While the outside temperature was 100 degrees, we were comfortable at 75 degrees with air conditioning in the enclosed stadium. What a building!"



The Weber's at Ranger Stadium, L-R: Eldon, Jeannie, Blair (granddaughter), Katie (daughter-in-law), and Brad (son who is waving)

On August 20th, **Lee White**, **Kathy Woida**, **Mark Jensen**, and future retirees **Christian Osborn**, State Conservation Engineer, and **Mark McCurdy**, Assistant State Conservation Engineer, met for breakfast at the Machine Shed. Along with having a good breakfast, fun discussions, and taking as many digs at each other as we could think of, Lee, Kathy, and I provided some insightful suggestions (I'm sure) to Christian and Mark M. on how NRCS should be operating, in order to more efficiently serve their customers and protect our natural resources.



Breakfast at the Machine Shed, L-R: Mark McCurdy, Christian Osborn, Kathy Woida, Mark Jensen, and Lee White

During the past few months, we have welcomed the following folks into our retirement community: **Lori Schwalbe**, Soil Conservationist on the Chariton Resource Team, retired on May 31st; and **Rick Streeter**, SCT on the Indianola Resource Team, retired on June 30th.

Recently we were saddened by the passing of **Ron Williams**. Ron was a Civil Engineering Technician in Storm Lake at the time of his retirement.

KANSAS

Deanne Lull, ARCSE Representative

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Masks are back in Kansas! Public school started in Salina with the recommendation that all students wear masks. Personally, **Ron** and **I** are back to wearing our masks when we are out and about. On a lighter note, our daughter who lives in Texas, recently spent a week with us. We had a wonderful visit as we had not seen her in person for over 18 months, and we sure hated to see her leave.

Eighteen retirees and spouses and three guests gathered for the Kansas Chapter of SCS/NRCS Retired Employees annual meeting and dinner at the Hilton Garden Inn in Salina, KS, on June 25th, 2021. Attending were **Kayla Ascher**, Salina; **Harold** and **Paula Blume**, Salina; **Russell and Sandra Blake**, Ness City; **Dennis Brinkman**, Carbondale; **Rosie Collins**, Salina; **Duane Evans**, Salina; **Gary Kelly**, Sedan; **Deanne and Ron Lull**, Salina; **John and Linda Ourada**, Salina; **Robert and Carolyn Roth**, Great Bend; **Lawrence and Phyllis Wetter**, Salina; and **Mary Shaffer**, Salina. Guests included **Karen Woodrich**, State Conservationist, and **Angela Allen**, Executive Assistant, from the Kansas State Office and program speaker, **Michael Kuni**, UAS Pilot/Flight Instructor, from the Applied Aviation Research Center, Unmanned Aircraft Systems at Kansas State University Polytechnic in Salina.

Karen Woodrich opened the program with an update of what was happening in the agriculture world. **Michael Kuni** then presented a very interesting program about unmanned aircraft systems (drones). He highlighted academic and training programs available, types of drones, their application now and for future uses, and closed with a demonstration by flying a drone around the room.

A short business meeting was held. Officers **Harold Blume**, president, and **Mary Shaffer**, secretary-treasurer, will continue to serve next year. A memorial service was held honoring 18 retirees and spouses who had passed away the past year. Brief reports were given for NARFE by **John Ourada** and for ARSCE by **Deanne Lull**.

There were two retirements in Kansas this summer. **H. Alan Larson**, retired on June 30th, 2021, as a Supervisory District Conservationist, in the Effingham Office in the Effingham Management Unit. **Thomas W. Roth**, Agronomist, on the Resource Conservation Staff, in the Kansas State Office in Salina, Kansas, retired on August 3rd, 2021.

It was learned that **Jerry Byron Lee**, a Kansas retiree who lived in Texas, passed away on June 16th, 2021. He retired in 1994 as a Plant Materials Specialist on the Resource Conservation Staff in the Kansas State Office in Salina, Kansas. He later pursued a career as an agronomist for the State of Texas. His wife, **Linnadelle**, survives.

Mary J. Kleppe, spouse of **Paul A. Kleppe**, died on August 13th, 2021. **Paul** retired in 1994 as a Soil Conservation Technician in the Troy Field Office and passed away in 2015.

MAINE

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2021 August Breakfast: We had our Tuesday breakfast last week (August 10th) with nine lively retirees: **Roger Ashe, Kyle Bolduc, Kay Nickel, Vassar, John Simon, Karen Champeon, Bruce Champeon, Patty Wright, and Ray Voyer**.

The first item was the pleasure of seeing **Kay** (after some 25+/-years) and finally meeting **Vassar**, her partner, whom I have heard so much about over the years! Vassar fit in to the group and shared lots of info. Vassar is a native of Madison, ME and has relatives there. Vassar also has a 100-year-old mother in a nursing home in the Waterville area, I believe. He and **Bruce** know a person in common (small world). Kay and Vassar have been traveling the country in a fifth wheeler but will settle down at their new home in Florida this fall/winter. It was probably the last time we will see Kay. **Art Taylor** could not come to the breakfast but gave his regards to Kay.

Art Taylor is feeling OK but still lacks energy. Art is putting a perimeter tile drain on the upper side of his driveway to get rid of ice problems in the winter. Art said **Linda** fell and broke her arm and is in recovery. We wish her a speedy recovery!

Talked to **Joe Bertolaccini** who is still in recovery from his broken leg. I mentioned to Joe my on-going bout with the "sciatica" and he said that his wife Ellie, and their daughter and son in law also have a sciatica nerve problem! Maybe this is from COVID or something or maybe the heat and humidity we have had lately! The hot weather takes a lot out of me for sure.

Talked to **Judy Boothby** last Monday, and she said that **Charlie** was in the hospital at St. Josephs. He will be home by the end of this week, hopefully. We wish Charlie well. Charlie is still in recovery from his broken leg but gets around with a walker. Charlie turned 86 this last May. Happy belated birthday Charlie! Judy and Charlie celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary in February of this year! Congratulations to you both!

My little black book (very incomplete) had a note that **Richard Ferland** had his 73rd birthday this month. Happy birthday, Richard and many many more.

MID-ATLANTIC STATES

Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC

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Our thoughts and prayers go out to retiree **Leith Campbell**, retired area IT guru in the Harrisonburg A.O. in the loss of his wife **Linda**. Everyone who worked in conservation in Virginia will remember Linda as she served in leadership positions in the Shenandoah Valley SWCD, Virginia Association of Districts and served as its president, served on the State Soil and Water Conservation Board, and was the national President of the National Dairy Goat Association.

Ron Marlow reports that he has been quite busy since early spring repairing and painting all the exterior trim on his house – almost finished. Climbing 24-foot and 32-foot ladders is keeping him in shape. In 2020, Ron completed several other home projects, the most challenging being a new paver driveway. Among other items, Ron installed 32 bags of concrete mix for a gutter drain, 21 tons of aggregate, 3 tons of sand, and over 2,200 pavers during a six-week period in the fall. Ann loves the new driveway – nothing else needs to be said. Watch for more Marlow news in an upcoming newsletter.



Ron Marlow compacting aggregate.



Ron laying pavers.



The Marlows' newly finished driveway

John and Blanche Peterson took a fun two-week trip recently. They spent a week at the Massanutten Mountains with grandchildren, which has become an annual family affair. Then they drove to Hilton Head Island, SC for a pleasant week on the ocean. They try to visit HHI a few times every year.



Atlantic Ocean at Hilton Head Island, SC

This might be a good time to mention more about these beautiful Appalachian (Blue Ridge), Massanutten, and Alleghany Mountains which dominate this historic area, for those who get this newsletter but are not from VA.



Blue Ridge Mountains, Virginia

The Blue Ridge Mountains are a physiographic province of the larger Appalachian Mountains range. The mountain range extends 550 miles southwest from southern Pennsylvania through Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia. The Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia are one of the most beautiful and iconic parts of the American landscape. The mountains are home to Skyline Drive – about 15 miles east of us here – the Blue Ridge Parkway, known as America's Favorite Drive, and the VA portion of the nearly 2,190-mile (3,524 km) long [Appalachian Trail](#), one of the most visited footpaths in the world. Skyline Drive ends, and the Blue Ridge Parkway starts going south about at I-64 near Waynesboro, VA.

The Blue Ridge Mountains are home to over 130 species of trees and 1,600 plant species that serve as a vital part of the local ecosystem. They also serve as part of the reason Virginia's Blue Ridge is known for its stunning natural beauty. The fall foliage of the Blue Ridge Mountains is one of the most remarkable sites in the world. As the leaves change colors every autumn, the region attracts millions of visitors from around the world who take advantage of the opportunity to see the mountains transform with fall color. Peak fall-foliage for the region typically occurs between mid-October through early-November.

Why are the Blue Ridge Mountains blue? Because of a hydrocarbon called isoprene, which is emitted by trees to protect themselves from the stress of excess heat, especially on summer days. After it's released into the air, isoprene interacts with other molecules in the atmosphere, creating the distinctive haze that's made the Blue Ridge Mountains famous. We have great views of the Blue Ridge from our Massanutten condo.

