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NEWSLETTER

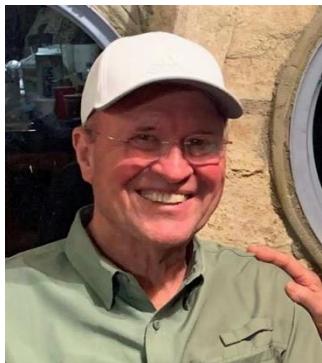
The Newsletter for Retired Conservation Service Employees

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Arnold King

We are now almost two years into the COVID-19 pandemic. The origin of the virus remains a mystery, but the effects are real and will probably continue into the future. The good news is we are learning to live with the problem and keep people as safe as possible with vaccines and therapeutic medicine.

Supermarket prices jumped 0.8% in November, pushing the inflation rate for food costs to 6.4% over the past year, the largest increase for a 12-month period since 2008. That's bad, but at least we are getting a decent cost of living raise this year. Those who live on a set income are going to really suffer if inflation isn't brought under control.

We are planning a real person to person annual meeting and board meeting on August 1st at Denver. We hope some of you are planning to come and participate. Denver is a great location for the meeting and a convenient time to stretch it into a great vacation. Details will be provided in the near future. Plans for the SWCS annual meeting, which meets concurrently with ARCSE, are available on the SWCS website. The normal plan for our meeting is to have a luncheon and an awards ceremony on Monday. Following that, we have a formal business meeting of the board of directors. One important item on the agenda will be a discussion of future board meetings. For the past two years we have had Zoom meetings with fairly good results. Should we begin having Zoom business meetings or continue having in-person meetings as we have had historically? If you have thoughts or feelings about that, please let us know. After all, we do try to represent your wishes while we serve on the board.

A few weeks ago, I got a call from **Roland Willis**. I hadn't talked to him in 25 years. He complimented our organization for our attempts to make ARCSE more appealing to younger employees and retirees. It was a wonderful call that I will always remember, because just a few days later, we received notice that he had passed away. It is very sad, but he's now in God's Kingdom along with several others who have passed away this year. I know we all enjoy remembering the good times we had working with our associates. And that is what makes our ARCSE such a great and worthwhile organization worthy of our support.

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. And finally, we have a dedicated board and support staff, and I want to thank them for their efforts to keep ARCSE sustainable.

Flickr 101

by Julie MacSwain, ARCSE President-Elect

In the summer of 2021, **Jordyn Rodriguez**, SWCS/ARCSE Intern, developed a Flickr site for ARCSE that can be used for uploading, organizing, and sharing digital media such as photos and videos.

Flickr is a platform for conveniently sharing photos and videos. It's used by many photography professionals to send images to clients, as well as anyone with photo-sharing needs.

It's free to make an account on Flickr, which encourages even the most casual users to sign up. And for those who are more serious about storing pictures, there is a Pro feature available for purchase.

In addition to uploading photos, users can peruse the platform to check out other people's work and can "like" or comment on anything that piques their interest. Let's learn more about some Flickr features.

1. Profile – Just like you can have a profile on Facebook, you can have a profile on Flickr. This dashboard is a place for both you and others to view and keep track of your media on Flickr.

2. Galleries – Think of galleries as you would “photo albums” on Facebook. A key difference between Facebook albums and Flickr’s galleries is that you can add other users’ media to your gallery. You can only have 50 photos or videos in a gallery, so think about what you want to share in the gallery.
3. Photostream – This is a collection of media that belongs solely to you. If your photos and videos have been set to “public,” then other users can come to your profile and see what you’ve uploaded. If your media is set to “private,” then only you and those you have permitted will be able to view your content.
4. Albums – One great feature of Flickr is the ability to organize photos through albums. This feature is also a great organization tool for the user, as it helps ensure that the media isn’t appearing in random places.
5. Faves – When you use Flickr, it’s possible you’ll come across an image you really want to save for later. When you “star” or favorite a photo on Flickr, it automatically appears in the “Faves” tab on your profile.

The best way to get familiar with Flickr is to sign-up for a free account and play around with the various features. Even if you don’t take pictures and want to see what ARCSE has available on Flickr, simply click on this link: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/193466003@N08>.

To learn more about what Flickr has to offer, I recommend jumping on the site and creating a free profile for yourself. Playing around with various features is always the best way to learn more about a platform.

If you have any photos to share from a recent Zoom or face-to-face meeting for ARCSE and want your photos shared on our ARCSE Flickr site, please email Julie MacSwain at juliemacswain@gmail.com

Please reach out if you have any questions. Thank you!

NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

Doug Lawrence and Patty Lawrence

Watch for Notes in the March/April edition.

ARCSE MEMBERSHIP DUES Due by January 1st, 2022

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*

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Paul Benedict, Membership Chair

New Life Members

Gary Gross – Fredericksburg, Virginia
Valerie Oksendahl – Taverny, France

The 2022 Membership Dues Notice went out with the Nov/Dec ARCSE Newsletter and are due January 1st, 2022.

As of December 16th, 2021, about 40% of members paying annual dues had submitted their 2022 dues. And, of members receiving a hard copy of the ARCS newsletter, about 52% had paid \$12 for that service for 2022. Many members have contributed additional amounts to support the Association. Your prompt payment of dues, fees and generous contributions are greatly appreciated. I will send out an email reminder in a few weeks to members who have forgotten to pay their dues. If you have questions on membership dues, or on your membership status, please email me at soilwarden@verizon.net.

The following announcement was submitted by Cheryl Simmons, Past President ARCSE.

People's Garden Initiative – Volunteer Opportunity:

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is looking for volunteers to assist with the People's Garden, located outside of the USDA headquarters in Washington, DC. The site is easily accessible - only a block from the Metro! This initiative was started by our Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, during the Obama administration. Secretary Vilsack and the USDA team is now working to revitalize the People's Garden to showcase what we do at USDA, raise awareness about sustainable agriculture practices, connect people with where their food comes from, and educate on protecting our environment and conserving resources. Volunteers are needed for a variety of activities such as garden preparation, planting, and maintenance. There are many days and times available for this opportunity with more details to come. This fun volunteer opportunity is offered through NRCS Maryland's Earth Team Volunteer Program. Please reach out to Maryland's Earth Team Volunteer Coordinator, Laura Eddy, at Laura.Eddy@usda.gov for more information and to get on our volunteer communications list.

In Field and In Office Opportunities:

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers in-field and in-office volunteer opportunities through the Earth Team Volunteer program. There are a wide range of tasks and work locations across Maryland available to volunteers. We have offices and field work in each of Maryland's 23 counties and can find ways to offer remote volunteer opportunities as well. Volunteer tasks can include field surveying, photography and newsletters, farmer outreach, office mailing, practice verification, filing, and more. We will work with you to match your skillset to the proper activity. Please reach out to Maryland's State Volunteer Coordinator, Laura Eddy, at Laura.Eddy@usda.gov for more information on how you can make a difference!



USDA NRCS VOLUNTEER

OPPORTUNITY!

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is looking for volunteers to assist with the People's Garden, located outside of the USDA headquarters in Washington, DC. The site is easily accessible - only a block from the Metro! Volunteers are needed for a variety of activities such as garden preparation, planting, and maintenance.

This fun volunteer opportunity is offered through NRCS Maryland's Earth Team Volunteer Program. Volunteering with NRCS is an excellent way to help build your resume and gain experience with this federal agency.

We have many days and times available for volunteers to contribute their efforts to this exciting urban agriculture project.

If interested, please reach out to Laura Eddy, Earth Team Volunteer Coordinator, at Laura.Eddy@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender

www.md.nrcs.usda.gov

ALABAMA

Earl Norton, ARCSE Representative

Email: earl.norton@charter.net

Receiving hardly any news from retirees – most retirees are staying close to home and staying healthy. The group that meets for breakfast in Auburn on first Mondays is attending about one-third of pre-COVID-19 numbers. COVID-19 vaccinations in Alabama with both shots are slightly under 50%, but new infections are significantly lower than before Thanksgiving. Alabama's economy is humming with latest unemployment rate at 3.1%, and one report says that there are twice as many available jobs as the number that are employed. High yields and good prices this past year made 2021 a good year for agriculture in Alabama, but high fuel and equipment costs are making Alabama farmers nervous about 2022. The Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Committee and the NRCS are having outstanding success with several programs and will be featured in an upcoming newsletter.

Sad to report, **Ronnie Murphy**, Alabama State Conservationist from 1994 – 1999, passed away in October. Ronnie had an illustrious career with SCS/NRCS. Following retirement from NRCS, Ronnie served as Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture for Alabama for 10 years. Ronnie's had a very long connection to conservation since his father was a long-time soil conservation technician. More details about Ronnie are in the In Memoriam section.

ARKANSAS

Ralph Mashburn, ARCSE Representative

Email: ralphmashburn@gmail.com

The annual retirees' September luncheon always includes an informal fun time of visiting before the meal and program. **Bob Price** does a wonderful job planning the event. Several mentioned that it's getting more difficult to remember names as we get older, so we might should have name tags.



Dick Babeu continues to be the expert at catching fish on nearby Lake Maumelle and on several small lakes around his home area. Dick is the dependable guide for friends, like **Ralph**, who often go with him and are amazed at how he can figure out where the fish are and how to catch them.

This year with COVID somewhat subsided **Dick and Lori Babeu** and **Ralph and Nancy Mashburn** restarted their Christmas time luncheon together at the Little Rock Capital Hotel. They really enjoyed a number of friends stopping at their table for a visit.



Local kids always have their parents drive by the Mashburn's house each year to see Santa at their front door. If they stop, Nancy has special candy treats for them.



DEADLINE FOR MARCH/APRIL 2022 NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS IS FEBRUARY 25TH, 2022.

CALIFORNIA

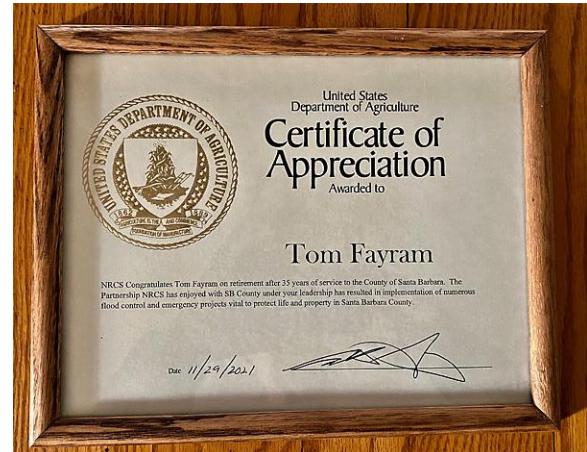
Bill Ward, ARCSE Representative

Email: bluegrassbillward@gmail.com

California Retirees continue to have a monthly Zoom meeting for all who wish to participate and stay connected. December's meeting was special to recognize and say "Farwell and Best Wishes" to a long time Sponsor Partner, **Tom Fayram**, Santa Barbara County Public Works Deputy Director.

Tom is retiring this year after 35 years of public Service to SB County and a wonderful partnership with NRCS. The NRCS partnership with Santa Barbara County under Tom's leadership over three decades has resulted in implementation of numerous flood control and emergency projects vital to protect life and property in Santa Barbara County. Sixteen participants – consisting of NRCS retirees, current staff, as well as Santa Barbara County staff – took part in this special Zoom meeting to recognize Tom and share Farewells and Best Wishes. An NRCS Certificate of Appreciation was virtually presented to Tom by our State Conservationist **Carlos Suarez**.

Certificate Language "NRCS Congratulates Tom Fayram on retirement after 35 years of service to the County of Santa Barbara. The Partnership NRCS has enjoyed with SB County under your leadership has resulted in implementation of numerous flood control and emergency projects vital to protect life and property in Santa Barbara County."



NRCS Certificate of Appreciation for Tom Fayram

A list of projects completed by NRCS and Santa Barbara County under Tom's leadership was shared with the Zoom participants.

