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NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter for Retired Conservation Service Employees

Vol. 49, No. 6 November/December 2022

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Arnold King

Fall is here, and the Holiday season is just around the corner. We have a lot to be thankful for, and conservation of our natural resources is something we can all be proud of helping to achieve. The Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees (ARCSE) was organized to help keep retired NRCS employees informed and in touch with other retirees. Many of our NRCS employees developed close working relationships with folks working with conservation districts, Universities, and other agencies. Consequently, ARCSE has opened membership to retirees from other organizations involved with natural resource conservation. We have had only limited success with doing that, but we are confident that some of the conservation district employees might be interested in ARCSE membership, if they are made aware of our organization. So, please help spread the word and make them aware that their first year of membership is complimentary.

Present and future USDA programs will apparently focus heavily on climate issues and how agriculture producers can modify their farming practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase carbon sequestration, and provide other benefits to the environment. Land used to produce field crops, livestock forage, and forestry products will be included in programs. During our summer board meeting, **Chief Cosby** commented on those issues and his efforts to recruit employees to get the work done. We were all very pleased to hear that Chief Cosby wants to work with retirees and that he sees a big need and opportunity for retirees to help mentor and train new employees. Please take a few minutes and view the NRCS Hiring Video at https://youtu.be/FpD3vOU_j2o.

ARCSE Facebook

–Julie MacSwain

ARCSE launched its Facebook site in the summer of 2021. The engagement from the ARCSE membership and others is certainly appreciated.

If you have any Historical Conservation Photos or NRCS photo memories that you'd like to share, please send Julie MacSwain, ARCSE Facebook Administrator, an email at: juliemacswain@gmail.com. Include a photo in a jpeg format and a suggested caption. Photos received will be considered for posting on "Throwback Thursdays" on Facebook.

Thank you for your interest in Facebook. Your engagement and interaction are greatly appreciated.

National NRCS Hiring Video

The information below was sent out recently by NRCS Chief Cosby to ALL NRCS employees. Note the content below:

"One of my priorities is to cultivate a complete and diverse workforce that has the right tools, technologies, and training to achieve our mission. We are employing strategic recruitment and hiring practices to support this priority, one of which I am proud to share with you today.

The NRCS Hiring Task Force's Marketing Team has developed a national hiring video that highlights five of the agency's key positions and features diverse producers, landscapes, and conservation practices. In this video, they focus on how our employees 'help people help the land.' I hope that seeing it fills you with a sense of pride like it did me. I encourage you to watch it at: https://youtu.be/FpD3vOU_j2o.

(cont'd)

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES



Thank you to all the staff who participated in the development of this video. You did a great job showcasing the many opportunities we have available and why work in conservation is so fulfilling!

NRCS leadership believes that the best way to secure our agency's future is to build relationships of trust and respect at all levels of the organization, and that starts with each of you. We can all play a role in recruitment. Whether we're encouraging colleagues to apply to NRCS vacancies or mentoring new staff, there are many opportunities for us to grow a talented workforce and outpace attrition.

We recognize there are still many vacancies to be filled across the country, and hope that you can make use of this video along with the current recruitment products that are being implemented at the national and state level.

Thank you for your partnership in growing our NRCS team. We greatly value the time you take to foster outreach and engage your networks locally."

Terry J. Cosby, Chief
Natural Resources Conservation Service

NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

–*Craig Derickson, retired USDA-NRCS*

Congress Passes Continuing Resolution to December 16, 2022.

On September 30th, 2022, Congress passed a continuing resolution (CR) to extend level funding for the federal government through December 16th, 2022 giving lawmakers additional time to reach an agreement on federal funding for fiscal year (FY) 2023 and averting a partial government shutdown.

The CR passed the U.S. Senate on September 29th by a vote of 72 to 25, with three members abstaining; and the House on September 30th, by a vote of 232 to 193. In addition to extending federal funding, the CR includes \$17 billion in emergency spending, primarily for Ukraine, and \$19 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for disaster relief. This funding will be available to help relief efforts to address the impacts of Hurricanes Fiona and Ian, as well as other natural disasters.

With the CR finalized, members of Congress have now adjourned to their home states until after the November mid-term elections. However, Congressional and appropriations staff will continue negotiations to work out the details on a final FY2023 spending bill. Congress will need to reach agreement and pass a final spending bill by the new deadline of December 16th, 2022, pass another CR, or risk a lapse in government funding.

Inflation Reduction Act Investments in USDA Programs and Services

On August 16th, **President Biden** signed the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) into law. It is a historic, once-in-a-generation investment and opportunity for the agricultural communities that USDA serves. The Inflation Reduction Act will help producers stay on the farm, prevent producers from becoming ineligible for future assistance, and promote climate-smart agriculture by increasing access to conservation technical assistance through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). These are examples of how the funding will be used in USDA programs and services:

Loans – The Inflation Reduction Act provides \$3.1 billion for USDA to help farmers struggling to pay farm loans and whose operations are at risk. Thousands of distressed borrowers will be eligible for assistance such as payment or loan modifications to help keep them farming. This new assistance will be strictly based on distressed borrowers' conditions.