Massanutten Mountain is a [synclinal ridge](#) in the [Ridge-and-Valley Appalachians](#). It is near the [West Virginia](#) state line. The mountain bisects the [Shenandoah Valley](#) just east of [Strasburg](#) in [Shenandoah County](#) in the north, to its highest peak east of [Harrisonburg](#) in [Rockingham County](#) in the south. The mountain is divided into northern and southern sections, divided by the [New Market Gap](#). The northern section consists of three roughly parallel ridges, forming two valleys. The wider, main valley, is called [Fort Valley](#), while the smaller one is known as [Little Fort Valley](#). The ridges of the northern section converge at New Market Gap. The southern section consists of a series of closely gathered ridges, separated by precipitous creek [gorges](#). On the eastern side of the mountain range lie the [Page Valley](#) and the [Blue Ridge Mountains](#). On the western side lie the North-Central Shenandoah Valley and the [Great North Mountain](#) of the [Alleghany Mountains](#).

The Shenandoah Valley campaigns (July 1861–March 1865) in the War Between the States were important military campaigns in a four-year struggle for control of the strategic Shenandoah Valley, running roughly north and south between the Blue Ridge and the Allegheny Mountains. The South used the transportation advantages of the valley so effectively that it often became the “valley of humiliation” for the North.

For most of the war, Confederate armies were able to move north through the valley and toward Washington, DC, whereas Union armies advancing south found themselves pushed farther away from Richmond, the Confederate capital. When a Southern army crossed the Potomac at its confluence with the Shenandoah River, it cut across the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and was only 60 miles (100 km) northwest of Washington. Hence the presence of a Confederate army in the northern part of the Shenandoah Valley was often considered a sufficient menace to justify calling back Union troops from campaigns elsewhere to ensure the security of the capital. Late in the war, Union forces finally took undisputed control of the region.

*Editor's note: See the Pennsylvania report for an update on **Carl Bouchard**.*

MISSOURI

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The Columbia area retirees were finally able to meet again for the quarterly breakfast on August 11th. A small group showed up but at least we were meeting again. Those in attendance were: **John McCarthy, Frank Miller, Odie Swanegan, Mike Wells, Dennis Hoffman, Jean Herman, Jerry Edwards and Dave Rastorfer**. The next quarterly breakfast will be held in November (date to be determined) at J.J.'s restaurant (at the old Country Kitchen) in north Providence.

Mike Blaine: The Blaines have had a busy, but fun, summer. In June we went to WV for a granddaughter's wedding. We just went ahead and stayed two weeks to visit. Then the end of July we had our biannual all-family trip to Hilton Head SC. We rent a huge house (*mucho dinero*) and all stay together. There were 16 of us this year. We swam in the ocean, rode bikes all over, and played in the private pool we had at the rental. We especially like an outdoor show we attend every time we are there. The man has been doing the show at that location for 33 years. He does mostly 60s and 70s music and really gives even the little kids a great time, and it's free!

There was some danger of sharks this year. The week before we arrived a life guard was bitten by a shark about two miles up the beach. On the next to last day at the ocean our son was holding his four-year-old son, and another granddaughter was in the water a few feet away – they were just over knee-deep. TWO sharks swam right between them in that shallow water. Needless to say, they all got out of the water as quick as they could. Then on the last day our daughter was wading out of the ocean, and she got stung on the foot by a Manta Ray in water just inches deep. It was extremely painful but not otherwise dangerous. When we got home, grass and weeds had overrun the garden, and I could have baled hay in the yard! All in all, though, a good summer. Our best to all.

Dan Switzner: Dana Switzner of Smithville, MO, passed away on August 5th, 2021 after a long bout with Alzheimer's Disease. She was the wife of **Doug Switzner** (former DC and RC&D Coordinator at Hartville, West Plains, Houston, and St. Charles, MO) and mother of **Dan Switzner** (former DC at Troy, Plattsburg, and Liberty, MO). The graveside service was on August 10th at Southwest City, MO.

Jack Schneider: We managed to do some traveling, in spite of COVID. Made a quick trip to a friend's camp in Massachusetts in June and had a family reunion at Washington State Park near Desoto, MO in July. All vaccinated, so no problems. We have a trip planned to Washington State in September to visit one of our sons and family. While there, we have planned a 4–5-day trip to Olympic National Park. Unfortunately, I'll be out of town for the retirees' luncheon, so "Hi" to all now. I'm in the process of cutting up a huge maple tree we had taken down in our front yard. Yes, it's hot!

Jerold Crowder: We've had a quiet summer and somewhat warm. Looking forward to the retirees meeting in September. Hope to see a big turnout.

Jim Rickman: Jere and I had a lot of trips that were planned, but canceled. We are going to Greece in October, if it doesn't get scrubbed. Had a marginal wheat crop this year, but broke even, I think. Going to NM Sept. 1st to dove hunt, and just got back from Colorado trout fishing. At 10,000 elevation I thought the lack of oxygen in the air was causing me to be winded, but when we got back home it wasn't much different, so I suppose I am just out of shape. Hope everyone is in good health.

J.R. Flores: We recently returned from a trip up North to escape the Missouri heat. The temperature was fantastic. The temperatures averaged a high of 70 and a low of 59. We are doing our best abide by the "Recent Retiree Handbook" by traveling South when it is cold and North when it is hot!



J.R. and Nancy Flores in Duluth, MN.

Howard Coambes passed away in Bolivar Friday on July 16th. He worked for the NRCS in many locations throughout Missouri and was the DC in West Plains for many years but transferred to Stockton before he retired. A celebration of life will be at a later date. We've also received word that **Edna Mae Abney**, the mother of **Mark Abney**, Assistant State Soil Scientist, passed away July 27th, 2021. See the In Memoriam section for more details.

MONTANA

Dick Gooby, ARCSE Representative

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Montana Big Sky Report

Kathy Decker Gordon Decker's wife sent Gordons Report: Gordon is unable to communicate because he has been diagnosed with advanced ALS. After three years of weakening muscles and endless doctor visits, it was diagnosed after a few days in CCU and the attending neurologist. He is home now with hospice care and home care. I know Gordon would want you to know and will keep you informed. Kathy Decker

*Editor's note: Dick Gooby reported that **Gordon Decker** passed away on August 23rd.*

Scott Hoag Report: Well, to begin, Scott broke his hip in December while putting on boots to go shovel snow and had partial hip replacement surgery. Healing slowly and working with a PT, aka 'physical terrorist'. The moral to that story is sit down when you're putting on boots.

Scott and Nancy made several trips this summer. We travelled to Cody, WY via Cooke City and the Clarks Fork River – a wonderful scenic drive. Spent a day at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West – the museum is a must see. East of Cody there's the historic Japanese Internment Center (Heart Mountain Interpretive Center) used during WW II. Travelled from there to Yellowstone. A stop at the Buffalo Bill Dam visitor center details building of the dam in 1902 and is a National Civil Engineering Landmark. Then on into the Park where folks were waiting near Yellowstone Lake for a grizzly and cubs to come feed on an elk carcass. On around Yellowstone Lake where we came on a five-point bull elk in the velvet – don't often see that – grazing next to the road – a beautiful site. On to Old Faithful for lunch in the lodge – dining room not open due to COVID.

Scott and Nancy travelled to Eureka the back way, through Helena, MacDonald Pass, Ovando, and Kalispell – a fun trip. We visited the Tobacco Valley Historical Village and Museum, which is a collection of buildings from around Tobacco Valley and from the area flooded by Libby Dam. We travelled west to Lake Koocanusa and stopped at Kootenai Falls and hiked down to the swinging bridge. Then down south of Libby to Ross Creek Giant Cedars Natural Area. Many of the cedars there are more than eight feet in diameter. The area reminds me of a rain forest with ferns in higher rainfall vegetation.

We travelled to Pinedale, WY via Gallatin Canyon, Ashton, ID, and Teton Pass. While there we visited **Bob and Jan Remer** who have an RV pad south of Pinedale. We went to a pond where there were trumpeter swans and three young. They were fun to see.

Scott continues to work with two engineering firms – one in UT and one in CA – on two PL-566 projects. Nancy continues to see her writings published in Christian papers and magazines.

Gooby Ranch Report: Our son-in-law **Gary** recently bought a 16-foot aluminum fishing boat with an outboard motor and a trailer, so we don't have to load the boat in the pickup. He read that the Canyon Ferry Reservoir on the Missouri River was a good place to fish. It's about 100 miles from here and is the closest place we can fish for walleye. Gary, our daughter **Jeannie**, and I decided we wanted to catch a batch of walleyes. Jeannie said, "I haven't caught a fish since 1975." The reason Gary hasn't taken her fishing in all this time is that she has too many chores on her to-do list. Jeannie talked to **Mary Ann** to see if she could do the chores one day so Jeannie could go fishing. Mary Ann agreed. Otherwise, Jeannie would have had to stay home and feed the cows, mow lawns, weed the garden, and split wood.

We left early in the morning, and Gary found a place where we could launch the boat. Of course, Jeannie had to wade in the water up to her waist to untie the ropes and everything from the trailer. In the meantime, I got my munchies and drinks ready to load. We trolled for about six hours and never got a bite. I even used my secret lure that the trout love when I go stream fishing. But apparently walleyes don't like it. I didn't get a nibble.

When we went back to load the boat, we talked to the fishermen who were leaving and asked them what they used to catch walleyes. They were nice enough to tell us about fishing gear we had never heard of. When we got home, Mary Ann had all of Jeannie's chores done, along with her own, and supper started. She said she ran from job to job to save time. Mary Ann is one hard worker. I'm wondering if I should be adding a few more items to her to-do list.