Fayram Era, NRCS/Santa Barbara County Projects

1990	EWP: Painted Cave Fire, Maria Ygnacio Debris Basins	>\$1 million
1998	EWP: Guerra PL-534 Drop Structures Repair	>\$500k
1998	EWP: Rodeo-San Pasqual PL-534 Channel Repair	\$250k
2002	Santa Rosa Creek Stabilization	>\$1 million
2005	PL-566: Carpinteria Salt Marsh Enhancement	\$2.85 million
2008	EWP: Gap Fire, Hydromulch	\$3.5 million
2009	EWP: Jesusita Fire, Hydromulch	\$3.5 million
2018	EWP: Thomas Fire, Santa Monica Debris Basin Repairs	\$325k
2019	PL-566: Santa Monica Debris Basin Modifications	\$4.7 M

The following photo was presented virtually to Tom. The photo was taken at the Santa Monica Debris Basin Site after the January 2018 debris flows occurred. The Basin had "Saved the day" protecting lives and property.



Bill Ward, Tom Fayram, and Doug Toews at Santa Monica Debris Basin site.

One of the last things I shared with our group was a photo from my 2010 retirement event in Davis. That photo below shows Tom presenting me with a plaque of appreciation from Santa Barbara County. I told Tom how much I looked forward to return the favor for him at his retirement event. I did just that in Santa Barbara on December 7th, 2021.



Tom Fayram Presentation to Bill Ward at Bill's retirement, December 2010.



Bill Ward presentation to Tom Fayram at Tom's retirement, December 7, 2021.



Our first public venue in 2021, 12th Annual Rosemont Community Association Celebration



Western Lights Trio

Bill Ward's Western Lights Band plays again! After nearly 18 months of not being able to play any music because of COVID, we are finally playing again, providing music for two recent public events. It sure felt good to play music for a public audience again and see people enjoy our music, as evidenced by smiles and applause.

Over my 30-plus years as the leader of Western Lights, this year we began what I will call the 4th Western Lights Era, one new member joining our trio adding dobro to our guitar and fiddle mix. And here is a sample of our Music:

<https://youtu.be/KXcrG5pKo6g>

A new Western Lights Trio Era has begun. Well, that is all from California this time around. Best wishes and Merry Christmas from California!



The Ward clan at Christmas

COLORADO

Jack Carlson, ARCSE Representative

Email: pspicata@gmail.com

Season's Greetings! Hope everyone is doing well.

Colorado ARCSE members are pretty quiet, celebrating the holiday season to the extent they can with omicron in the air. No snow to speak of along the Front Range, the occasional storms coming more directly from the west and depositing the mountains. Going to need robust spring snowfall to get to averages. 'Twas a dry and warm fall.

Check out the new ARCSE web site at <https://arcsecommunications.wordpress.com>. Can also follow ARCSE on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Association-of-Retired-Conservation-Service-Employees-109360378067938>. The Annual SWCS Conference will be held in Denver next July 31st through August 3rd (<https://www.swcs.org/events/conferences/2022-annual-conference/>).

Have a great holiday season and 2022!

FLORIDA

Bill Kuenstler, ARCSE Representative

Email: bkuenstler@gmail.com

Karl Langlois sent the following: My wife **Jeannine** and I moved to The Villages in Florida 13 years ago. During that time, we made many friends in our village, and with these neighbors, we traveled to over 15 countries. Besides traveling, we enjoy playing cards, golfing, bocce, and kayaking.

I am a retired soil scientist but have always enjoyed the water and boating. One of my neighbors in Florida is an avid kayaker. When Jeannine and I went out with him on one of the many Florida rivers, we had a great time. We soon bought our own kayaks! We joined the Villages Canoe and Kayak Club and went on many of the kayak trips they schedule in central Florida. We have kayaked in many beautiful rivers, lakes, and in areas along the gulf coast. While kayaking we have seen manatees, alligators, fish jumping out of the water, and many species of birds. A couple of years ago Jeannine stopped kayaking and I decided to continue, but in a different capacity.



Karl at Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park pointing toward a manatee.

In 2015 a couple of our neighbors went to Lake Griffin State Park, which is a couple of miles east of The Villages. We joined the Friends of Lake Griffin State Park (Friends), which is a non-profit organization for the park. The Friends have a program where volunteer tour guides take paying customers on kayak tours of the park's waterways and lake. After a few training sessions, I became a Florida State Parks Certified Interpretative Paddle Guide. It is very interesting taking people out on the water and talking about the flora and fauna. In 2020 I became president of the Friends and during that summer, when we were hunkered down because of COVID, I reorganized the website for the Friends (FLGSP.org). Like NRCS, it is very rewarding working with people who love the outdoors.

Jeannine and I wish good health to everyone.

IOWA

Mark Jensen, ARCSE Representative

Email: amjens1@gmail.com

On November 4, 5, 6, and 7, the Knoxville Area Community Theatre's (KACT) production of "Shrek The Musical" was performed at the Knoxville Performing Arts Center. **Marty and Carol Adkins** are very active in the Community Theatre. Marty is the KACT Board President, and Carol is the Secretary. For "Shrek The Musical," Marty directed the performance and played the role of the Bishop. Carol was the Producer and played the role of Mama Ogre. Marty gets other family members involved too. **Drew, Thisbe, and Edmund Adkins** all worked on the props for the performance.



Carol Adkins (Mama Ogre), Shrek, and Marty Adkins (Bishop)
After a Performance of "Shrek The Musical"

Thank you to **Lyle Asell** for the following: "Lyle Asell was asked to be on an advisory commission by the City of Chariton, to recommend future uses of two city-owned reservoirs formerly used as water supply by the city. Rathbun Regional Water Association now supplies water to the City, but that is another story. Lyle was a young DC in the early 70s and helped develop a water quality improvement plan for one of the lakes (Lake Morris, which is named after a Lucas County sailor killed in action in WWII), funded through the Chariton Valley RC&D. The plan included several structures for sediment control which were surveyed by **Mark Jensen**, then a young Iowa State University Engineering co-op student. Water resource planning training, and experience, gained through SCS/NRCS is very useful."

In August 2020 my vocabulary expanded as I learned firsthand the weather term "derecho." Well, it happened again in December. The derecho that hit Iowa was the first one ever recorded in the United States in December. The storm also spun off a record number of tornadoes. 43 is the most recent number I've heard, on that December 15th day. There was damage recorded across the state. Here are some examples of damages: In southern Iowa, Lyle Asell reported the following: "We lost a Bur Oak tree in our front yard that had to be over 150 years old to the high winds. However, it was a perfect landing, missing an electric pole and line, the county highway past our farm, the steep bank by the highway, our driveway, etc. If the "free firewood" sign works, it may be an easy cleanup. We lost a few other trees around the farm but feel very lucky there was so little damage." In west central Iowa, one of my good friends had some damage on one corner of their house, roof damage on their barn, and tree damage. In northwest Iowa, my son-in-law's brother had serious house damage and some damage to a large shed. A structural engineer was coming there this week to determine if the house was even salvageable. It was quite the storm.

One of Iowa's retirees has moved back to Iowa from Arkansas. **John and Carolyn Chenoweth** returned "home" this year and are now living in Pella.

At the end of December, a couple of folks we are welcoming into our retirement community are **Dave Brommel and Kevin McCall**. Dave was the Conservation Stewardship Program Coordinator in the State Office. Kevin was the State Resource Conservationist in Des Moines. Both of these guys have served in various positions throughout Iowa during their careers.

KANSAS

Deanne Lull, ARCSE Representative

Email: rlull2@cox.net

What a December it has been in our area! Although it was beginning to look a lot like Christmas the first week, it didn't feel like it, with record high temperatures in the 60s and 70s. The second week we were rocked by an earthquake, which shook enough at our house to knock some decorations off a shelf. These tremors have been continuing throughout the month. On Wednesday of the third week, high winds were forecast statewide. After having strong winds all day, it was late in the afternoon when winds gusting from 91 to 98 miles per hour hit Salina. I was sitting at my computer when I heard the roar of the wind, a loud crack, and our electricity was gone. Looking out our back door I saw a large tree limb had fallen across our electrical line. We discovered later that evening that the entire south half of the city was black. There is a lot of roof and tree damage throughout the city. We were without electricity or heat for two days but were blessed to return home from dining Friday evening to find our house toasty warm. Many areas of town are still without power at the time of this writing.

There were two recent retirements. **Gail M. Painter**, retired on December 2nd as a Computer Assistant in the USDA Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO). She worked in the Kansas State Office in Salina, Kansas, and being a long time SCS/NRCS employee kept my computer up and running for many years. **Terry K. Alstatt** retired on December 6th as a Supervisory District Conservationist in the Belleville Office in the Belleville Management Unit.

One retiree passed away. **Gay Lynn Spencer** died on November 1st, 2021. She retired as a District Conservationist in Newton, KS in 2019 with a career of 32 years.

Beverly Anne Campbell, a spouse, passed away on November 2nd, 2021. She was the wife of **Duane E. Campbell** who retired in 1994 as a Soil Conservation Technician in Meade, KS. He preceded her in death in 2010.

MAINE

John Simon, ARCSE Representative

Email:

Twelve smiling faces were at the Tuesday November 9th 2021 breakfast at 9am at Dysarts. The September's breakfast had only three (**Karen, Bruce and John**), and October's breakfast had only two (**Bob Lagassey and John Simon**). So I was pleasantly surprised by the November turnout!

In Attendance at Table #1 were: **Mary and Mike Thompson, Karen and Bruce Champeon, Kyle Bolduc, and Dan Baumert**; at Table #2 were: **Bob Lagassey, Art Taylor, Tom Smith and John Simon**; and at table #3 were: **Judy and Charlie Boothby**. Mary later sent some photos of the camp that she and Mike are fixing up (big time). Looks like what **Kyle Bolduc** and sons did to their camp last year. Really nice.

We all spent time visiting and sharing news of ongoing at home and community. Too much to cover. The scattered group was hard for me to pick up the good stuff!

Charlie Boothby is still in recovery from his blood infection but enjoyed his breakfast and our company. Charlie is working on his 87th, year on planet earth. **Judy** said some of his treatments are by needle! Yuk! Pray that Charlie gets over the infection soon.

We wished each other all a very Happy Thanksgiving. Make sure all of your folks know you love them. Hugs are great. At the ages of some of us, you never know if you will see each other next Thanksgiving!

Tuesday December 14th, 2021 was a sunny and brisk day but still good one. We had nine fellow retirees on board. Attending were **Mary and Mike Thompson, Dan Baumert, Judy and Charlie Boothby, Dave Mussulman, John Simon**, and a little later **Candace Gilpatric** and her mom showed up. What a pleasure to see "Candi" after all these years. Candi trained with **Ed Snow** out of Bangor for two years and then trained with me at the AVSWCD in Lewiston for two years, until I retired on April 1st, 1995. I have a sneaky feeling she will be retiring in the next several years. She would easily have many choices for a second career as her own boss. I have added her to the breakfast list along with **Ricky Hall**.

Charlie Boothby has his blood infection pretty much cleared up, but he is getting weaker and using a walker to get around now. **Dave Mussulman** has put a hold on selling his Bangor home for a larger one in the Bangor area. He is looking for a ranch type home with garages. He will wait for the spring when properties move the fastest. Dave has sold his Florida home and is now a full Mainer now. **Dan Baumert** was passed out samples of his home-made salsa, which I have not yet tried. Thanks Dan.

Back in 1980 a retired Maine State Conservationist living in Cape Elizabeth used to spend a day a week visiting the Viking nursing home in Cape Elizabeth, where my Dad was staying. For the likes of me I cannot remember his name. Can anyone out there help me with his name? None of us could remember. I think he retired before I came back to Maine from PA in 1980. **Eddie Wood** hired me to replace **Walter Stinson** who left to start Sebago Technics in 1980. Thanks Walter!

Also **Dan Schmidt** retired recently (trying to keep below my radar screen) and I do not have his phone number or email, so I can't invite him to our breakfasts and picnic. He lives and farms in Milo I think, so he probably would not attend but he would probably want to keep in touch with all of us. Can anyone help me here?