Jeannie got on the internet, found the special fishing gear, sent an order, and within days we were ready to attack the walleye again. This time we decided it would only be fair to draw straws to see who stayed home – Jeannie or Mary Ann. Mary Ann drew the short straw, so she was again left home to do all the chores while we headed for the reservoir with our fancy new fishing gear. We got to the secret area and started fishing. After about five minutes I hooked one and reeled it in. It was an 8-pound minus 7-pound walleye. It wasn't long before I caught another. This one weighed 8½ pounds minus 7 pounds. Gary and Jeannie each caught three.

When Jeannie caught a walleye, she was so excited, she did cartwheels all over the boat. Gary had to grab her to keep her from going overboard. It only took her 46 years to catch another fish. She had a great day. As soon as she got the fish cleaned, we headed back to the ranch.

When we got home, we expected Mary Ann would have everything ready for the fish fry of walleye fillets. Instead, we found her kicked back reading her book with a beer in her hand. She said she got tired of waiting and went down to the Old Hotel, the most expensive restaurant for 100 miles, and had a solo supper. She got a big smile and said she hoped we would go fishing again next week.

NEBRASKA

Norm Kempf, Jim Culver, ARCSE Representatives

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The Lincoln SCS/NRCS Retirees Club meeting of July 21st was held at the Greenfield's Café and was opened by President **Tom Reinsch**, with 14 members present: **Steve Scheinost, Paul Bartlett, Steve Stover, Norman Kempf, Jim Culver, Keith Sheets, Craig Derickson, Tom Reinsch, Louie Buller, Norm Helzer, Gus Dornbusch, Doug Christensen, JoAnne Thiele, and Donna Dornbusch**. One guest was present: **Wayne Vanek**.

The Lincoln SCS/NRCS Retirees Club meeting of August 18th was called to order by President **Tom Reinsch**, with 15 members present: **JoAnne Thiele, David Camper, Louie Buller, Paul Bartlett, Norm Helzer, Craig Derickson, Keith Sheets, Doug Christensen, Harold Klaege, Steve Scheinost, Jim Culver, Gus Dornbusch, Steve Stover, Thomas Reinsch, and Donna Dornbusch**.

Norm Helzer reported that **Val Bohaty** has some memory problems.

John Overing age 94, of York, NE died Sunday, August 8th at Lincoln, NE. He was employed by the Soil Conservation Service in 1955 as an Agricultural Engineer in York and Hebron and as an Irrigation Engineer at Grand Island and Lincoln. He retired in 1987 and returned to the farm at York in 1989. See the In Memoriam section for more details.

Craig Derickson was the recipient of the International Soil and Water Society Fellow Award for 2021. **Norm Helzer** received the ARCSE President's Award for Outstanding Community Service. **Jerry Bernard** received the ARCSE President's Award for Distinguished Service. **Norm Kempf** was the recipient of this award last year. **Gus Dornbusch** was also the recipient of the President Award for Outstanding Community Service in 2013.

Steve Stover and wife vacationed in Wyoming for her 70th birthday and had a great time.

Norm Kempf said they have had a lot of company. First his wife's brother and sisters spent a week at their house. Their oldest daughter came for two weeks. Then their daughter and family who currently live in Africa came to stay, as well as their two sons from Montana and Minnesota. Then last week Norman's college friend and wife came for a couple of days.

Norm Helzer said daughter and family came to town and visited the children's zoo and saw the cheetahs run. **Steve Stover** traveled to Iowa to meet a group of Iowa NRCS/SCS retirees and had a great time. **Gus and Donna Dornbusch** spent last weekend at the family farm with all the family. They have built a new cabin by the farm's lake.

Keith Sheets will travel to California via train to visit his sister. **JoAnne Thiele** related her family's train travel experience from Nebraska to Georgia in 1949. It was quite different than current train travel.

Gus Dornbusch reported on his and **Donna's** trip to Alaska where they visited Denali National Park and then cruised on a small ship to various sites. They saw whales, bears, sea lions, etc.

Craig Derickson and wife spent several days in western Nebraska before traveling to Montana and Colorado. **JoAnne Thiele** went to Yankton, SD, to walk the Meridian bridge that connects Nebraska and South Dakota. It is the largest pedestrian bridge to connect two states and was built originally as a railroad bridge in 1910.

Dave Camper traveled by motorcycle to Ohio to visit cousins and to visit the farm where he grew up. He traveled about 2,500 miles in 12 days, mostly on two-lane highways. **Jim Culver** reported on the national rodeo held in Lincoln and said it was very large and well organized. **Tom Reinsch** went to see his grandchildren participate in the Holt County fair. His grandchildren raise and show pigs. His granddaughter won best in show.

Jim Culver attended the Nebraska Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Meeting in Ogallala last month. They had excellent field tours.

Wayne Vanek, retired soil scientist, gave a brief history of his work service. He and his wife are in the process of selling their home in Lincoln and moving to a townhouse. His wife teaches part-time at Southeast Community College.

Jim Culver reminded members that the ARCSE annual meeting (via zoom) will be held next week.

Craig Derickson reported on his observations of the new Highway 2 construction. Jim Culver's Kiwanis group had one of the engineers give a presentation on the construction. **Steve Scheinost** said a YouTube presentation is issued each month on current work on the Highway 2 construction. He said go to YouTube and search for south beltway Lincoln NE.

Harold Klaege announced that he is now the president of the state NARFE (National Association of Retired Federal Employees). He encouraged all attendees to join NARFE to receive current information on retired Federal employee benefits. He thinks Federal employees will receive a 6% cola this year.



Our Lincoln SCS/NRCS Retirees Club members enjoying a quality breakfast at Greenfields Restaurant in Lincoln, Nebraska. This is our third "Live" breakfast since February 2020.



L-R: Craig Derickson, Norm Helzer and Paul Bartlett. Norm's "V" sign is for another Nebraska excellent Volleyball Season!



L-R: Donna Dornbusch, Steve Scheinost, Harold Klaege, Doug Christenson. In back: Thomas Reinsch. Gus Dornbusch, and Steve Stover.



L-R: Thomas Reinsch (our Chairperson for 2021) and Gus Dornbusch.

NEW YORK

Nancy Lee, ARCSE Representative

Email: mlee0006@rochester.rr.com

NYS Retirees Picnic was held on July 21st at Chapman Park along Oneida Lake, with twenty retirees and spouses attending. We had great fellowship, food, and enjoyed beautiful scenery along the Lake. Those in attendance were: **Nancy and Mel Lee, Bob Myers, Fred and Mary Gilbert, Harlan Moonen, Karen and Bruce Williamson, Rod Douglas, Peter Wright, Frank Winkler, Greg and Joyce Currier, Steve and Lisa Indrick, Paul and Leslie Ray, Julian and Sylvia Drelich, and Jim Mietz.**

NORTH CAROLINA

James Canterbury, ARCSE Representative

Email: jhcanter@bellsouth.net

Nine retirees from the Raleigh area met at the Farmers Market Restaurant for breakfast on August 19th. Attending the breakfast were Jim Canterbury, Frank Evans, Dick Gallo, Hubert Hawkins, Ed Helmey, John Kelly, Roger Montague, Cecil Settle, and Talmadge Wiggins.



L-R: Roger Montague, Ed Helmey, Frank Evans, Dick Gallo, Jim Canterbury, Cecil Settle, Talmadge Wiggins and John Kelly. Photo by Hubert Hawkins.

OHIO

Jon Gerken and Bob Parkinson, ARCSE Reps.

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On August 11th, 2021, following a one-year absence because of COVID concerns, 15 retired NRCS/SCS employees gathered at the MCL cafeteria at 5240 East Main Street in Whitehall, OH, along with one additional family member. Attendees enjoyed a slide show of recent and historic employee and family activities prior to and during lunch. Retirees then updated the group on recent activities.

Attendees included: David Berna, Joe Branco, Art Brate, Dan Conrad, Jon Gerken, Scott Jerrome, Lenny Losh, Mike Monnin, Bob Parkinson, Jim Piper, Chuck Reynolds, Richard Rush, Jim Stafford, Joe Steiger and his wife Carolyn, and Jon Warner.



Ohio retirees meeting. L – R: Jim Stafford, Bob Parkinson, Richard Rush, Chuck Reynolds, Art Brate, Lenny Losh, Jon Warner, Jon Gerken, Joe Branco, Mike Monnin, Jim Piper, Scott Jerrome, David Berna, Carolyn Steiger, and Joe Steiger. Missing from the photo: Dan Conrad.

After more than a year of limited travel due to COVID, my wife and I embarked on a trip in July that I have been anticipating for some time: driving **Historic Route 66**. With a limited social life prior to the trip, we had plenty of time to make preparations.

During the planning stages I had plenty of time to research available materials to help in making the trip. I acquired six books and two DVD sets to help in the planning. They were loaded with ideas on things to see, places to eat, and places to stay, as well as aids in navigating the route.

One guidebook that was invaluable during the trip included turn by turn directions for following the route. If you are not familiar with the history of Route 66, this might seem unnecessary. However, over the course of years, Route 66 has followed three different alignments, roughly a 1920s route, a 1930s route and a 1940s route, before being replaced by the interstate highway system in the 1950s and 1960s.

Another complicating factor in making the trip is that Route 66 has been officially decommissioned, so there are no longer any official Route 66 highway signs. It now depends on the individual states and local support groups to identify where the road once ran. In preparation I used the turn-by-turn guide and delineated the route on map printouts from Google Maps to follow during the drive.

Another invaluable aid was a phone app that has plotted the route over the top of a base map. The app shows your car's location to make it easier to follow. The app has a subscription cost but is relatively inexpensive.

Another guide that proved very helpful for us was a book written by a person from Europe that was somewhat geared toward groups from out of country making the trip. It included several different itineraries to follow, depending on how long you can spend on the trip. We followed an itinerary set up for thirty days, which had us traveling between 50 and 175 miles a day, with the rest of the time left for sightseeing.

We began our trip at the east end, in downtown Chicago and headed west toward the west end of the road in Santa Monica, CA. We wondered whether going downtown Chicago would cause any problems, but it really went very smoothly. We started in Chicago on a Saturday so we wouldn't have to deal with daily work traffic. The origin, near the shore of Lake Michigan and just across the street from Millennium Park, proved to be a very nice and fun area to begin the journey.

Unfortunately, during our drive through Illinois we were still figuring out how to do and use things, and we didn't make as many stops or take as many pictures as we did later in the trip. Another item I acquired that was more fun than aid, was a Route 66 Passport. It includes suggested places to see, but also includes locations where you can get your passport stamped, similar to getting an official passport stamped as you go from country to country. Many of these locations are state visitor centers or locations that have museums about Route 66 history, so it encourages you to see some of these sights along the way.



Standing at the beginning of Route 66 (the east end) in downtown Chicago.

Besides the numerous murals, the guides on things to see focused lots of attention on old cars, old bridges, and the like, as well as pointing out examples of the original segments of the road. Portions of original roadbed that we saw include pavement that was nine feet wide with gravel berms to get off/on when meeting other traffic, a preserved section of brick road, segments that were originally four-lane divided road, with two lanes now abandoned, and segments still maintained as four-lane divided highway.

During this trip, because of other activities we wanted to get back to, we made it as far as Amarillo, TX, near the midpoint of Route 66. Our plan is to drive the Amarillo to Santa Monica segment next March and finish the trip visiting two of my sisters who live in the Los Angeles area.

Throughout the trip you pass many abandoned or restored restaurants, gas stations, and motels in addition to the museum-types of facilities, which are featured in many of the references regarding things to see. Another thing that is common along the route are murals based on Route 66 history or things common when Route 66 was in use. One town, Cuba, MO has made this their main attraction, with murals spread throughout the town. While we were in Cuba we also got to see a parade. It went by the restaurant where we ate just as we finished dinner.



My wife, Diane and I touching the nose on the bust of Lincoln at Lincoln's tomb in Springfield, IL. It's supposed to bring good luck.



A fun place to stop in the short trip through Kansas (17 total miles in the state) is in Galena where a restored gas station, now a restaurant, has trucks fixed up to look like vehicles from Cars.



One of the very unique stops in Oklahoma, or anywhere on the trip, is the blue whale in Catoosa, OK.

OREGON

Don Stettler, ARCSE Representative

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The summer of 2021 in the Pacific Northwest will be remembered for its unprecedented heat and lack of rain. Portland's high temperatures for June 26 – 28 were 108°, 112°, and 116° resulting from a heat dome. Higher than normal temperatures continued through July and into August. The effects of the heat were devastating to the population and infrastructure. Especially tragic was the large number who died from the heat. Previously, I had experienced these high temperatures only when I went to Phoenix for meetings held there during summer months because of low motel rates.

Eldena VanderZanden crossed out one item from her bucket list by attending the 147th running of the Kentucky Derby on May 1st. Medina Spirit, the apparently winner, was disqualified because of a failed drug test verified by a second test.



Eldena VanderZanden

Janie and Garry Schaefer began a trip at the end of June to perform maintenance on some SCAN weather stations. Beginning with maintenance on a station in Missouri, they went on to stations in Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Alabama. Currently they are in Mississippi expecting to finish up by the end of August. They had planned to do other fun things along the way, but COVID-19 kept them eating take out in their hotel rooms. Along the way they experienced several days with a heat index of over 100° so they made sure they stayed hydrated. Janie and Garry are looking forward to concerts in Denver – Jimmy Buffett at Red Rocks, and the Eagles at the Pepsi Center.

Joe Sahlfeld reported that he has taken a couple of RV trailer trips to the Oregon Coast with his grandkids. Always a delightful thing to do. Now with COVID-19 cases and deaths surging, it is one of the safer activities.

Julie MacSwain, ARCSE President Elect, has relocated to River Falls, WI. She will be serving as the House Mother for the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity in River Falls, WI. From 2017–2021, Julie was the Partnership Liaison for Oregon NRCS, retiring in May, 2021.

PENNSYLVANIA

Bill Bowers, ARCSE Representative

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SEPA Retirees, 2021

Nine of us met for lunch and fun on August 21st at the UNO Restaurant in Newtown Square. Many older people are reluctant to dine out in a group at this point, which is understandable. However, we had a great time eating, drinking, discussing events from years gone by, and looking at some NTC pictures sent by **Art Holland** with his regards to us. It's fun and sometimes a bit sad to see what we looked like about forty years ago!

Those present: **Len and Mary Beck, Tom and Joyce livari, Frank and Jane Resides, Fred and Jane Schuetz, and Shirley Thomas.**

Carl Bouchard is still dealing with cancer. The chemo was not effective and was stopped after four treatments. the Oncologist, the Radiation Oncologist, the Urologist, and his GP are working on a plan for what's next for Carl.

Bobby Brant has a torn meniscus, which has been painful for eight weeks. **Gail** is hoping she can visit her mother in LA sometime soon. **Shirley McCandless** needs surgery, which is being scheduled, to repair a valve in her heart. We need to keep Shirley, Carl and Bobby in our prayers.

Don had a good year with his sweet corn patch, which his tenant farmer plants for him. He has picked well over a hundred dozen, and it is still producing! What they don't use he gives to family, friends, and neighbors and donates the rest to a local food bank. A nice thing to do.

Barbara Osgood is living with three of her Rescue dogs – ages 12, 13, and 15. Barbara received a National Professional Achievement Award, based on her SCS/NRCS career, from her sorority, Pi Beta Phi. Congratulations! Barbara, and you should receive a Be Kind to Dogs Metal, too.



Pennsylvania Retirees, L-R: Len Beck, Mary Beck, Tom Iivati, Joyce Iivati, Jane Schuetz, Fred Schuetz, Frank Resides, Jane Resides, Shirley Thomas.

Jim Cropper reports that they have sold **Maria's** mother's house in Baltimore and are staying close to Greensboro.

It's a Blessing to spend time with friends we have known for forty or fifty years. Hopefully we can do it again next year. –Frank Resides

Carl DuPolt sent the following link to saving waterways: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2_043594.pdf

TEXAS NORTH

Arnold King, ARCSE Representative

Email: arnolddking@hotmail.com

Arnold King report for North Texas

The pandemic has really done a number on us here in Texas. Every time we think it is over, something happens, and we have a setback. We have had to cancel our annual blowout in New Braunfels for the past two years, and our local chapter cancelled the monthly meetings. The planning committee, however, does plan to meet again in January to plan the statewide Texas Reunion meeting during April, 2022.

Willeene and I just returned from our annual trip to Gunnison Colorado. We had a great trip but noticed a slight slowdown in activities. Our old routine was to stay two full weeks and wish we had a little more time to see and do more. This year we were both ready to head back home after one week of trail riding and road trips to various locations. It is dry on the western slopes of Colorado, and the Blue Mesa lake is critically low. Hopefully, the snows will return this winter, and the lake will return to normal levels and provide better fishing for Kokanee salmon.



Arnold and Willeene King with friends at their cabin on Blue Mesa Reservoir, Gunnison, Colorado.

Doug Seibel – I am doing well, but **Jane** is not doing well – problems with pinched nerves in her back, preventing her from walking. We are staying safe but unfortunately unable to do much of interest. I do ride my bicycle about 10 miles a day during weekends when our fitness center is closed. I will enjoy receiving the newsletter! Hoping that all of the members of ARCSE are staying safe during the pandemic.

Clyde Goodman – **Marla** and I recently celebrated our 55th wedding anniversary. **Melissa**, our daughter, has her own successful interior design business in Midland, TX. Their son **Corby** is a chemical engineer with an independent company in Humble, TX. We recently purchased a fully accessible handicap minivan to help with Marla as she has become progressively debilitated over the past ten years due to the severity of her arthritis, becoming a functional quadriplegic. The three-year old van cost more than twice what we paid for our first home in Midland, TX. I am serving as Summer Creek Group Captain for the Citizens On Patrol program, which is a part of the Fort Worth Police Department. I have served one term as a member of the NRCS Credit Union Board of Directors and is currently running for a second term.

We received late notice that **Dale R. Olson** (60) of Robinson, Texas, passed away August 21st, 2021. See the In Memoriam section for more details.

TEXAS SOUTH

Rosendo Trevino, ARCSE Representative

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Roy G. Freeman of Kenedy, TX. Passed away on August 7th, 2021 at John Paul II Nursing Home. He was 96 years old. In August of 1983, Roy retired from the Soil Conservation Service after 37 years of service. In September of 1983, Roy went to work for the Texas Soil and Water Conservation Board and retired in 1999 after 16 years of service. See the In Memoriam section for more details.