We got to talking about **Dave Garcelon** at breakfast. Dave started with SCS/NRCS in 1980 in the Westbrook office with **John Malley** as DC. I think that Dan Schmidt started at the same time in Westbrook. Dave was quite shy at first, but then he joined the Toastmasters group, and boy what a change! He blossomed into a wonderful conservationist! He moved around, and I lost track of his moves in Maine, but remember when he got the DC job in Machias. Good to know Dave is enjoying retirement. He farms with his wife on a small family farm, and in the summer is into lobstering! Dave Garcelon recently sent me an email with the photo showing him on a lobster boat with an NRCS hat to boot! He and his wife **Kathy** enjoy working their farm, and his part time summer work as a sternsman on a lobster boat. Dave also works two days a week on the ACES program. Dave has been retired six years now! God bless Dave and his wife Kathy.

COVID is hitting us hard the last several months in the Bangor, ME area, so most of us are keeping a low profile. This too shall pass. Wishing all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. Keep warm and drive careful this winter.

Till next year, God bless.

MID-ATLANTIC STATES

Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC

Ken Carter, ARCSE Representative

Email: duckheadone@gmail.com

We are saddened at the loss of two fellow co-workers and a dear friend of conservation. **Carl Bouchard** of the National office staff, who retired to Delaware, lost his valiant fight against cancer. In addition, **Dudley Williams**, Engineering Technician in both Virginia and New York, recently passed away also, as did "**Spec**" **Campen**. Anyone who worked in

Virginia should remember "Spec." He was a leader in the Soil and Water Conservation movement, and an ardent and active supporter of the Earth Team volunteers. The obituaries of these individuals are found within this issue.

We have heard from **Warren Lee** that he and his wife are wintering in Arizona and have plans to meet with **Steve Black**, former Deputy State Conservationist in VA and **Wade Biddix**, former Asst. State Conservation for Programs. Both of these former Virginia employees now reside in Arizona full time now.

We also need to Congratulate **Wade Biddix** in his recent "hole-in-one" on the golf course. This makes Wade's sixth hole-in-one.

We would like to welcome **Ross Braun** to the area. Ross has recently moved to Virginia from Missouri. He and I were able to re-connect at a local Soil and Water Conservation District Board meeting. Glad to have his talents here.

Paul Benedict, ARCSE Membership Chair, recently attended the Virginia Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society annual meeting, at Pamplin Historical Park and National Museum of the Civil War Soldier in Petersburg, VA on November 16th, 2021. This was the first in-person meeting of the chapter in over two years. The theme of the meeting was "Agriculture, Soil Health, and Water Quality Through the Ages". It was highlighted by a presentation on "Soil Erosion and Conservation in the 19th Century Virginia" by **Dr. Erin Mauldin**, Asst. Professor of History at the University of South Florida-St. Petersburg. It was very interesting to hear Dr. Mauldin talk about how keenly aware many Virginians had become of erosion and land management problems by the time of the Civil War, and how this impacted the economy, the issue of slavery, and the war itself. Soils and their management have played important roles in US and global history.

On a personal note, I am happy to report that retired Budget and Finance officer **Ruth M. Carter** turned 100 on December 19th. Ruth happens to be my mother. Mom retired in 1985 as B&F Officer after having started 20 years before as a GS-3 Accounting Technician. The state of Virginia SCS and NRCS have had several father-sons, one father-daughter, one mother-daughter, and our one mother-son relationship working at the same time throughout the past several decades.

John and Blanche Peterson spent the week of Dec. 13th at one of their favorite places, Williamsburg, VA. It starts in 1607 when the first English settlers reached these shores, preceding the Pilgrims in Plymouth, MA by 13 years, when the Virginia Company of London sent the Susan Constant, Discovery, and Godspeed to this new land. The intent was to establish a permanent British colony in the new world.

Jamestown and Providence were not the first settlements in the new world. The Spanish settled in Saint Augustine, FL on September 6th, 1565 – 52 years earlier than Jamestown. And the British attempted settlements at Roanoke Island in what is now NC in 1584, 1585, and in August 1587. The 1587 attempt is known as the lost colony as it disappeared without a trace. After a five-month journey across the Atlantic, 104 Englishmen landed on the banks of the James River. The colonists were ill-prepared for what lay ahead. Disease and a severe drought took a heavy toll. The harsh winter of 1609 – 10, which is known as the "starving time," took the lives of two-thirds of the colonists. With the arrival of much-needed supplies, more settlers, and a successful tobacco crop, the colony of Virginia and its first Capital, Jamestown, survived. Thanks to the efforts of such familiar people as Pocahontas, John Smith and John Rolfe, the seeds of a new nation were born.

The colonial capital was moved farther inland to Middle Plantation (now Williamsburg) in 1699, and the settlement at Jamestown fell into ruins. Diligent work by archeologists has unearthed the location of the 1607 fort. Nearby, a Powhatan Indian village and reproductions of the three ships that brought the settlers bring 17th century American history to life can be visited. Yorktown, founded in 1691, was a busy 18th century tobacco port. It is best remembered for the siege of Yorktown which effectively ended the Revolutionary War in 1781 when General Charles Cornwallis was defeated by General George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette's allied forces.

The French fleet blockaded the Chesapeake Bay keeping Cornwallis from getting reinforcements and supplies. Colonial Williamsburg is the world's largest living-history museum and private foundation presenting a part of the historic Colonial District in the city of Williamsburg. I never tire of walking the Duke of Gloucester Street to the Bruton Parish Church, the House of Burgesses (the colonial Capitol), or down the Palace Green to the colonial Governor's Palace. We try to visit Williamsburg once or twice every year.

MINNESOTA

John Brach, ARCSE Representative
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A few Minnesota retirees crossed the border recently to meet up with some expatriates now living in Wisconsin. **Julie MacSwain** definitely has the most adventuresome retirement gig as House Mother for Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity at UW River Falls. It was fun to hear about that experience.



Minnesotans: Left to right in photo: John Brach, Lois Swanberg, Julie MacSwain, Helen Beeler, Scott Swanberg, Charlie Meier

MISSOURI

Dave Rastorfer, ARCSE Representative

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Rita Thomas Mueller Williams: Hi Fellow Retirees, you all sure knew what you were talking about. This retirement thing is good! **Kevin** and I are enjoying drinking our coffee in the morning together, playing and working in our yard and woods, researching ancestry history, and spending time with family and friends. Son **Nicholas Mueller** married **Lindsey Grant** in September in Columbia. Lindsey is the daughter of friends I have known since I was 20. Kevin and I visited beautiful Yellowstone in October. We wish all of you health and happiness in the new year and always.



Nicholas and Lindsey Mueller at wedding party

Alton Taylor: Well, it's that time, so in the kitchen I go. Grand kid and bigger KIDS expect to be finding candy, cookies, and pies on the garage shelf to be consumed. They will be arriving on 25th through 29th. **Kay** and I and family will spend a week on South Padre mid-February. You'll have my permission to retain all cold fronts in MO for the rest of winter.

Paula Price: It's been an interesting year! Enjoyed going to South MO with my family for a week. Then accompanied a friend to Colorado for a week viewing golden aspens. Holidays are fun around here because the family comes home. I am never done shopping. But the time is drawing near so I'll have to stop at some point. My wish for each of you is good health, laughter, special times with loved ones and friends, and may 2022 be your best ever. Paula Price, Area 1 Administrative Clerk (Retired).



Rita at Black Pool in Yellowstone



Rita and Kevin at Sage Lodge in Pray, Montana

Hugh Curry: My retirement gift from fellow workers and friends was a new bicycle. Bike riding has been a long-time passion, and I set a goal to ride 50,000 miles in retirement. It has taken 22 years, three bikes, and lots of sweat, but in December 2021, the bike odometer rolled over the 50,000 miles. Approximately 12,000 miles on the regular 2-wheeler received at retirement, about 29,000 miles on a 2-wheeled recumbent, and then another 11,000 miles on the recumbent trike in the picture. All were done by leg power with no electric assist. I was fortunate that an efficient trike came along, as my balance deteriorated, and a stroke impaired my left arm and leg. This achievement has been attained by many, but still special to me. Wishing everyone a happy 2022.



Mike Blaine: We sure have had a mild early winter on Blaine Hill. Very little fall rains and only a dusting of snow. That's fine with me. I've had a couple of mild events in the last month. I had a TIA while teaching a men's Bible study. Got a helicopter ride to Columbia. By the time I got there, everything was over and back to normal. Doctors could find no reason it happened. No clots anywhere and my arteries are clean as a whistle. Two weeks later I had another kidney stone. That's four in 24 months. This last one was not as painful as the first three. Anyway, God had been good to me, and I am especially grateful this Christmas season. Merry Christmas and may God bless you all!



J.R. Flores: My wife Nancy and I recently returned from a "Great Vacation" in Puerto Vallarta.



Craig King: Good day all; I'll make it short and sweet. **Candra** is into her sophomore year playing basketball, involved in FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes), KEY Club (youth Kiwanis). She is doing very well in school. **Weston** finished his first semester at UCM, Warrensburg majoring in Agronomy/Business. He finished the football season playing about half the snaps at Nose Guard, not bad for a true freshman. He's 6'3", 290+. When he returns, they will hit the weights hard. One other thing, Weston brought a teammate home for Thanksgiving, **China Dunga**, starting Nose Guard. He's from Brooklyn, New Jersey and both his folks came here when they were young from Nigeria. **Andrea** is busy with work as usual. They have been doing interviews and proceeding through the hiring process. We have a male pup that was fixed (one week too late), as our female mountain Cur had 8 pups 8 weeks ago, so we gave them their first shots, and they are slowly finding new homes.



China Dunga and Weston King

So, if anyone wants a pup, we still have three left. I am taking a short vacation in Barnes Hospital in St Louis. Weston and I were at the fitness gym in Hannibal, and I passed out. Fortunately, he started CPR and another young lad called 911. Thankfully the ambulance was only two blocks away. After a couple of zaps, I came to. Spent the night in Hannibal Regional, then air-lifted to Barnes. That happened on December 12th. Spent a couple days in ICU, then in my present

room. ECHO and Heart Cath today. Chest a bit sore (of course, a 6'3", 290-pounder pounding on you). Just glad he was there. God is good.

Hope everyone has a safe and joyous holiday season. Merry Christmas.

Bill Pauls: We've been traveling quite a bit, ranseveral marathons, and another scheduled for New Year's Day, just outside of Houston, TX. Will be visiting several relatives in Texas. Our family is doing well, one and all. Kids and grandkids are prospering. Everything here at the lake is batten down for the winter. Beautiful from our vantage points down on the lake and up here on Thunder Mountain. The weather has been so nice that we are really enjoying beers in the hot tub on the gazebo, even still out for boat rides. See a bountiful amount of wildlife; deer, raccoons, armadillos, eagles, turkey buzzards, chipmunks, pelicans, shore birds, fish, and squirrels everywhere; especially trying to get into our bird feeders (very funny at times). We have inexhaustible supplies of finches, cardinals, blue jays, wrens, tufted titmice, shrikes, finches, and all kinds of woodpeckers. We enjoy them all. Our doors are always open, and most everyone here are a friendly bunch of welcoming traditional country folks. We're enjoying all of the entertainment venues in the area. Past summer we saw the Beach Boys and Dwight Yoakum) at the Ozark Amphitheater. Dwight was "OUTSTANDING," Mike Love was "old," but God Bless him at 80 years old still performing. Three-Dog Night was here too, but we missed them. A lot of other fun places to go and things to do (restaurants, bars, water parks, giant slides, etc. We're trying to squeeze in as much as possible! Even though, yes, we're getting just a bit older, but still having a darn good time. Also volunteering quite a bit. God Bless and Merry, Merry Christmas to all! Enjoy every day...in some way! Love Ya'all, Bill and Kris.

Gena Michalson: Just about ready for Christmas. Decorations up, presents bought, those that arrived are wrapped. But no big plans for the holidays. Enjoying the dogs, cats, and horses. Visited our son and three grandkids in Houston, TX in November. They are doing very well. The oldest is learning to play piano and tennis. Our homebred thoroughbred colt Symbolist had a pretty successful season on the track in Illinois with three wins, three seconds, and one third. We were named in the top 10 leading breeders of Sport Horses (Warmbloods) in the U.S. based on young horse competitions. We also sold several young horses for a good chunk of change. Still have a number of young horses my daughter is training for the hunter/jumper ring, and a couple of thoroughbreds coming along. Husband has been doing private novel writing workshops with would-be authors, mostly in Virginia. I'm doing our DAR Chapter Newsletter, doing some genealogy, and serving as an officer in a couple other societies. Life is pretty quiet on the farm.

Erling Jacobson was the head of Missouri Plant Materials Center many years ago. He passed away in his native Minnesota. Obituary details are below.

<https://www.housemanfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Erling-T-Jacobson?obid=23266556#/obituaryInfo>

MONTANA

Dick Gooby, ARCSE Representative

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Montana Big Sky Report

Scott Hoag Report: Dick always asks to tell what we've been doing. I told him "I've been helping Jake." He said "What's Jake doing?" I said "Nothing." And that's about how it's been the last year and a half or so. Winter arrived a week ago with eight inches to a foot of snow in town and temps down in the single digits. We have family coming for Christmas – five of them; two from New York, one from Bainbridge Island, one from Laguna Beach, and one from Orange, CA. They all want to ski. Bridger opens December 21st with less-than-ideal snow. A fun time will be had by all, though. Scott continues to consult on Watershed projects. Nancy is writing and has stories in Chicken Soup for the Soul. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Jim Johnson Report: Your dedication to ARCSE reporting for Montana is appreciated. We're spending the Holiday Season in Bozeman with our kids and grandkids visiting here from Arkansas and California. Have a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and a great 2022.

Wendy Williams Report: I have been enjoying the long and warm fall that we have been having. My tea roses are still growing, but they are getting covered Thursday.

And youngest daughter, **Mara**, the one who I brought to the state office for six months, is moving back to Bozeman from the San Diego area. She and her husband will live in our cabin, which is about 200 feet from our house, until they can find a place to buy.

I ran into **Jerry Schaefer** at the Costco gas pump a few weeks ago, along with **Jose Valadez**, who is married to **Lori**.

I have created a pollinator-friendly habitat on our 10 acres in the last 8 years. I have little and big bluestem growing in niches. Lots of flax, prairie coneflower, blanket flower, asters, indian rice grass, basin wildrye, and a little prairie sandreed, which is hard to get established. Plus, Thickspike and bluebunch wheat, which were a PMC field trial. Keeping out the smooth brome is a challenge.

We raised up a litter of Siamese kittens this fall. That was fun.

I'm having a partial knee replacement in January, so no extended trip to the desert in our 5th wheel this winter. No ski pass at Big Sky either. I hope to be hiking by the end of March. We may take a trip to southern Florida in April.

Gooby Ranch Report: Merry Christmas. We thought last year was a tough year, but compared to this year it was a picnic. The rain gods didn't think we needed any rain. You can't believe how dry it got.

Mary Ann had to take the wheelbarrow down to the river several times a day to get a load of water to water the garden and the cows. Since the river water was so low, the fish and game department had to stop people from fishing, and people couldn't use the water. In order to keep from getting caught getting water, Mary Ann had to take the wheelbarrow across country and down through the trees and brush. It was not easy for her to push the wheelbarrow and keep from spilling water. When she got home with a load of water a couple days ago there were two trout in the wheelbarrow, so we had fresh fish for supper.

Mary Ann needed another cow dog after her best cow dog died, so she went to the dog pound to get a good dog. They said they didn't have any, but they knew a dog breeder that had so many to get rid of that they would pay her to take a dog from them. We went out and looked at the dogs, and Mary Ann picked out the one she wanted. The breeder said he was a real good dog, quite well trained, and he was six months old. He said he would pay Mary Ann \$50 to take the dog. Mary Ann asked for a \$100 since the dog didn't have any shots. The dog breeder cried a while then paid Mary Ann \$75 dollars to take the dog.

Mary Ann really liked the dog. He was the right color and size. She named him **Zakarea**. We left the dog breeder's place and headed for the vets to get his shots. We only had to stop and clean the back seat on the pickup three times on the way to the vets. The vet gave Zak all his shots, took a look at his teeth, and said he was probably a year and a half old. That meant since he was that old and had no training that Mary Ann had a lot of work to do. She told the vet that was no problem, and that she was used to having to spend a lot of time training old farts. If it's not a dog, it's a horse or her spouse.

Zak has figured out that Mary Ann is a super woman, and he just loves her. The other night I was just stepping into the shower when Mary Ann hollered for me to come out and see the red lights up the road about a mile away. I came running out of the shower and Zak started barking like crazy. He thought I was a large Sasquatch. He ran to Mary Ann, jumped on her lap and ever since he thinks her lap is his safe place. For the past two weeks every time I ask Mary Ann to get me a beer, she can't do it because Zak won't get off her lap.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and the best year ever in 2022.

NEBRASKA

Norm Kempf, Jim Culver, ARCSE Representatives

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A very small group met at Greenfield's for the November breakfast. Attending were **Steve Scheinost, Paul Bartlett, Harold Klaege, Jim Culver, Lou Buller, Bob Engel, Norm Helzer, Jim Harder, Tom Reinsch, Craig Derickson, and JoAnne Thiele**.

A proposal was put forward to elect **Jim Culver** as the 2022 Chairperson: **Craig Derickson and Doug Christensen** as co-vice chairpersons. A motion was made and seconded to accept this slate. **Donna Dornbusch and JoAnne Thiele** will continue as Secretary/Attendance and Treasurer. All voted aye. Starting in December we will meet at 8:00 instead of 7:30.

Jim Culver stated since this is the 50th anniversary of our retiree's breakfast group. He and **Norm Helzer** have put together a brief history of the group, shown below, and to be published in the Soil and Water Conservation Newsletter.

The Blue Cross/Blue Shield rep will be the speaker at the NARFE meeting on Saturday, November 19th at 11am at First Lutheran Church. **Clint and Emogene Johnson** will be moving to Kansas in the near future to be nearer their son.

The December meeting was called to order by President **Thomas Reinsch**, with 16 members attending: **David Camper, Steve Stover, JoAnne Thiele, Gus Dornbusch, Paul Bartlett, Harold Klaege, Steve Scheinost, Jim Culver, Gary Muckel, Craig Derickson, Norm Helzer, Dana Snyder, Thomas Reinsch, Keith Sheets, Doug Christensen, and Donna Dornbusch**.

Jim Culver reported on an article entitled "Lincoln SCS/NRCS Retirees Club celebrates its 50th Anniversary in 2021" submitted by **Jim Culver and Norm Helzer** and published by the Nebraska Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. To be a member of the Nebraska Chapter one has to also be a member of the SWCS headquartered at Ankeny, Iowa. One may also go to <https://nebraskawcs.org> to view Nebraska newsletters, including the above article under Current Event and News.

Steve Stover's wife, Jan, is now at home after being in and out of the hospital and rehab facilities for several months. **Tom Reinsch's** wife is recovering well from recent knee surgery. **Jim Culver** reported that **Chris Chapman** has moved to the Legacy Estates at 7200 Van Dorn, #19 (68506). Her phone number remains the same.

Doug Christensen and his wife cruised the Rhine and Danube rivers and then drove through Hungary and the Czech Republic. He said the countryside was very beautiful. **Keith Sheets** and his wife will be going to Texas after Christmas, returning in April.

Craig Derickson discussed a recent meeting on Soil Health being held at the University of Nebraska East Campus. He served as a moderator for a panel on soil health for the Soil Health Summit at UNL in November. Approximately 120 persons were in attendance and about the same number on zoom.

Tom Reinsch modeled a sweater given to him by his daughter for his birthday. The sweater had displays of different types of soils. He said he had harvested his second crop of amaranth this year, about six lbs. – double last year's harvest. He also did some black walnut harvesting this year (on public lands after checking with local officials) and also found some chestnut trees. He also had his first harvest of hazelnuts from his hazelnut tree.

Jim Culver played golf Monday with **Gary Muckel and Dana Snyder**. **Jim Culver** discussed the up-coming Zoom meeting to discuss a memorial for **Paul Johnson**, former SCS Chief.

History of Lincoln SCS/NRCS Retirees Club

The Club Celebrates Its 50th Anniversary in 2021 – Submitted By: **Jim Culver and Norm Helzer**.

The Lincoln SCS/NRCS Retirees Club formally “Lincoln SCS Retirees Club” celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year. The first meeting to organize the club was April 21, 1971 at Scotts Pancake House in Piedmont. **Art Marquardt**, retired Asst. State Conservationist for Nebraska was the lead person in getting the organization started. He thought it would be very desirable to have a monthly breakfast of retired SCS employees who reside in the Lincoln area in order to maintain some association and social contact with those fellow workers with whom you had worked for many years. Eleven retired SCS employees were at this first organization meeting. There were 33 charter members of the club.

The Lincoln Club was the first one organized in the United States, although many states have one. One interesting note is that the Club would meet monthly on the 3rd Wednesday morning of each month. That tradition had held steadfast over the fifty years until COVID-19 came. In 2020 we had contact meetings in January and February. We had no meeting of any kind for the remainder of the year. Beginning in 2021 we started having Zoom meetings, and in June of this year we went back to having normal person-to-person meetings. Today we still meet on the morning of the third Wednesday of each month.

The club has met at several locations around Lincoln over the years. We currently meet at Greenfield's Café located at 7900 S87th Street in southeast Lincoln. We have club officers and a calling committee to remind our members of the upcoming meeting. We start off with a relaxed fun business meeting. Meeting agenda includes items such as: Welcome to members, guest or new members; Health Reports; Travel Experience; Special Activities; Old Business; and New Business. Minutes of the monthly meeting are provided to members. Currently there are 29 members in Lincoln and 4 members who are out of town. **Thomas Reinsch** is current Chairperson; **Jim Culver**, Vice-Chairperson; **JoAnne Thiele**, Treasurer and, Attendance, Donna Dornbusch, Secretary.

For many years the club has had an annual banquet for spouses and others at the Cotner Center in Lincoln. The program at the 25th Anniversary included Master of Ceremonies – **Charline Woodside**, Invocation – **Gus Dornbusch**; Welcome, **Clinton Johnson**; 25th Anniversary, **JoAnne Thiele** and entertainment – Broadway Dance Group. The club has also had an annual fall family style breakfast meeting.

The Lincoln SCS/NRCS Retirees Club is still very active. So if you are in the general area on the Third Wednesday of the month, please stop by and join us at the Greenfield's Cafe at 7:30 in the morning – except for December, January, and February we meet at 8am. The business meeting is generally short and there is ample time for discussion of a wide variety of topics ranging from what the grandkids are doing, the weather and even occasionally the Nebraska football team concerns — however **Norm Helzer** is quick to remind us our Nebraska volleyball team is “A OK!”



Left to right – Norm Helzer, Craig Derickson, and Gary Muckel visiting about the upcoming SWCS Legislative breakfast.



Right to left – Dana Snyder, Thomas Reinsch (our Chairperson for 2021), Keith Sheets, Doug Christensen, and Dave Camper getting ready to order breakfast at our December 15, 2021 meeting.



Left to right – Steve Stover, Dave Camper, and Donna Dornbusch enjoying good food and conversation.



Left to right – Steve Scheinost, Harold Klaege, Paul Bartlett, JoAnne Thiele, Steve Stover, Dave Camper, Donna Dornbusch, Doug Christensen, Keith Sheets, and our Chairperson Thomas Reinsch getting ready for the meeting.

NEW YORK

Nancy Lee, ARCSE Representative
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Roe Marie Dodd, wife of former SCS State Conservationist, **Paul Dodd**, passed on November 5th, 2021, of Baldwinsville, NY.

Brooke McDowell, wife of former SCS Soil Scientist, **(Lee) McDowell**, passed away November 20th, 2021 at her home. Brooke began her career in Watertown, NY as a surgical nurse. She completed her career as a public health nurse for Jefferson County Public Health Service.