WASHINGTON

Ken Kaul, ARCSE Representative

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We are not out of the woods with the Covid. Vaccinations are down, and case counts are increasing. Wearing masks is recommended, both indoors and in public. It is not well received by the public. We have not resumed regularly scheduled lunches. We have not used Zoom to stay connected.

Record-breaking temperatures in June affected most Washington farmers, especially cherry growers. About 20% of the sweetheart cherries were shriveled by the scorching temperatures. Washington cherry crops are the largest in the country. In addition, smoke from wildfires created harvest and fieldwork issues. Hot days in June have destroyed some apples.

Seafoods are also suffering from the hot temperatures. Clams, lobsters, and scallops have been hit hard. When you can find them in store, the prices are crazy. Seafoods are vanishing from restaurant menus.

Low water levels and freakishly hot air temperatures are having damaging impacts in the Columbia River Basin. Salmon and steelhead runs are suffering, including at least a half dozen that are endangered or threatened species.

Wheat production is down. I don't have any good numbers. And, meat prices in the stores are going up. This is some of what extreme drought will do to us.

Jerry Smith SCS/NRCS Forester in Chehalis FO, Olympia, AO and Lake Stevens passed away on Father's Day, 2021, from Alzheimer's.

Stefan Fechter – Not much here. Lots of time inside due to heat and smoke. We have finished all the indoor painting, and the kitchen update turned out great. We're still waiting for an installation date for the new roof. The roofing company has been dealing with supply issues, heat and smoke, and they can't find roofers willing to work while the unemployment bonuses continue. A long-time competitor closed up and retired since he can't find crews.

Phil McCloud – As you know I'm a retired NRCS employee but never worked in Washington. My wife **Susan** (who also was an NRCS employee) and I moved to Washington in 2014 after we retired to be closer to our daughter and her family who lives in Seattle. Our NRCS careers took us to Pennsylvania, Indiana, and North Carolina. We are now very happy in Mount Vernon, WA. It has been great to be close enough to see our granddaughters grow up and be a part of their lives. I spend my time bicycle riding with a great group of folks in the Skagit Valley, building furniture and participating with the Northwest Corner Woodworkers Association and volunteering with Skagit Habitat for Humanity to build houses. Retirement is grand!

WEST VIRGINIA

Peg Reese, ARCSE Representative

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Jim Cooper, retired Assistant State Conservationist, died on July 11th, 2021. Jim was an active member of ARCSE and helped plan many West Virginia meetings. His obituary is in the "In Memoriam" section of this newsletter. Please note that his memorial service will take place on September 1st at the Suncrest United Methodist Church in Morgantown. Jim will be missed.

In 2014, Jim applied to become an ARCSE Senior Conservationist and wrote the following as part of the application.

"U.S. Army, serving in Korea: On Disaster Action Team for American Red Cross.

While at the National Office, I was fortunate to review operations at 178 Field Offices (From Napa, CA to Taylor, TX. to Baggs, WY to Presque Isle, ME.) and 65 Area Offices in 38 states, with the help of Asst. STC's in those states with the addition of working in five offices, visits as A.C. in 13, and over 40 as Asst. STC. I actually visited over 250 field offices where many conservation practices were applied.

Needless to say, I found the most dedicated, loyal, and hard working men and women that could top any agency. The teamwork, where getting the job done, regardless of time and tremendous pressure, was excellent. Talking to Soil Conservation Technicians – who were responsible for "getting it on the land," Soil Conservationists who planned it, District Conservationists who both planned and directed operations, as well as Area Conservationists who managed several field operations, along with Soil Scientists and Engineers – was one of the highlights of my career.

When writing trip reports, while returning to Washington, and looking down on many conservation practices on the land, I felt a sense of pride to be a Soil Conservation Service employee and be a part of the action.

I was also fortunate to work with or know many superior people along the way. I can't mention them all, but those who stand out are **K. Jacobson, B. Miller, K. McManus, R. Briola, V. Bathurst, J. Hytre, P. Campbell, C. Eacker, E. Terpstra, E. Begovich, and R. Gilkeson.**

I may be on the back nine, in golf terms, but the thoughts and dreams of my great days with SCS will go to the 'club house in the sky' with me."

Pat Bowen's wife, **Dr. Elaine Bowen**, was inducted into the Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame at Jackson's Mill in July. Elaine joined the WVU Extension Service in 1978 and became a statewide specialist focusing on children and at-risk families in 1988. She worked with the American Heart Association to educate women about heart disease, the Center of Excellence in Women's Health to organize wellness retreats and the Center for Excellence in Disabilities to develop a health and safety program for seniors.



Jennifer Williams (L), WVU Extension Associate Dean for Programming and Partnership with inductee Elaine Bowen (R).



Elaine Bowen with WV Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame plaque.

In addition to Pat, several other NRCS employees and retirees attended the event, including State Conservationist **Jon Bourdon**, Economist **Pam Yost** and **Peg Reese**. Retired Forester **Barbara McWhorter** is on the WV Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame Board of Directors but did not attend the banquet.

Katie Fitzsimmons is one of four 2021 West Virginia Women in Agriculture. Katie is the District Conservationist for the McMechen Service Center which serves Brooke, Hancock, Marshal, and Ohio Counties. Following is what was in the WV Department of Agriculture press release:

"Katie Fitzsimmons' agricultural roots run deep. Starting at an early age, she was given her first heifer. That love of agriculture developed into rearing other animals, including chickens and pigs. Her early introductions in 4-H and FFA taught her organization, community service, work ethic, and leadership skills. One of her biggest accomplishments was earning her American FFA Degree. She always wanted to follow in her Dad's footsteps and become a teacher, but intern opportunities through the Nation Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) gave her insight into a different avenue of agriculture. After college, she was offered a permanent position with NRCS and has been with them for the last 18 years. She continues to give back to the tri-state community by teaching others how to grow in a high tunnel, educating kids where food comes from, providing information to local producers, helping promote women in agriculture, and many other events. She works on her family farm, Hazel Dell, raising commercial beef. She has worked endlessly to promote and brand their products".

WISCONSIN

James Enlow, ARCSE Representative

Email: ljenlow@att.net

Retiree social activities have been very slow since the beginning of the pandemic. Our retirees are now anxious to begin socializing again. We had our first retiree luncheon for 2021 on August 6th at Antigo, WI. **John Campbell** was the gracious luncheon host, and **Jean Omernik** was the tour leader. Prior to the luncheon, 20 retirees toured the Sheldon Lures (Mepps) Company in Antigo. The company produces fishing lures, and the group enjoyed the tour. We had 31 retirees and spouses attend the luncheon. Many of them were glad to be back to some kind of normal. **Duane Simonson** was there after having some heart surgery not that long ago. **Larry Decker** is back living in Appleton, WI from Florida.

Our next retiree luncheon is being planned by **Vic Price** on September 9th, 2021 at 29 Pines Restaurant and Lodge Bar in Eau Claire, WI.

Mentoring Program: Angela Biggs, State Conservationist, and I have been talking about a possible mentoring program within NRCS Wisconsin. They will soon be hiring approximately 35 new employees throughout Wisconsin and will include many disciplines.

We would like for you to consider becoming a mentor to one or more new employees. Sharing your expertise with a new employee or answering their questions would be a very rewarding experience for both you and them. NRCS will need mentors

from most disciplines including engineers, conservation technicians, soil scientists, biologists, district conservationists, and soil conservationists to name a few.

Details of the mentoring program have not been developed at this time. When we find out your interest, details will be developed and discussed with you.

If you are interested, please contact me at my email address: Ljenlow@att.net or my cell phone: 608-577-0806. If I don't answer my phone, please leave a message.

WYOMING

Veronica Schadegg. ARCSE Representative

Email: schadegg2@bresnan.net

Wyoming NRCS Retirees lunch, August 17th at Edness Kimball Wilkens Park, Casper, WY. Just thought I'd pass on a couple pictures from the lunch. I think everyone there had a good time, but we sure missed all of you who couldn't join.

Here's a list of who was there:

Duane and Anna Klamm, Ted and Traute Gilbert, Jerry and Donna Hattan, Don and Shirley Tranas, Phil Gonzales, Jerry Gladson, Dave and Rachael Hovland, Lee and Bobbie Hackleman, Ben and Diane Adams, Kerry and Clara Powers, Stan and Karen Mitchem, Steve and Cheryl Grapes.



We don't have a location determined yet, but we hope to get together again next year. Raise your hand if you'd like to host the spot. (It's not much work). Take care everyone!

Cheryl

SENIOR CONSERVATIONISTS

Prepared by Marc Safley, Senior Conservationist Chronicler

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

SENIOR CONSERVATIONIST CHRONICLE

Senior Conservationist

Frank F. Reckendorf

Senior Conservationist **Frank F. Reckendorf** was born December 30, 1934, at Waukegan, Illinois. Waukegan is just north of Chicago and is the county seat of Lake County, Illinois. Frank attended local schools and graduated from Waukegan Township High School. Almost immediately after graduation he joined the United States Air Force. He was still stateside when the Korean War ended. He joined the United States Air Force's Security Service and trained as a radio intercept officer. His last few months of service were spent in Turkey, where he intercepted Soviet Union radio traffic. After his military service, Frank turned his attention to furthering his education. He attended Iowa State University where he graduated with both Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in geology in 1961 and 1963, respectively.