OREGON

Don Stettler, ARCSE Representative
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After a long persistent lack of precipitation causing a prolonged drought here in the Northwest, some of us were beginning to wonder if it would ever rain and snow like normal again. Much to our relief, it has been more like we are used to seeing this time of year for the past month or so. Hopefully, it will continue because there is a huge moisture deficit.



Weather Webcam Photo: Timberline Lodge located on the south side of Mount Hood in Clackamas County, Oregon, about 60 miles east of Portland. Constructed from 1936 to 1938 by the Works Progress Administration, it was built and furnished by local artisans during the Great Depression. Timberline Lodge was dedicated September 28th, 1937, by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Maurie Jernstedt's daughter, **Meredith**, reports that her 90-year-old dad participated in two five kilometer races this year. He won a pie for his race on Thanksgiving Day. **Marsel Tingey** is now living with a daughter in Midvale, UT. His wife **Joylene** passed away on September 19th, shortly after she and **Marsel** had celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary.

Harbans Lal retired from the WNTSC as the Environmental Engineer of the National Water Quality and Quantity team on December 31st, 2019. He has moved to Los Altos in the San Francisco Bay Area to be close to one of his daughters after living in the Portland area for over 25 years.

Several have expressed a longing to once again get together for our quarterly lunches. Doing this is frustrated by restaurants still not offering reservations for groups. Should this continue, I will entertain having a picnic when nice weather returns.

PENNSYLVANIA

Tim Murphy, the PA Bugle Editor, sent this in.

Pennsylvania has lost a great conservation engineer with the passing of **William (Bill) Bowers** in November 2021. Bill began his career with SCS/NRCS after graduating from Pennsylvania State University in Agricultural Engineering in 1967. Bill worked in various assignments and locations throughout Pennsylvania, including being the Project Engineer in Washington, PA, Area Engineer in Somerset, PA, and he also held the PA State Conservation Engineer position in Harrisburg for 20 years.

Bill was very active in all aspects of the on-farm conservation engineering programs. He led the construction of the last several PL-566 flood control dams built in PA.



The retired Pennsylvania State Office Boys met on December 14th for their bi-monthly breakfast. In attendance were Seated: Barry Frantz, Hosea Latshaw, and Pete Vanderstappen; and Standing: Dave Faerber, Barry Isaacs, Alan Wood, and Tim Murphy. Bill led the construction of the first PL-566 dam rehabilitation in PA, and much to his chagrin, almost each of his 20 years as SCE seemed to have a flood severe enough to warrant participation in the emergency watershed protection (EWP) program.

Training was hugely important to Bill, and he led a multi-agency partnership to develop the conservation boot camp training program for Pennsylvania conservation agencies, patterned after the 1960s national SCS boot camps. The PA Boot Camp began in 2000 and has been held at least once a year for every year since. Numerous engineers who have worked in PA and who were associated with Bill have moved on to other states as state conservation engineers and also to national engineering leadership positions.

After retirement from NRCS in 2008, Bill volunteered to assist with engineering employee mentoring and was always available for answering questions. Bill was a very active long-standing president of the PA NRCS retiree's organization and our ARCSE Representative. He led in the planning of our annual gatherings and ran those meetings as well. He also took a turn as President of the Northeast Agricultural and Biological Engineering Conference (NABEC).

Bill was a great listener and a true friend to all. He was always ready to share his knowledge and experience with others and will truly be missed.

TEXAS NORTH

Arnold King, ARCSE Representative

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This year brought our family multiple blessings and joy. Our granddaughter, **Gilly**, completed her degree from Texas Tech University and began her career in marketing with an assignment at a posh resort on Virgin Gorda in the British Isles. The blessing is that she will return to the mainland after her six-month contract is completed. Her brother, **Gage**, has recently

moved back to Ft. Worth after working as an environmental engineer in North Carolina. He enjoyed working and living out there but wanted to be back home near his family. And another event that brought us joy is when our granddaughter, **Racheal**, was voted best performer for her part in a stage production of "Elf." Her aptitude is toward singing and acting, and she is excelling in that area of her life.

I was excited about the opportunity to head for the mountains in Colorado to work again as a cook (I use the term chef) for an elk hunting operation. I gave it my best, but my heart issue caused me to return home after a week. The 9,500 ft. elevation was more than I could tolerate. The Dr. told me that before I left, but I had to give it a try.

The pandemic remains challenging for travelers, but **Willeene** and I have a Caribbean cruise planned during January and a transatlantic cruise planned during November 2022. We are fully vaccinated but hope and pray we don't get infected with one of the COVID strains. It could prove a little inconvenient if we test positive upon return to the USA from either trip.

Regarding ARCSE, we have a meeting scheduled during January to make plans for our statewide "reunion" for Texas retirees. We will meet in New Braunfels during early May for the two-day event. Everyone thoroughly enjoys the event, but attendance continues to drop. The spark plug for the event has been **Marion Porter** for the past 25 years. Sadly, Marion and his wife **Audra** passed away during December.



Arnold and Willeene's granddaughter, Gillie, after reporting for work on Virgin Gorda in the British Isles. She is pursuing a career in marketing following her graduation from Texas Tech.



Willeene, Racheal, and Arnold following granddaughter Racheal's stage performance of Elf. She was a leading actress and was elected "best performer" by her peers.

WASHINGTON

Ken Kaul, ARCSE Representative

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Things are not what we would like them to be. COVID seems to be domineering all of our lives. Every one of the retirees that I have talked to say the same thing: Stay home, hunker down, and go to your doctor appointments.

Harry Riehle, Carl Vennes and Ken Kaul did get together for lunch on December 6th. Our plans for a January luncheon remain very fluid. We are all hoping for a better 2022.

WEST VIRGINIA

Peg Reese, ARCSE Representative

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Doris Brackenrich, retired DC from the Potomac Valley, enjoyed a Thanksgiving feast at the home of **Molly and Chris Wilson** in Belington. Others visiting that day were **Justin Brackenrich and Caitlyn Thompson and Martha and Chester Boggs**.

Suzy Funka-Petery, the Assistant State Conservationist for the North Area, retired on December 3rd, 2021. Prior to moving to Morgantown, Suzy worked in Pennsylvania. Here is what she said in her "goodbye" e-mail:

"I feel fortunate with my career and all the opportunities I have had over these 41 years. I feel happy to have worked at a job that I have enjoyed getting up and going day-by-day. Throughout the many changes I have witnessed with the agency, a few points I land on is that I feel truly blessed to help people conserve our natural resources, work outdoors,

and provide technical assistance and guidance to customers and later field staff. Never lose sight of helping people help the land!"

These last seven years in WV have been wild and wonderful for me. I truly have been honored to have had the opportunity to work with caring and dedicated people, many that I now consider friends. Keep that passion you all have."

May all of you have a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year!



SENIOR CONSERVATIONISTS

Prepared by Marc Safley, Senior Conservationist Chronicler

James R. Brasfield McEwen, TN
 George C. Norris Richmond, VA

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

James H. Canterbury

Senior Conservationist **James H. ("Jim") Canterbury** was born September 28, 1937, in Forest Hill, WV. Forest Hill is about 40 miles southeast of Beckley, WV. Jim grew up on his family's farm which raised cattle and sheep. He attended local schools and graduated from Forest Hill High School then enrolled in West Virginia University. Jim graduated with a BS degree in Animal Husbandry in 1959. During his university years he worked three summers as a Student Trainee.

Upon graduation in June of 1959 he accepted an entry-level position as Soil Conservationist at Princeton, WV. Jim decided to volunteer for military service rather than face the uncertainty of when he would be drafted. He entered the U. S. Army in September 1959; after basic and advanced training he was sent to Germany where he served as an administrative section chief in the 24th Infantry Division. He was honorably discharged at Fort Hamilton, NY, in September 1961. Jim then returned to Princeton, WV, where he was Soil Conservationist. In March 1962 he was promoted to soil Conservationist (GS-7) at Parkersburg, WV. Two years later he was promoted to District Conservationist at Huntington. In 1967 Jim accepted promotion to District Conservationist at Charleston where over the course of his three years there he was promoted in-place to GS-12. In 1971, he accepted the job of Area Conservationist at Edenton, NC. In 1975 he was brought into the SCS State Office in Raleigh as State Resource Conservationist. He served SCS in Raleigh from 1975 until he retired. During this period there were several reorganizations of the office during which Jim served as Assistant State Conservationist for Programs and Assistant State Conservationist for Technology. With the arrival of a new State Conservationist in 1995 Jim was asked where he felt he could best serve. Jim was reassigned the role of State Resource Conservationist and it is from that position that he retired in 1997. During his career, Jim received several outstanding ratings. He was also selected as a Fellow of the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

Jim has been very active during his retirement. From 1997 until 2018 he was an instructor of persons seeking certification in wastewater management through North Carolina State University. He has been very active through NC Baptist Men and their disaster relief activities. Jim has worked on water assessment in Togo, Africa, farm assessments in Honduras following Hurricane Mitch, and housing construction in El Salvador. He has made seven trips to the Gulfport area of Mississippi following hurricanes.

Jim and his wife **Rebecca** were married in 1963. They have a daughter and a son and six grandchildren. Jim has written *A History of Roles Chapel Baptist Church*; this is his home church in Forest Hills. He has also researched history and family genealogy. From this has come two histories – one of family involvement during the Civil War and the other the actions of Forest Hill citizens during the Civil War. Jim and Rebecca enjoy spending time on the family farm in West Virginia. Jim says that life is too short to have a job you do not like, and that putting conservation on the land was and is a very satisfying life.