Frank was hired by SCS as geologist for agency operations in Oregon. At the WNTC, Frank also served as Sedimentation Geologist for the region. During his first years in Oregon, Frank was also enrolled at the University of Oregon (Corvallis) where he earned a Ph.D. degree in Soil Science in 1973. During the 1970s, following passage of the National Environmental Policy Act and legal challenges to SCS programs under NEPA, Frank was part of a national team that crafted the first guidance that served to bring agency programs into compliance. For the last ten years of his career Frank served the west region as sedimentation geologist. He retired in April of 1994.

After retirement, Frank started a consulting business specializing in fluvial geomorphology and fluvial geomorphological studies and designs. Of the dozens of conceptual designs he has prepared, the largest was a million-dollar wetland restoration for Ducks Unlimited. His largest study was as head of the team that developed the Chehalis River Basin Study (western Washington State) for the Lewis County Conservation District.

Frank has authored over 100 publications and client reports. He has served as an expert witness in 17 litigations as a geologist or fluvial geomorphologist. In 1989 Frank was awarded the Federal Employee of the Year, Community Services Award, from the Federal Executive Board of the Greater Portland Area. Frank's volunteer work with Little People of America earned him their Distinguished Service Award in 1991. In 2007, he was recognized with an Outstanding Service Award by the Society of Ecological Restoration, Northwest for his volunteer work.

Frank married **Elisabeth Steidel** in 1959; they have been married 62 years. They have two children, one grandchild, and two great grandchildren.

If you want to contact Frank, his email is frecken@mac.com His cell phone is (503) 551-2130, and his address is 950 Market St. NE, Salem, Oregon 9730.

OBITUARY INFORMATION

Paul Benedict, Membership Chair

When you receive word of someone passing, with little other information provided to you, obituaries can often be found by doing an advanced search using Google, using the full name of the deceased. If you do not have access to the web, Paul Benedict will be glad to do the search. PLEASE SEND DEATH NOTICES AND OBITUARY INFORMATION DIRECTLY TO PAUL AT soilwarden@verizon.net. Always include the position or the spouse's position with SCS/NRCS.

Surname	Year	<i>In-Memoriam</i> (Note: These are recent notices. For a complete list, please see www.arcse.org)
Adams	2021	Former ARCSE member Charles Richard Adams (73) of Keithville, Louisiana, passed away July 7, 2021. Charles was born July 21, 1947, to Mr. T.C. Adams and Elneva Adams , who gave him and his ten siblings firsthand experience in working the land on their family farm in Logansport, Louisiana. He graduated from Southern University at Baton Rouge with a Bachelor of Science in Agronomy. He received his master's degree in Public Administration from Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1983 and he obtained a Ph.D. in Urban and Public Affairs at the University of Texas in Arlington, Texas. His impressive career with USDA spanned 38 years, having held some of the top positions in the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), including Regional Conservationist for the NRCS Southeast Region. Before that, he was Director of the National Employee Development Center, in Fort Worth, Texas, from 1993 to 1997, South National Technical Center Associate Director, from 1992 to 1993, and Water Quality Coordinator at the center from 1990 to 1992. Before that Charles served as NRCS's State Conservationist for Arizona from 1988 to 1990, State Conservationist for Nevada from 1986–88. He was the Deputy State Conservationist in New Mexico from 1985–86, Assistant State Conservationist for Operations in New Mexico from 1984–85. Charles worked as an area conservationist in Rio Rancho, New Mexico from 1983 to 1984, after working as an area conservationist in Flagstaff, Arizona from 1981 to 1982. From 1978 to 1981 he served as a district conservationist in Edinburg, Texas, following service from 1976 to 1978 as a district conservationist in Eastland, Texas. He was a soil conservationist for the Agency in Abilene, Texas from 1973 to 1976. He began his full-time career with the agency as a soil scientist in Athens, Texas in 1969. He was very active in the National Organization of Professional Black Natural Resources Conservation Service Employees (NOPBNRCS) and served as

		President and was a founding and life member of that organization. He is survived by his wife Prenella and two sons. A Celebration of Life for Charles was held at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Shreveport, Louisiana on July 17, 2021, followed by internment at Northwest Louisiana Veterans Cemetery in Keithville, Louisiana.
Biebl	2021	ARCSE Member Joseph F. Biebl (81) of Viroqua, Wisconsin, passed away peacefully after battling prostate cancer on July 13th, 2021, at home. Joe was born August 29, 1939 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to Evelyn and Joseph Biebl . He loved working as a technician for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in Wisconsin. He helped plan and construct many of the Vernon County Flood Control dams. He also designed many farm ponds, small dams, and manure pits for the farmers of Vernon, Monroe, and LaCrosse Counties over his 37 years with the service. Joe, a steward of nature and the outdoors was an avid gardener and enjoyed picking weeds, being outdoors among plants, trees, shrubs, and conversing with the birds. Special joys were playing cards with family and friends, doing Sudoku, puzzles, asking questions and watching or listening to Public Broadcasting. He is survived by his wife, Patricia , his children, Colleen (Doug) Olson ; Jeanne (Dave) Renick ; Russell (Tara) Biebl ; Susan (Mike) Weyh and Sandra (Mike) Kuzulka . Roger Biebl , his other son preceded him in death in 2016. He had 11 grandchildren: Ashley (Olson) McCandless , Eric Olson , Bryce Olson , Arianna Olson , Nolan Renick , Joey Biebl , Jarron Biebl , Riley Weyh , Cole Weyh , Katie Kuzulka and Emmie Kuzulka ; 5 great grandchildren: Farren , Eliza , Orion McCandless , Jade Olson and Skye Crawford . Memorials can be given to THE NATURE CONSERVANCY in Joe's name if so wished.
Camp	2021	Senior Conservationist and Honorary ARCSE Member Joe B. Camp (96) of Temple, Texas, passed away on January 13, 2021. He was born in Corpus Christi, Texas, on November 14, 1924. He grew up in Junction, Texas, where he graduated from high school in 1942. He completed his freshman year at Texas A&M College before he was drafted into the Army in June 1943. Joe took basic training at North Camp Hood in Texas, and upon completion, the Army placed him in the ASTP Engineering Program, sending him to the University of Oklahoma where he completed engineering coursework. After WWII, he returned to Texas A&M and graduated with a BS in Agricultural Engineering in 1948. He went to work for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in Pecos, Texas. Following the war years, this region was experiencing an agricultural boom with large acreage being put into irrigated cotton production. Joe's knowledge and training as an agricultural engineer was in high demand. It was there that he met and married Gay Poitevint . The young couple joined the First Christian Church and remained members throughout their lives. Children and promotions followed, and in 1965 Joe was transferred to San Marcos, Texas, to assume a lead position in watershed planning. From San Marcos, the Camps moved to Temple, Texas, in 1973 where Joe assumed state-wide responsibilities. After retiring in 1980, Joe stayed busy with church activities and many other organizations. He and Gay travelled across the US, Canada and Europe. Joe is preceded in death by his wife, Gay Camp , and his son, Billy Camp . He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Robert (Linda) Camp of Houston, Texas, his daughter Shirley (Cody) Vanderford of Oak Point, Texas, his grandchildren and grandchildren-in-laws, Noelle and Jake Johnson , Tara and Spencer Kalliainen , Bijan Camp , Ryan and Emily Balliett , and his great grandchildren, James and Arabella .
Campbell	2021	Linda Sours Campbell (70) of Luray, Virginia passed away peacefully on August 14, 2021 after a very private 3-year struggle with ALS/Lou Gehrig's disease. Linda was the wife of retired USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service Information Specialist Leith Campbell . Linda and Leith operated Khimaira Farm, a multi-species organic farm (cattle, swine, poultry, sheep and goats) specializing in dairy goats and meat goats, for more than 40 years. Linda served as a Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water Conservation Director representing Page County for 35 years. She served in various leadership roles including service to the Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts' (VASWCD) as Area I Chair and Vice Chair, multiple times as well as serving on the VASWCD Executive Board filling the role of Second Vice President and Education Committee Chair. In addition to her husband Leith, Linda is survived by their four daughters Julena , Kendra , Briana and Corina and their families.
Coambes	2021	Howard L. Coambes (77) of Springfield, Missouri passed away July 16, 2021, in Bolivar, Missouri. He was born February 11, 1944, the son of Joe Carter and Naomi Coambes . He worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in many locations throughout Missouri and was the District Conservationist in West Plains, Missouri, for many years. He transferred to Stockton, Missouri, to be a Grazing Lands Specialist, before he retired in 2003. He is survived by his wife of 56 years Mary Ann Coambes .
Cooper	2021	Senior Conservationist James M. (Jim) Cooper (90) of Morgantown, West Virginia, passed away July 11, 2021, at his home. He was born in Mt. Morris, Pennsylvania, on November 25, 1930, the son of the Walter Grayson and Elva Gladys (Beal) Cooper . He graduated in 1952 from West Virginia University School of Agriculture and Forestry. He was a member of the WVU and WVU Agriculture and Forestry Alumni Associations. He served in the U.S. Army, with a tour of duty in Korea. Jim retired after 30 years with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, after serving in Michigan, West Virginia and Washington, DC. He was an Amateur Radio Operator and a Red Cross volunteer. He taught at the Adult Learning Center, Monongalia Technical Education Center and was a past member of the Pines Country Club. He is survived by daughters Kristen of Morgantown and Polly (William) Green of Cary, North Carolina. He was preceded in death by wife Nancy .
Felder	2021	Anthony John Felder (92) of Okeene, Oklahoma, passed away June 24 th , 2021. Anthony was born August 5 th , 1928, to John D. and Velma (Biggs) Felder . He married the love of his life, Dorothy "Jewel" Armstrong on August 10 th , 1949, in Hennessey, Oklahoma. They were married 72 years. Anthony worked at the USDA- Soil Conservation Service as a technician, retiring in 1983. After retirement, he was excited to open his own survey company. He loved being a surveyor and was a member of Oklahoma Society of Land Surveyors. Anthony was a member of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church all his life and a member of the Knights of Columbus. He walked to Mass every Sunday. He is preceded in death by his son Tony and daughter Jane Nusz . Anthony is survived by Jewel, his wife; Daughters Gladys "Beth" (Henry) Weber of Victoria, Texas; Joan (Mike) Geers of Yukon, Oklahoma; Laura "Ruth" (Gary) Boeckman of Enid, Oklahoma, and Barbara (Dick) Creps of Okeene, Oklahoma; 11 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and a great great-granddaughter.
Decker	2021	Life Member Gordon L. Decker (81) of Belgrade, Montana, passed away at home August 23, 2021 surrounded by family. Gordon was suffering from advanced Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. He was born February 15, 1940 to August and Mary Tiede Decker . Gordon was raised on the family homestead in Powder River County in southeast Montana. He attended Montana State College and received his bachelor's degree in Range Management in 1961. Upon graduation, he accepted a job with the Forest Service in Bridgeport, California working as a range conservationist. This job was cut short as he was drafted into the US Army. After basic training, he was stationed at