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)
Bouchard	2021	ARCSE Life member Carl Edward Bouchard (80) of Milford, Delaware, passed away November 17, 2021. Carl was born March 19, 1941 in Fort Kent, Maine, the only child of Gilman Leonide Bouchard and Elizabeth (Isabel) Caron . He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Maine in Orono. Carl married Janet Louise Gilchrist of Fredericton, New Brunswick Canada in 1966. He did Master's work in Water Resources Engineering. Carl also graduated from the Federal Executive Institute in Charlottesville, Virginia and served 4 years in the United States Air Force. He worked as an Extension Agricultural Engineer for the New Brunswick Department of Agriculture in Canada before joining the USDA-Soil Conservation Service serving in Orono, Maine, the Regional Office in Broomall, Pennsylvania and retiring as a Deputy Director of the renamed Natural Resource Conservation Service responsible nationally for water resource and rural development programs in Washington, DC. He spent considerable time collaborating with foreign researchers and water resource leaders in Sub-Saharan Africa, France, and Western Europe. He established the Stormwater program for Fairfax County Virginia serving as its first Director before semi-retiring to Delaware where he designed and built his retirement home for aging in place and practiced as a Professional Engineer. Carl was a Licensed Professional Engineer in several states and was a life member of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers, the National Society of Professional Engineers and a member of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. He received numerous awards during his career including the USDA Honor Award and one from his peers in establishing the Keep America Growing concept to protect America's working lands. He was recognized as the Young Engineer of the Year for Maine and recognized by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for his leadership. In retirement, Carl returned to his photography hobby and prominently displayed his works at the Misplillion Art League. He was the official photographer for the National Conference of State Societies over a period of 20 years photographing the Cherry Blossom Princesses during Cherry Blossom week in Washington, DC. He is survived by son, Stephen Bouchard of Aldie, Virginia, and daughter Janice Hall (David) of Milford, twin grandsons Nicholas and Andrew Hall and special granddaughter Katya Hall , all of Milford. Internment was at the Delaware Veterans Cemetery, Millsboro, Delaware.
Bowers	2021	Life ARCSE Member William J. Bowers (73) of Enola, Pennsylvania, passed away November 14, 2021. Bill was born on November 27, 1947, in Somerset, Pennsylvania, son of the late J. William and Ruth A. (Trimpey) Bowers . He went to the Pennsylvania State University earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Engineering in 1969, where he was a member of the Alpha Zeta Fraternity, an honorary, professional society for students and industry professionals in the agriculture and natural resources fields. Bill worked for the USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) for 40 years, holding positions such as Project Engineer, Area Engineer, and State Conservation Engineer. Bill has been a Professional Engineer since 1982. He was honored with an Outstanding Alumnus College of Agricultural Sciences Award in 1999. Bill led the SCS/NRCS Retirees group in Pennsylvania for the past several years. A passion of his life was service to his faith. Bill was a dedicated member of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church. After retiring in 2008, Bill was able to dedicate himself to one of his true passions, gardening. Bill was in the Penn State Master Gardener Class of 2010 of Cumberland County. He was an active member on numerous committees including the Adams Ricci Butterfly Garden, Allen Road Gardens and Plant Clinic at the Fredricksen Library, as well as made notable past contributions to the Trial & Idea Gardens, Youth Committee programs and Garden Tour. He was also passionate about bluebirds for the last 40 years and was always willing to share information, give presentations, and would often give away bluebird houses. Bill is survived by his wife, Mary Ann (Kauffman) , of 52 years, married in Mt Joy on November 23, 1969. He is also survived by his two daughters, Susan Pochet (Marc) of Royersford, Pennsylvania, and Amy Bowers (Casey Williams) of Albuquerque, New Mexico; and two grandchildren, Emily Pochet of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and Ben Pochet of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to Mt. Zion United Methodist Church to establish a Prayer Garden or to the Penn State Melanoma and Skin Cancer Center (Att. Leah Batdorf), 500 University Drive CH 74, Hershey, PA 17033.
Campbell	2021	Beverly Anne (Koegeboehn) Campbell (86) Midlothian, Texas, passed away November 2, 2021 at the Lakewood Assisted Living in Midlothian. She had been the wife of USDA-Soil Conservation Service Conservation Technician Duane E. Campbell , who preceded her in death on June 2, 2010. Duane worked in Manhattan, Kansas before retiring in 1994. Beverly and Duane were married June 10, 1956. She is survived by her son, David Campbell of Dodge City, Kansas; daughters, Linda Campbell of Red Oak, Texas, and Lisa Hogan (Tom) of Cimarron, Kansas; and granddaughters, Abbygail (Logan) Brecheisen and Gretchen Hogan of Denton, Texas.
Campen	2021	Longtime Earth Team Volunteer Donald Oliver "Spec" Campen, Jr. (101) of Henrico, Virginia, passed away in his home on November 16, 2021, with his daughters by his side. He volunteered in WWII and served in the Army 8th Air Force with the Hells Angels. That began a legacy of community, state and federal service that continued throughout his life. He served as office manager for U.S. Congressman, David E. Satterfield III. He served the Virginia House of Delegates as the Doorkeeper and then as the Sergeant At Arms. He served many Virginia Governors with appointments by Gerald L. Baliles (Board on Commercial Rental and Driving Schools), L. Douglas Wilder (Board of Conservation and Development of Public Beaches, Chairman four years), George E. Allen (re-appointed as Chairman four years), Mark R. Warner (Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board, Virginia Scenic Rivers Advisory Committee, Virginia Council for Human Rights), Timothy Kaine (re-appointed to

		<p>Virginia Council for Human Rights for four years). Spec was chairman of the Henrico County Democratic Committee for nine years. Spec was elected to the Board of Directors Members for the Henricopolis Soil and Water Conservation Committee (SWCD). Then elected District Director for SWCD and served eight years then elected Area Three Chairman for the Virginia Soil and Water Conservations 47 districts, overall 35 years with Henricopolis. Spec was appointed to the Earth Team and served over 30 years). As the Earth Team's most senior member and longest tenure, Spec helped get the program off the ground! He was involved in conferences like Urban Conservation Initiatives, the Youth Envirothon and the Chesapeake Bay's Restoration programs. He received several awards as a Volunteer in the Conservation and Natural Resources areas. He was preceded in death by his wife, Vivian Benton Campen. He is survived by his daughters, Pamela Campen, Donna Denson (Robert Pavkov), Susan Burnette; 5 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.</p>
Coulter	2021	<p>David A Coulter (85) of Lancaster, Ohio, passed away December 7, 2021. "Dave" Coulter, son of Vance and Edith Coulter, passed away peacefully on December 7th at the Pickering House-Fairhope Hospice in Lancaster, Ohio after a year-long progression of dementia. David was a graduate of The Ohio State University in 1959 in Agriculture Science. He worked nearly 30 years for the USDA-Soil Conservation as an Area Conservationist. He was best known for his love of art and painting. His favorite works were paintings of barns, famous landmarks and various churches around the Lancaster area. He is survived by his wife Barbara Coulter, three sons Mark, Chris, Vance and daughters Patty and Lesley. He is also survived by seven grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.</p>
Crise	2021	<p>Charlie Crise Jr. (87) of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, passed away December 18, 2021, at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Carlisle. Charlie was born October 24, 1934, in Masontown, Pennsylvania, the son of the late Charlie, Sr. and Grace (Beal) Crise. He was employed by the USDA-Soil Conservation as a long-time draftsman in the Pennsylvania State Office Engineering Section. Charlie drew countless design drawing and standard detail drawings used in the CO-01, PL-556, RC&D and RAMP programs throughout Pennsylvania. He was also a comedian and prankster who livened up the state office. He is survived by his wife Joan E. (Harris) Crise. Private services will be held. Charlie was a Navy veteran and will be interred at the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery.</p>
Dodd	2021	<p>Rose Marie Dodd (82), of Baldwinsville, New York, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her loving family on November 5, 2021. Rose was the wife of ARCSE member Paul A. Dodd, retired State Conservationist for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. She was born in Hilldale, West Virginia, where she was raised and educated. Rose attended Talcott High School where she met Paul, her high school sweetheart, and the love of her life. She had resided in West Virginia, Ohio and Florida before coming to Syracuse in 1975, settling in Liverpool, New York. Rose was employed as a Teacher's Assistant with the Liverpool Central School District in their Early Intervention Program. She was an avid golfer and loved raising her two sons, enjoying being present at all their events growing up. In addition to her husband Paul, Rose is survived by two sons, Douglas (Paula) Dodd of Baldwinsville, New York, and Michael (Kaye) Dodd of Liverpool, New York; four grandchildren; Jeremy Reed (Colleen Fitzgibbons), Lisa Dodd and Andrew Dodd; and four great-grandchildren.</p>
Dompier	2021	<p>Lenn Dompier (96) of Spokane, Washington (formerly of Davenport, Washington), passed away November 24, 2021. Lenn was born August 1, 1925, in his grandparents' farmhouse in Mabton, Washington in the Yakima Valley. He served his country in the Navy during WWII, stationed for 19 months in the South Pacific. Following the war, Lenn attended Washington State College, earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Soil Science in 1950. During his college years, he met and married Fran McDonald. Lenn worked for 31 years for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. His job locations took the family to Washington communities of Walla Walla, Dayton, Pomeroy, Cheney, Colville, and finally to Davenport where he served as the District Conservationist for many years. After his retirement, he drove a school bus for the Davenport School District for six years. Davenport was home to Lenn and Fran for over 50 years where they were involved in many community organizations. Lenn was an ardent and competitive runner, winning many road race awards in his age group. Survivors include his children David (Cathy) of Puyallup, Washington, Greg (Kathy) of Spokane and Ann (Craig) Sweat of Spokane; 4 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife Fran</p>
Garrison	2021	<p>Senior Conservationist and Honorary ARCSE Member Amos I. Garrison (96) of Boise, Idaho, passed away November 6, 2021 at his home. Amos was born on January 16, 1925, in Mt. Pleasant, Ohio to Amos I. Garrison and Lillie D. (Adams) Garrison. In 1943 he enlisted in the Army Air Corps. He graduated flight school and piloted B-25 medium bombers. After World War II he remained in the Air Force Reserves until 1949. On June 11, 1949, he married the love of his life: Ruth Bumgarner in Columbus, Ohio. He graduated from Ohio State University in 1949 and was employed by the Soil Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. His first posting was in Marietta, Ohio as a soil conservationist. He received many advancements which required moves to Fremont, Ohio; Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania; Bozeman, Montana; Denver, Colorado; and Boise, Idaho where he was the State Conservationist. He retired in 1980 and lived the remainder of his life in Boise. Amos loved flying and piloted his own planes into his 90s. He was an avid member of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) and frequently flew to Wisconsin to attend their annual convention. In retirement he helped build an experimental airplane which was shown at the EAA convention in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. He was a member of Cathedral of the Rockies for 45 years and loved singing with the Cathedral Choir until three years ago. He and Ruth loved music and theater and had season passes for the Boise Philharmonic, Boise Baroque, and Boise Little Theater for many years. In April of 2021, Amos was placed on hospice due to congestive heart failure and was cared for at home by family and the loving, dedicated healers of St. Luke's Hospice. Amos is survived by his wife Ruth, son Paul (Gale) Garrison, of Stoughton, Wisconsin; daughter Carol Garrison (Nicole Leonard), of Boise, Idaho; grandchildren Jackson Garrison, of Montgomery, Alabama; Leah Garrison, of Madison, Wisconsin. A memorial service was held at the Cathedral of the Rockies, 717 N. 11th St., Boise, Idaho on November 18, 2021.</p>
Giessler	2021	<p>Martha Jo Giessler (87) of Faith, North Carolina, passed away November 17, 2021, in Santee, South Carolina. Martha Jo was the wife of Senior Conservationist and Life ARCSE Member Randall W. Giessler who retired in 1990 and served as State Conservationist in Kentucky, and before that Area Conservationist in Charlotte, North Carolina, for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. Martha Jo and Randall were married November 8, 1953.</p>