		Edgewood Arsenal in Maryland. After the military, he returned to the family ranch. Gordon returned to college in 1968, now named Montana State University, and received his PhD in Soil Science in 1972. During the summers of his graduate studies, he worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS), soil mapping several counties in Montana. In 1976 he accepted a Soils Coordinator job in Fort Worth, Texas and worked there until 1979 when he moved to Washington, DC to work at the USDA as a Soil Conservationist and Computer Specialist. He returned to Montana in 1986 and was the State Soil Scientist until his retirement in 1995. In retirement, Gordon enjoyed working on the family ranch, grandchildren, hunting, dancing, traveling, and meeting with friends at the Bozeman Brewery. He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Kathy Decker ; stepson Ray (Rebecca) , seven grandchildren, and four great grandchildren and his four-legged companion, Rocky. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Stillwater Hospice of Montana, the Bozeman Senior Center, or the College of Agriculture at Montana State University. A Celebration of Life will be held at 1:00PM Monday, August 30th, at Dahl Funeral & Cremation Service Tribute Center.
Freeman	2021	Senior Conservationist Roy G. Freeman (96) of Kenedy, Texas passed away on August 7, 2021 at John Paul II Nursing Home. Roy was born July 2, 1925 in Cameron, Texas and was reared in Rosebud, Texas. In 1942 he became an "Aggie" at Texas A&M. Roy finished 2 years in college and when he reached the age of 18, he was drafted into the U.S. Navy. He served in the Navy Air Corps as a bombardier for 2 ½ years. After WWII was over, he returned to Texas A&M in 1946 and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agronomy in 1948. That same year he married Elizabeth (Betty) Boeselt of Westphalia, Texas at College Station Texas. In December of 1948, Roy went to work for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in Kenedy Texas. In 1951, he was promoted to the position of District Conservationist for the Kenedy Field Office. In 1978 he received the "USDA's Superior Service Award for Meritorious Public Service to the Karnes-Goliad Soil and Water Conservation District. In 1983 Roy retired after 37 years of service. Roy then went to work for the Texas Soil and Water Conservation Board and retired in 1999 after 16 years of service. He was preceded in death by his wife Betty. Roy is survived by a daughter, Bonnie (Richard) Urbanek of San Antonio, Texas.
Hedt	2021	Nina Jeffre Hedt (68) of Eureka, California passed away at home on July 10, 2021 from pancreatic cancer. Nina was the wife of retired USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service employee Thomas Hedt who worked most of his career in California, including time as State Resource Conservationist and also a year at National Headquarters as Director of the Ecological Sciences Division. Nina was an artist, educator, nurturer, and revolutionary who showed us all how to live life to its fullest.
Joiner	2021	Jerry Joiner (76) of Ormond Beach, Florida, formerly of Leitchfield, Kentucky, passed away July 14, 2021, in Florida. He was born on February 23, 1945, in Leitchfield, Kentucky, to his late mother, Elwanda Smith Joiner and his father, Leon Joiner who survives. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Western Kentucky University. He worked for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, first as a conservationist in Kentucky, and later he transferred to Florida where he served as the Assistant State Conservationist for Programs. He was well respected for his technical expertise. Jerry enjoyed riding his Harley in his free time. He was a member of the Church of Christ. Surviving Jerry is his wife, Jackie Wilson Joiner of Ormond Beach, Florida; daughter, Melisa Militello ; his father, Leon Joiner of Falls of Rough, Kentucky; and three grandchildren, Sam and Molly Militello and Juliet Joiner . He was preceded in death by two children, Holly Rebecca and James Leon Joiner . Graveside services were held July 18, 2021 at the Porter Cemetery in Falls of Rough, Kentucky near his family farm.
Jones	2018	Senior Conservationist and Honorary ARCSE Member Joseph G. "Jodie" Jones (96), of Bentonville, Arkansas passed away January 11, 2018 at Circle of Life Hospice Legacy Village. He was born August 14, 1921 in Watson, Arkansas. Jodie attended Arkansas A&M College and graduated from the University of Arkansas. Jodie was a veteran of World War II and the Korean War. He was a dedicated conservationist and served 23 years as District Conservationist for the USDA--Soil Conservation Service in Benton County, Arkansas. After retirement in 1985, Jodie served many years on the Benton County Conservation District Board of Directors and was elected to the Arkansas Association of Conservation Directors Hall of Fame. The State Senate also honored him with a citation for his conservation leadership. He was preceded by one grandson. Jodie is survived by his wife Mary Mae of the home; two daughters, Kathy Jones of Bentonville and Lorri Daniels of Fayetteville, Arkansas; one son, Jerry (Judy) Jones two grandsons; one granddaughter; four great grandsons; two great-granddaughters.
Kleppe	2021	Mary Joyce Kleppe (90) of Hiawatha, Kansas, passed away August 13, 2021, at Amberwell Hiawatha Hospital surrounded by family. Mary was the spouse of Paul A. Kleppe . Paul retired in 1994 as a Soil Conservation Technician for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in the Troy Field Office in Kansas and passed away in 2015. Mary worked in the Brown County Extension and Treasurer's Office prior to her marriage, then farmed with her husband near Troy and later near Hiawatha, Kansas.
Lee	2021	Jerry Byron Lee (81) of Dublin, Texas passed away unexpectedly on June 16, 2021. He was born on August 28, 1939, in Dublin, Texas to his parents Rosa Lee (Hamilton) Lee and Robert Morris Lee . Jerry earned his bachelor's degree in Agronomy at Texas A&M University and started his career in agriculture for the government. Shortly after his graduation, in 1964, Jerry married and through that marriage he had two children Byron and Barbara . Jerry worked for the Department of Defense and as an agronomist for USDA-Soil Conservation Service. He retired in 1994 as a Plant Materials Specialist on the Resource Conservation Staff in the Kansas State Office in Salina, Kansas. He later pursued a career in as an agronomist for the state of Texas. He was known for his hard work and dedication to his family and his farm. In the late 1980's, Jerry was re-married to Linnadelle Mudd and through this marriage he gained three stepchildren Susan Carl , Robert Mudd and Greg Mudd . He was affiliated with the Greens Creek Baptist Church and currently is a member of the First Baptist Church in Stephenville, Texas. Jerry was on the Greens Creek Water Board and Texas Farm Bureau for many years. Jerry suffered from leukemia during the last few years of his life and although his illness slowed him down, he was a fighter and continued to pursue his dream on the family farm. Jerry is survived by his wife Linnadelle Lee of Dublin, Texas, his children Barbara Lewis of Early, Texas and Byron Lee of Denton, Texas, his stepchildren Susan Carl of Stephenville, Texas, Robert Mudd of Stephenville, Texas and Greg Mudd of Fruita, Colorado, his grandchildren Jordan Nail , Gage Nail , Zach Nail , Josh Mudd , Jeremy Lewis , Matthew Lewis , Byron Lee , Estelle Lee , Julian Lee , many great-grandchildren and several other relatives and friends who will miss him dearly.
Maetzold	2021	ARCSE Member James "Jim" Alden Maetzold (83) of Spotsylvania, Virginia, passed away June 30, 2021. Jim was born on August 7, 1937 in Devil's Lake, North Dakota and was a farmer from the time he could remember. After graduating high school, he went on to earn his undergraduate degree in agricultural economics from North Dakota State University where