		Martha Jo was the ultimate home maker. She was a welcoming host to many friends and family no matter which of their 22 homes she was living in at the time. She provided comfort to her family and especially to her husband, Randall for 68 years. She had a keen sense of humor and did not hesitate to enter debate or provide her own unique opinion on important matters - family or otherwise.
Haderlie	2021	Bernice Merrill Haderlie (90) of Logan, Utah, passed away peacefully March 3, 2021, at her home. Bernice was the beloved wife of ARCSE Member Van K. Haderlie , who passed away in 2014. Van was a World War II veteran who worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS), retiring in 1984 as the State Conservationist in Bozeman, Montana. Bernice attended Ricks College in Rexburg, Idaho and Utah State Agricultural College where she met and fell in love with Van. They were married in the Idaho Falls Temple on March 28, 1952. Van's career with the SCS led them to many wonderful places where they found so many friends. Their journey took them to Montana, Nevada, Texas, back to Montana, 2 years in Indonesia, and finally back to Logan. Along the way they added eight children to their family. Bernice delighted in education, both as a student and as a teacher. Her college studies were interrupted several times by family obligations, but she persisted until she received a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Northern Montana College in 1971, followed by a Master of Education from Montana State University in 1981.
Harrison	2021	Ronald Deane Harrison (92) of Hyrum, Utah, passed away on October 16, 2021, at his home. Deane was born in Malad, Idaho on July 5, 1929 to Lily Rosenberg and Jesse Dredge Harrison . Deane boxed at Brigham Young University, served a mission to Western Canada, then earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Utah State University and a Master of Science degree from Colorado State University in Range Management. He married Dorothy Ruth Chambers in the Logan Temple on December 20, 1952. During the 66 years they were married, they lived in many places in Utah and around the world while he worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. He became the State Resource Conservationist for Utah, retiring in 1992. Deane was dedicated to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and served it in many roles. He was preceded in death by infant daughter, Tamera Harrison and wife Ruth Harrison . Among his survivors are his children: Ruth Petersen (Phil) , Renate Brunsvik (Fred) , Ron Harrison , Roger Harrison (Carole) , Richard Harrison (Kim) , and Reid Harrison (Cyndi) . Funeral Services were held October 22, 2021 at the Hyrum, Utah 6th Ward Chapel. Memorials may be made to the Hyrum City Library or the Humanitarian Fund through The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.
Hinkston	2021	Aaron Hinkston, Jr. (73) of Alexandra, Louisiana, passed away October 30, 2021, at Rapides Regional Medical Center in Alexandria. He was born to the Aaron, Sr. and Gustina Hinkston in Los Angeles, California on July 7, 1948. He was reared by his maternal grandparents, Columbus and Julia Allen in Wildsville, Louisiana. He earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics in 1970 from Southern University and then a master's degree from Michigan State University in Lansing, Michigan. He married Brenda Crayton on June 7, 1970. Aaron gained employment with the USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service (formally Soil Conservation Service) as an agricultural economist, where he retired after 33 years of faithful and dedicated service. Aaron was a faithful member Antioch Missionary Baptist Church. At the time of his passing, he was serving in the church as Deacon Board chair, Sunday School superintendent, and Building & Planning Committee chair. He was also co-director of the United Educational Missionary Baptist Association's Brotherhood Department. Aaron was preceded in death by his daughter Marcia . He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Brenda ; his son, Aaron III (J'Mella) of Houston, Texas; granddaughter, Keisha of Ruston, Louisiana; grandson, Aaron Jamil of Houston, Texas and unborn granddaughter, Aubrey Michele ; "adopted" daughter and granddaughter, Michelle Duncan and Kendra Griffin of Jonesville, LA.
Jacobson	2021	Erling T. Jacobson (91) of Fargo, North Dakota, passed away peacefully on December 1, 2021, at the Bethany Retirement Living in Fargo. Erling was born at home in Brandt Township, Deuel County, South Dakota on February 8, 1930, to Haakon and Nora (Bjerke) Jacobson . He was drafted into the U.S. Army on July 9, 1952. In the spring of 1955 at Camp Desert Rock, Nevada, he watched "Operation Big Shot," the last above-ground atomic bomb test. The classic mushroom-shaped cloud remained etched in his memory. He was honorably discharged on June 4, 1955. Erling graduated from the University of Minnesota College of Agriculture with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Soil Science and a minor in Agronomy. On August 30, 1959, he married Lois Jean Braaten in Rugby, North Dakota. In April 1961 Erling was hired as a Soil Conservationist with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in Redfield, South Dakota. He later worked at the Elsberry Missouri Plant Materials Center, in Missouri. Then was manager of the Plant Materials Center in Manhattan, Kansas. In April 1975 he became the Field Plant Materials Specialist at Bismarck, North Dakota. In December 1984 he became the Regional Plant Materials Specialist in Lincoln, Nebraska providing technical assistance and training to ten Midwest states. Erling retired on January 4, 1994. Erling was a lifetime member of the Lutheran Church and was very proud of his Norwegian heritage. Erling is survived by Lois, his wife of 62 years, children Linda (Gary) Schauer , Jon (Marcia Lemmon) Jacobson , and Nancy (Brian) Bruns ; grandchildren Christy (Greg) Tehven , Eric (fiancée Leah Alsaker) Schauer , Riley Bruns and Hailey (Franklin) Childress ; and three great-grandchildren Harpe .
Kuck	2021	ARCSE Member Michael Daniel Kuck (72) of Brookings, South Dakota, passed away January 13, 2021, after a 17-year battle with Melanoma. Mike was born January 26, 1948, the third son of Leonard and Bessie (Logue) Kuck . In 1970 Mike graduated from South Dakota State University (SDSU) with a degree in Agricultural Engineering. While attending college Mike met Lelonnie "Lonnie" Bender and they were married September 12, 1970. After graduation from SDSU, Mike went to work as a field engineer for the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS), later called Natural Resources Conservation Service. During his career he worked in Mobridge, Gettysburg, Bison, and then back to Mobridge. The family then moved to Brookings where Mike was the Area Engineer. Mike returned to SDSU in 1994 and in 1996 received a master's degree in industrial management with environmental emphasis. Mike served for 23 years in the South Dakota National Guard. While in the Guard, Mike held various positions including Commander of the 211th Engineering Bridge Building Company, Operations Officer for the 109th Battalion, Intelligence Officer for the 109th Engineer Group and Operations Officer for the 5043rd USAR School. He retired in 1993 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Mike was active in various ways at

		St Thomas More Parish. An avid sportsman, Mike enjoyed hunting and fishing. Mike was a skilled wood worker. He built cedar chests for family members and a cradle and highchair for his grandson, Owen, and many other items for family and friends. Mike is survived by his wife of 50 years, Lonnie; children, Jennifer Kuck , Aurora, South Dakota; Paul Kuck (Brandi Cook) , Milwaukie, Oregon; and grandson, Owen Kuck .
McDowell	2021	Brooke L. McDowell (94) of Watertown, New York, passed away November 20, 2021 at her home. She was the wife of retired USDA-Soil Conservation Service Soil Scientist Letember "Lee" McDowell . Brooke started her career as a surgical nurse and later became a public health nurse for Jefferson County Public Health Service. She was a communicant of Anthony's Church, past president of both the League of Women Voters and the County Cooperative Extension Service. Surviving besides her husband are two sons, Gerald and Douglas , two grandchildren and one great-grandson.
McMasters	2021	ARCSE Life Member Jesse Lowell McMasters (86) of Duncan, Oklahoma, passed away December 16, 2021, with his loving wife of sixty-six and half years by his side. Lowell was born in Walters, Oklahoma on October 10, 1935, the fourth child of Frances Lee (Riney) and Jesse K. McMasters . He grew up on the family farm and was very active in 4H and Future Farmers of America (FFA). Upon graduation from high school, Uncle Sam called for his service and he joined the United States Air Force. On June 18, 1955, he married his high school sweetheart, Minnie Lou Perkins . His first military assignment was Sacramento, California. Their first child, Bobby Lowell , was born in 1957. Upon discharge from the service, he entered Cameron College in Lawton, Oklahoma. Their second child, Kathy Ann , was born in 1959 in Lawton. After graduating from Cameron, he transferred to Oklahoma A&M in Stillwater, Oklahoma. After two years it became Oklahoma State University (OSU). He graduated from OSU with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Engineering in 1963. Lowell began his career with USDA Soil Conservation Service in Chickasha, Oklahoma – a new job and every two years a new town including Clinton, Guymon, Woodward, Oklahoma City, Moore, Walterboro, South Carolina, back to Pauls Valley for 29 years and, finally, his last office was Duncan. Their third child, David Wayne , was born in 1965 in Guymon. He loved working for SCS and helped to build a lot of dams. He received many awards during his 43 years of service. Retiring in 1991, he and Minnie started a new adventure. With the purchase of a new van and travel trailer they drove 33,000 miles to Alaska and back, saw a lot of Canada, made many friends, square danced in many towns, and saw a rainbow at 2:30 in the morning in Alaska. Lowell loved to travel and Hawaii, Cozumel, and winters in South Texas was his dream. Many years of travel ended as his memory began to fade. The final move was to Duncan in 2002. Lowell is survived by his loving wife, Minnie; three children: Bobby Lowell (Evelyn) , Kathy Ann Hume (Dirk) , and David Wayne (Jeannine) ; grandchildren: Jesse (Amanda) , Jonathan (Tish) , Joshua (Robin) , and Joseph (Janna) McMasters , Candace and Grant Hume , Christopher, Andrew and Heather McMasters , Rob and Mandi King ; and eight great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held December 22, 2021, at Highland Park Baptist Church, with Pastor Jerry Couch officiating. Interment was at Fairlawn Cemetery, Comanche, Oklahoma.
MicVicker	2021	Francis William (Bill) McVicker, Jr. (81) of Guthrie, Oklahoma, passed away December 8, 2021 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Bill was born November 13, 1940 in Hennessey, Oklahoma to Francis William and Genevieve Ethel McVicker . He joined the United States Air Force following high school. His time in the service led to his most proud achievement, meeting Elizabeth Robinson who worked at the PX at South Ruislip AFB, London England. They married April 15, 1963, and transferred to Blytheville, Arkansas AFB where they started their family. Bill farmed, worked as a welder, was a loan officer, worked in the oilfield, and then the USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service. Bill loved challenging puzzles, Jeopardy, and classical music, but his true passion was working with the soil by either designing soil conservation projects or planting trees and flowers. Bill was known for his irises. He hybridized and created new varieties. He planted acres of irises and won endless awards for their beauty. His irises are planted in multiple locations including London, Ireland, and places throughout the US. One variety, the "Nancy Kay" is planted at the Arkansas State Capitol. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth of Kingfisher, Oklahoma; five children, Mike (Tona) of Piedmont, Oklahoma; Kathy (Marty) James of Crescent, Oklahoma; Paul (Jennifer) of Midland, Texas; Craig (Ginger) of Kingfisher; and Malissa McVicker of Houston, Texas along with thirteen grandkids, and twelve great-grandchildren.
Murphy	2021	ARCSE Member Ronnie D. Murphy (78) of Auburn, Alabama, passed away October 24, 2021, in Auburn. He was born December 11, 1942 in Florence, Alabama. Ronnie graduated from Auburn University College of Agriculture in 1966. He later earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Harvard University in 1978. Ronnie spent his entire professional career serving the farming community. He worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS) which became the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in 1994 for 33 years. While with the agency, he held the State Conservationist position in the states of Arkansas and Alabama. Ronnie retired from NRCS in 1999 and went immediately back to work for the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries where he served Alabama farmers for another 10 years. Other highlights of his career include selection for a 2-year sabbatical by the Secretary of Agriculture to draft legislation for the 1985 Farm Bill. In 1990, his service was requested on the Federally commissioned Delta Development Commission whose mission was to improve the quality of life for the residents of the Mississippi Delta. He was presented the Arkansas Traveler Award in 1992 by then Governor Bill Clinton for his service as a goodwill ambassador of the State of Arkansas. Ronnie was a devoted family man who lived to spend time with his family and loved attending his grandsons' school and sporting events. He enjoyed fellowship at his church, First Baptist Church Opelika, where he was a member for 26 years. Ronnie is survived by his wife of 54 years, Peggy ; son, Charles Murphy (Susan) , of Virginia Beach, Virginia; daughter, Felicia Gardner (Jason) , of Auburn, Alabama; and 5 grandsons, Samuel Gardner, Gabriel Gardner, Jack Murphy, William Murphy , and Luke Gardner .
Neu	2021	ARCSE Member Albert Neu (85) of Cathedral City, California passed away earlier this year. Albert started his career with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service as a soil conservationist. He retired in 1994 as an area conservationist. [Editor's Note: I could not find an obituary online. Before retiring in Cathedral City, I believe Albert worked in Flagstaff, Arizona and Holbrook, Arizona. If you have additional information on Albert's career or life, or have an obituary, please email it to me at soilwarden@verizon.net]

Newton	2021	Robert Dale Newton (88) of Dexter City, Ohio, passed away December 17, 2021 at Muskingum Skilled Nursing in Beverly, Ohio. He was born on February 6, 1933, in Dungannon, Ohio, to Erwin and Ruth Bell Newton . He served his country in the US Army during the Korean Conflict, stationed in Korea, as a helicopter mechanic. After studying at The Ohio State University, he worked for USDA-Soil Conservation Service as a multi-county Engineering Technician. Bob was involved in many abandoned mine land reclamation projects and flood control projects over the years of his employment. He was a member of the Coal Run Church of Christ. He is survived by his wife, Mary Farnsworth Newton ; sister-in-law, Jennie Farnsworth ; brother-in-law, Wayne Farnsworth (Sharon) ; and several nieces and nephews.
Porter	2021	Senior Conservationist Marion Scoggins Porter (91) of Terrell, Texas, passed away peacefully November 20, 2021 surrounded by his family. He was born June 16, 1930, to the union of Lawrence Marion Porter and Etta Fae Scoggins in Gonzales County, Texas. He enrolled in Texas A&M University and graduated with a degree in Agriculture Education in 1947. He married high school sweetheart Audrey Dolores Hallmark in 1951. Porter served in the 325th Tank Battalion at Fort Knox in Camp Irwin, California as a second lieutenant. During his military service, Porter worked on a secret project for infrared in the Mojave Desert. Porter joined the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in Stephenville, Texas, as District Conservationist, where he and Audrey lived for 21 years. He valued volunteering and participated in many community-focused groups during his time in Stephenville including serving as President of the Lions Club, a member of Jaycees, and Federal Workers Group. Porter later moved to Terrell, Texas as Area Conservationist, where he lived for the remainder of his life with Audrey. A smart and hardworking man, he was committed to his community and contributed to the lives of countless people throughout his life. Porter believed in Psalms 24: "The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof." He was a people person: he believed in Faith, Family, the Flag & Friends. But most of all, he loved Texas A&M and was a die-hard Aggie to his very last breath. His work ethic was unmatched, and even after he formally retired, he worked for Kaufman County remodeling courthouse offices and mentored trustees who worked on the remodels. Porter served as Deacon, then Deacon Emeritus of First Baptist Church of Terrell. Porter is survived by his wife Audrey who still resides in Terrell, Texas; his children: Constance (John) Wooley, Mark and Dale Porter , and Judie Porter ; grandchildren: John Paxton Wooley, Jamie Wooley, Marcus Wooley, Crystal Porter, Laura Porter, and Haley Porter ; and his great grandchildren Madison, Gray, and Mac . Funeral services November 23, 2021 at First Baptist Church in Terrell, with Interment at Masonic Cemetery in Waelder, Texas.
Schlegel	2021	Norbert Ricky Schlegel (Rick) (67) of Woodward, Oklahoma, passed away on December 2, 2021, surrounded by family, after a courageous battle with cancer. Rick was born on June 2, 1954, to Norbert and Jaye Nell Schlegel in Shamrock, Texas. He went to Texas Tech University and received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering. After graduating from Texas Tech, Rick worked for worked for both Farmers Home Administration/Rural Development and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as an engineer. He retired in August 2009 from NRCS serving as the Irrigation Engineer located in the Woodward, Oklahoma Technical Service Office. He didn't really retire as he continued working for various engineering firms up until recently. He oversaw countless infrastructure projects across the state. He was known to be a loyal Oklahoma State University fan, avid bowler, and loved his family. Those left to cherish his memory are his daughter and son and their spouses, Kacie and Cole Bond , and Cory and Ashlye Schlegel , grandkids Carlye, Caden, Cyler, and Caleb Schlegel , and Bryce, Brylex, and Brooklynn Bond .
Schreiner	2021	Tony Robert Schreiner (65) of Frederick, Oklahoma, passed away December 9, 2021, at Comanche County Memorial Hospital in Lawton, Oklahoma. Tony was born October 15, 1956, in Frederick, Oklahoma to Carol Dean (Akin) Schreiner and Jimmy Bob Schreiner . He briefly attended Western Oklahoma State College where he majored in music and campus life. Tony loved music and was very musically talented. He was a drummer and singer and part of a country band that played in night clubs. He also played the banjo, fiddle, and guitar. When he retired from singing and playing in a band, Tony moved back to Frederick where he worked for the County Commissioners. He then was hired as a soil conservation technician for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, where he retired in 2018. In 2002, Tony married Connie J Roach , and together they built their dream house and his next adventure, the Rocking Bar S Construction, which was his pride and joy. Tony is survived by his wife of 19 years, Connie, of the home; two children, Felicia Ann Cummins (JW) of Erick, Oklahoma and Donald Gail Leon Schreiner , of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; two step-sons, Jason Ferguson (Sharee) of Edmond, Oklahoma and Jonathan Ferguson of Stillwater, Oklahoma; his parents, Carol Dean Akin Schreiner of Norman, Oklahoma and Jimmy Schreiner and his wife Mary of Frederick, Oklahoma; two grandchildren, Corbin Robert Cummins and Henry Liam Cummins ; two step-grandchildren, Nate Cummins and Hannah Cummins .
Scott	2021	Edward "Glen" Scott (88) of Florence, Kentucky passed away December 16, 2021. He was born in Cecilia, Kentucky on May 17, 1933, to Lacy and Lola Scott (Browning) . Glen faithfully served in our Nation's Army and had the honor of serving at Arlington National Cemetery on the Honor Guard. He worked as a Civil Engineering Technician for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in Florence, Kentucky. Glen was a master gardener and always had time to teach his grandchildren about nature and his garden. He was a longtime member of First Church of Christ in Burlington. Glen was preceded in death by his stepson, Tommy Krieg . He is survived by his beloved Wife of 41 years, Bonnie Scott (Gillenwater) ; children, Cheryl (Alex) Howard, Ruby (Dave) Bosshammer, Karen Howard, Christa (Tom) Bell, Nick (Tammy) Krieg ; 15 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.
Smith	2021	DB NM Charlotte M. Smith (87) of Albany, Oregon, passed away November 15, 2021, after an extended illness. She was born March 26, 1934, in Rensselaer, Indiana, to Charles H. and Beatrice (Peiffer) Burrows . Her family moved to Oregon when she was 14. She married Clifford Dannen in September of 1953, he passed away in April 1972. In July of 1975, she married Frank (Marv) Smith . She worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service for many years as a clerk in the Albany Area Office. After retirement she enjoyed calligraphy, woodburning, and volunteering. She was a huge Oregon State Beaver fan. Charlotte is survived by son, Curt (Ronda) Dannen ; daughter, Colleen (Mark) Hubert ; stepchildren, Sonja Gordinho, Stacy Moore , and Stephene Ortega ; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and many step-grandchildren and great-

		grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Frank Smith in 2020.
Sparks	2021	Thomas Gordon Sparks (89) of Mount Sterling, Kentucky, passed away December 13, 2021, after a battle with COVID-19. He was born July 14, 1932, in Irvine, Kentucky to Ruford and Grace Alcorn Sparks . He became a soil conservationist for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, retiring as the District Conservationist in Bath County Kentucky. He was a member of the Baptist faith. In addition to his wife, Eva Mae Gabbard Sparks , Thomas is survived by 5 children; Tom Sparks (Joy) , Becky Kidd (Randy) , Teresa Mayfield (Bob) , Tammy Kidd (Greg) and Jennifer Vinson (Kendall) , 9 grandchildren; Kayla Henderson (Michael) , Lauren Littleton (Leonard) , Nathan Kidd , Brandon Vinson , Logan Vinson , John Thomas Sparks , Emily Sparks , Joshua Kidd (Amy) , and Jordan Kidd (Loren) ; and 5 great-grandchildren; Alexis Kidd , Abby Kidd , Shyla Kidd , Cash Kidd , and Reece Henderson .
Spencer	2021	Gay Lynn Spencer (60) of El Dorado, Kansas, passed away on November 1, 2021. Gay was born on June 7, 1961, in Dodge City, Kansas to Ernest Henry and Ardis Melinda (Busby) Brack . She earned a master's degree to become a Soil Conservationist for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. She loved her career and worked for the USDA for 32 years before retirement in 2019 as a District Conservationist. Gay had a love for animals, but especially for cats. She rescued many cats in her lifetime, but she would probably say that those cats rescued her. She was a very loving and caring daughter, sister, aunt, and friend who will be dearly missed. Gay is survived by her brother, Gerald Brack ; sister, Cheryl (Richard) Freeman ; brother-in-law, Donnie Diehl ; and many nieces and nephews. Gay is preceded in death by her brother, Harold Eugene Brack and sister, Brenda Sue Diehl .
Tindall	2021	David Combs Tindall (85) of Buckingham, Pennsylvania, passed away November 14, 2021. He was born August 3, 1936, the son of the Chester and Mildred Tindall . David started work with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service as a soil conservation technician in New Jersey. He went to Rutgers University at night while he was working and got his bachelor's degree. He then became a soil conservationist. Later he was selected as District Conservationist in Lehigh County in Pennsylvania. He was then promoted to the District Conservationist position in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. After that he worked in Harrisonburg as a Farm Bill Specialist. Upon his retirement from USDA, he went to work as a soil conservationist for Bucks County Conservation District. David did a tremendous job working with the farmers in the Neshaminy Watershed under a special EPA grant for the Neshaminy Watershed. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Anne Reichard Tindall ; his sons and their wives, Jeff and Silvia , Scott and Denise and Mark and Barb ; his grandchildren, Olivia , Isabella , Drew , Mikaela , Megan , Jon , Jesse , and Jared ; and four great-grandchildren.
Williams	2021	Thomas George Berl Williams Jr. (74) of Arlington, Texas, passed away on July 15, 2021, in Amarillo, Texas. Thomas was born in Los Angeles, California, on January 1, 1947, to Thomas George Berl Williams Sr. and Velma Faye Sumrow Williams . Thomas was a Vietnam War Veteran having served in the United States Air Force. He graduated from Texas A&M University in 1979 and worked as a Park Ranger for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. He worked at Coleto Creek Park and as a Park Superintendent for Palo Duro Canyon during the 1980s. Thomas also worked for the City of Amarillo Parks Department and the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. He retired as District Conservationist in Claude, Texas. Survivors include his mother, Velma Stacey ; son, Matthew Williams Winters (Christina) ; and grandchildren, Nolan and Kinsley Winters .
Williams	2021	Dudley Wills Williams (84) of Richmond, Virginia, passed away November 4, 2021 after a lengthy illness, with his daughter Janice caring for him. Dudley was born on August 29, 1937, to the late James and Elizabeth Williams . He grew up in East Aurora, New York. Dudley was an engineering technician for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. He also served in the New York National Guard. He was working in regional offices in Virginia at the time of his retirement. Dudley enjoyed hunting, fishing, and watching multiple sports on television. He was an active alum of the East Aurora Boys & Girls Club and was an active contributor to the Pet Connection. He was predeceased by his longtime wife B. Joyce Williams , who died in 2014. He is survived by his children Randy (Chris) Domes of Oneida, New York, Edward (Sue) Domes of Omaha, Nebraska, Janice Freeman , and Abbagail Paige Williams of Richmond, Virginia.
Willis	2021	Senior Conservationist and Life ARCSE Member Roland R Willis (89) of Stillwater, Oklahoma, passed away November 15, 2021. Roland was born August 28, 1932, at Knox City, Texas. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy from Texas A&M University and the University of Oklahoma. He served as a Captain in the United States Air Force. Roland began his career with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in 1952 as student trainee in Texas. He served in several locations in Texas as Range Conservationist, Work Unit Conservationist and Area Conservationist. Later he served as Assistant State Conservationist for Operations in Indiana and Deputy and State Conservationist for Oklahoma retiring on his 55th birthday in 1987 as the National senior state conservationist. He was recognized with USDA Superior Service Award. He served as National President of Soil Conservation Society of America. He was also a member of a special USDA task force to the Peoples Republic of China. He was preceded in death by his daughter Elesa in 2009. Elesa was selected as one of the 10 outstanding young women of America and retired from USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service as State Conservationist for Delaware. He is survived by his wife, June and daughters Wanda and Nancy . The Oklahoma Historical Society has an interview with Roland about his life and career available online: https://youtu.be/uaquL1AX3a8 .
Wiltsey	2021	Joseph (Joe) Marvin Wiltsey (73) of Crosslake, Minnesota, passed away November 28, 2021, at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis, Minnesota, from complications following heart surgery. Joe was born to Margie Emily (Klynstra) and Marvin Warren on November 2, 1948, in Minneapolis. Joe served honorably with the United States Air Force achieving the rank of Sergeant. He was honorably discharged in 1972 after training and serving in Germany and Turkey as a Flight Medic. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1975 in Soil and Water Resource Management from the College of Agriculture at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. On June 24, 1995, Joe married the love of his life, his wife Pamelia Blanche McGraw at Crosslake Lutheran Church and then held a party to be remembered at their home on Velvet Lake, complete with a pig roast and dancing under the stars. His career with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) spanned 31 years,

with him retiring in 2005. He stayed busy in retirement despite failing health including traveling, hunting, fishing and being part of the Crosslake American Legion, Post 500 Color Guard. Joe is survived by his loving wife and partner of 26 years Pamelia Blanche McGraw Wiltsey of Crosslake, his son **David Wiltsey** of Merrifield, Minnesota; stepchildren **Daniel Custer (Stacey Dirks Custer)** of Browerville, Minnesota, and **Shanan Custer (Eric Webster)** of Minneapolis; and 4 grandchildren (**Andrew, Kate, Tristan, Talib**).



DEADLINE FOR MARCH/APRIL 2022 NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS IS FEBRUARY 25TH, 2022.



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