		he also served in the US Army ROTC program. After serving three years in the Army Reserves as a First Lieutenant and photographer, Jim went on to earn a master's degree in economics from the University of California at Davis while also taking coursework towards a PhD shortly thereafter. Most of Jim's career was spent as an economist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture where he most recently led the department's agri-tourism efforts as a key member of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. He was a master woodworker, gardener, photographer (especially at his grandkid's games), and loved being on the water boating or being towed on his own self-made flotation device. As a devout Catholic, Jim was also an active member of the Knights of Columbus in multiple parishes. Jim leaves behind his beautiful wife, Lorraine Catherine Maetzold ; children Paul Bjarnason , David Bjarnason , and Christine Schoen ; and grandchildren Hanna, Nolan , and Krista Bjarnason , Max and Sam Bjarnason , and D.J., Chris , and Amanda Schoen . A Funeral Mass was held July 12 at Saint Mary Catholic Church in Fredericksburg, Virginia followed by burial in Quantico National Cemetery in Triangle, Virginia.
Mickley, Jr.	2021	John W. Mickley, Jr. (83) of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania passed away June 15, 2021, in Gettysburg. He was an ARCSE member until 2019. John was born Sept 20, 1937, in Adams County, Pennsylvania and grew up on his family's farm in Fairfield, Pennsylvania. John graduated from Pennsylvania State University with an Engineering degree in 1955. He worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in the following counties in Pennsylvania: Crawford, Clearfield, Schuylkill, and Somerset, PA. In Maryland he worked in College Park and Annapolis. His last assignment was as State Conservation Engineer in Maryland. He retired January 1, 1993 and moved to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. John and his wife, Donna , had 2 sons, Paul and Mark . After retirement, John worked part time for the conservation districts in Frederick and Washington Counties, Maryland. Among his duties were environmental assessments for poultry and swine farms.
Olson	2021	Natural Resources Conservation Service employee Dale R. Olson (60) of Robinson, Texas, passed away August 21, 2021. Dale had been hospitalized the last few weeks with double pneumonia. Dale was born February 11, 1961 on James Connally Air Force Base in Waco, Texas, the son of Robert George and Patsy (Teichelman) Olson . He moved 15 times with his family as his father served in the US Air Force. In 1974, the Olson's settled in Robinson where he attended Robinson High School, Class of 1979. Dale was a member of St. Mark Lutheran Church in Waco. He married Jennifer Snider in 1989. Dale worked at USDA-National Resource Conservation Service since 1979 as a construction inspector. He had many passions that involved working with his hands, such as rebuilding a 1969 Mustang, with son, Jared and working at the Teichelman farm. Dale was a Jack of all trades, whose favorite saying was "built, not bought." Survivors include his wife, Jennifer ; daughter, Haley Nicole ; son, Jared Dale ; beloved dog, Brody; mother, Patsy Olson ; and father-in-law, Buddy Snider .
Overing	2021	John Edwin Overing (94) of York, Nebraska passed away August 8, 2021 at Lincoln, Nebraska. He was born November 1, 1926 at Red Cloud, Nebraska to Edwin James and Nina (Simmons) Overing . After graduating from Red Cloud High School in 1944, John enlisted in the US Army and was stationed at Ft. Collins, CO, Camp Hood, Texas, Corvallis, OR, and Ft. Sam Houston, Texas. He was discharged in 1946 and attended the University of Nebraska and graduated with an Agricultural Engineering Degree in 1950. He married Lorena (Schleif) Overing of Lincoln on December 30, 1951. He taught classes to veterans at Bradshaw High School from 1953-1955. He was employed by the USDA- Soil Conservation Service in 1955 as an Agricultural Engineer in York and Hebron, Nebraska and as an Irrigation Engineer at Grand Island and Lincoln, Nebraska. He retired in 1987. He was a member of the First Evangelical Lutheran Church at York. He was preceded in death by his wife Lorena. He is survived by one daughter, Sue (John) O'Shea of Ann Arbor, Michigan; two sons, John (Patty) Overing of Danville, Kentucky, and Michael (Theresa) Overing of Pasadena, California; seven grandsons Brennan, Cailen, James, Matthew, Robert, John , and Andrew ; and seven great grandchildren.
Schmadeke	2021	Carl Schmadeke (99) of Cornelius, Oregon, passed away on June 28, 2021 at the Kaiser Westside Medical Center in Hillsboro, Oregon. He was looking forward to celebrating his 100th birthday in 32 days. Carl Schmadeke was born July 30, 1921, in Bradish, Nebraska, the son of the late Carl Herman Schmadeke and Anna Hefti . He graduated from the University of Nebraska, with a major in Agricultural Education. Carl served in the United States Army, as a PFC in the 84th Infantry Division—TheRailSplitters, when he was captured from a pill box with 11 others on the Siegfried line on Thanksgiving Day 1944. He was part of a work crew that cut wood by hand near Zislow with very little to eat until he was liberated May 3, 1945, when Germany surrendered. He was united in marriage to Carol Jean Lymath on August 1st, 1942 in Newman Grove, Nebraska. They moved to Oregon with six-year-old Carl Edward in June 1949 to join Carol's family who had recently moved here from Nebraska. They settled in Bay City in 1953 where Carl worked for several years as the District Conservationist for Tillamook County. The family relocated to Hillsboro, Oregon in 1962 when Carl was transferred to the Washington County office. They divorced in 1974 and he worked at The Dalles SCS office until his retirement in 1979. It was during that time that he met Evelyn Jasnoch , and they were together until her passing in 2008. Carl became a Real Estate Agent after his retirement and spent many decades as a hands-on landlord. Carl was introduced to Debra New at the New Year's Eve Dance at the Pumpkin Ridge Grange Hall one year later. Carl was preceded in death by his son Cary Schmadeke . Survivors include his partner, Debra New , of Cornelius, Oregon; his children and their spouses, Carl E (Sharon) Schmadeke, of Hillsboro, Oregon, and Carla (Steve) Pentkowski, of North Plains, Oregon; four grandchildren, James Paulson, JenRenee Fairlane, Megan Pender , and Chris Pidd ; and six great grandchildren.
Smith	2021	Jerry Lynn Smith (82) of Tumwater, Washington, passed away June 20, 2021, after a long battle with Alzheimer's. Jerry was born May 29, 1939 in Klamath Falls, Oregon to Red and Helen Smith . He graduated from Oregon State University in 1962 with a degree in Forestry. From a young age he always enjoyed being out in the woods. His career in the forestry industry kept him walking in the woods across Oregon and Washington for the early part of his career. He entered government service in the early 1980s and worked as a forester for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (later called the National Resource Conservation Service) until his retirement. After retiring from work, he still spent many hours in the woods, whether as a docent at Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail or as a bird watcher. When Jerry wasn't wandering through forests, he could be found singing in the Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation church choir, or volunteering his time with Bread and Roses, Camp Quixote, and Habitat for Humanity. Jerry is survived by his second wife of 36 years of marriage, Virginia Smith , and her two children Eric Lassen and Anne Brown . He is also survived by his first wife Kathy LaFrance who is the mother of his children, Charmaine Gural and Graham Smith . Jerry also leaves behind six beloved grandchildren, Noah Smith, Jonas Brown, Tabitha Smith, Molly Lassen, Sophie Brown , and Jasper Lassen .
Whitaker	2021	Orville J. Whitaker (86) of Crab Orchard, Kentucky, passed away on July 14, 2021 at the Hospice Compassionate Care Center in Richmond, Kentucky. Orville was born on April 22, 1935 in Richmond, Kentucky and was the son of Walter A.

		and Burdette Ross Whitaker . He was a graduate of the University of Kentucky. He was a beef cattle farmer and a retired soil scientist with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. Orville was passionate about agriculture. He was past president of Lincoln County Farm Bureau and served for a time as a coordinator with the Kentucky Beef Network. He also served on the Lincoln County Cattlemen's Association and the University of Kentucky Extension Council. Orville was a man of faith and an active member of Crab Orchard Christian Church where he served as an elder. He was preceded in death by his devoted and loving wife of 60 years, Josephine Stone Whitaker . Survivors include: two sons, Doug Whitaker (Julie) and daughters Melissa and Jessica of Louisville, Kentucky, and Larry Whitaker (Sharon) , of Aberdeen, Ohio; and one grandson, Ross Whitaker . His son Larry Whitaker retired from the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service after working as a district conservationist in Kentucky and resource conservationist in Ohio.
Williams	2021	Ronald Dale Williams (61) of Sac City, Iowa passed away August 11, 2021. Ron was born in Storm Lake, Iowa, on September 26, 1959, to parents Louella Therldean (Wright) Williams and Estelle Ai Williams . After high school graduation, Ron worked for the Pocahontas County Conservation Board. Ron met the love of his life, Cindy Weishaar , in Pocahontas, Iowa and they were married on July 18, 1981, at the Catholic Church in Laurens, Iowa. Ron and Cindy moved to Sac City, Iowa, in 1981 where Ron had accepted a job with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation where he worked as a civil engineering technician. Ron served his community in many ways by being an active member of the Sac City Volunteer Fire Department for many years as well as serving on the Sac City Police and Sac County Sheriff Reserves. He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church where he sang in the choir and was a member of the Knights of Columbus. Ron leaves behind his wife of forty years, Cindy Williams of Sac City, Iowa; sons Travis Williams and Nathan Williams both of Sac City, Iowa; grandchildren Kelon and Devyn Williams ; former daughter-in-law Tiffany Williams ; and special son Brandon Clark of Sac City, Iowa;



Reflections of the Grand Tetons

**DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS IS
OCTOBER 25TH, 2021.**