The law also provides \$2.2 billion in financial assistance for farmers who have experienced discrimination in USDA's farm lending programs. USDA recognizes that the Department has not done enough historically to ensure that all customers have equal access to its programs and services. This will allow USDA to further take accountability for that history by adjusting its farm loan systems, processes, and policies.

Conservation – Approximately \$20 billion of Inflation Reduction Act funds will support USDA's conservation programs administered through NRCS. This includes:

- \$8.45 billion for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- \$4.95 billion for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
- \$3.25 billion for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- \$1.4 billion for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
- \$1 billion for the Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTA)

These are oversubscribed programs that are well known to farmers and ranchers, and results in many producer applications not being able to be funded. These additional investments from the IRA will help farmers and ranchers implement new and expanded conservation practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase storage of carbon in the soil and plants.

USDA is currently working on details to implement the new law quickly. The information presented here was taken from the USDA [farmers.gov](https://www.farmers.gov) website. Additional information on the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) can be found at the White House website at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/08/19/fact-sheet-the-inflation-reduction-act-supports-workers-and-families/>.

USDA Climate-Smart Project Funding

On September 14th, 2022, **Secretary Vilsack** announced that USDA is investing up to \$2.8 billion in 70 selected projects under the first pool of the Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities funding opportunity. Projects from the second funding pool will be announced later this year. Ultimately, USDA's anticipated investment will triple to more than \$3 billion in pilot projects that will create market opportunities for American commodities produced using climate-smart production practices.

USDA will work with the applicants for these 70 identified projects to finalize the program details and funding levels in the coming months. These projects will:

- Provide technical and financial assistance to producers to implement climate-smart production practices on a voluntary basis on working lands;
- Pilot innovative and cost-effective methods for quantification, monitoring, reporting, and verification of greenhouse gas benefits; and
- Develop markets and promote the resulting climate-smart commodities.

USDA anticipates that these 70 projects will result in:

- Hundreds of expanded markets and revenue streams for producers and commodities across agriculture, ranging from traditional corn to specialty crops.
- More than 50 thousand farms reached, encompassing over 20–25 million acres of working land engaged in climate-smart production practices such as cover crops, no-till, and nutrient management.
- More than 50 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent sequestered over the lives of the projects. This is equivalent to removing more than 10 million gasoline-powered passenger vehicles from the road for one year.
- More than 50 universities, including multiple minority-serving institutions, engaged and helping advance projects, especially with outreach and monitoring, measurement, reporting and verification.
- Proposals for the 70 selected projects include plans to match on average over 50% of the federal investment with nonfederal funds.

The NRCS will provide technical assistance in climate-smart agriculture and forestry mitigation practices. NRCS practices are divided into climate mitigation categories, including the following:

- Soil Health – Reducing emissions and enhancing soil carbon sequestration.
- Improved Nitrogen Management – Implementing the 4Rs of nitrogen management and reducing nitrous oxide, a potent greenhouse gas. The 4Rs are Right Source, Right Rate, Right Time and Right Place.
- Improved Livestock Waste Management Systems – Reducing potent methane emissions from manure.
- Enhanced Grazing Land Management – Reducing emissions and building soil carbon stocks in grazing systems.
- Improved Agroforestry, Forestry and Upland Wildlife Habitat – Building carbon stocks in perennial biomass and soils.
- Restored Disturbed Lands – Improving the quality of previously mined or degraded lands to increase soil and perennial biomass carbon stocks.
- Precisely Managed Water on Rice Fields – Reducing methane emissions from rice fields by minimizing methane production during the growing season.

NRCS will also provide financial assistance through Farm Bill conservation programs, including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). To learn more about NRCS work to support Climate Smart Agriculture, download the NRCS Fiscal Year 2022 Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Mitigation Activity List to see the full list of mitigation activities available through EQIP and CSP. * See the NRCS website for more information:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/climatechange/?cid=nrcseprd1881023>.

Topsoil Protection and Regenerative Agriculture Stressed for 2023 Farm Bill

As mentioned in the October 2022 newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS), the “CONSERVOGRAM,” farmers and academic individuals participated in a hearing of the U.S. House Agriculture Committee in September to promote inclusion of regenerative agriculture farming practices in the upcoming farm bill as a means to protect the nation's topsoil. Learn more about the Soil and Water Conservation Society including how to become a member at www.swcs.org.

U.S. House Agriculture Committee Chair **David Scott** (GA) held the hearing to get input from farmers and to discuss ways policymakers and USDA could help farmers incorporate regenerative agriculture practices, including protecting topsoil. The term “regenerative agriculture” refers to farming and grazing practices that help to rebuild organic matter in topsoil, restoring degraded soil biodiversity and improving the water cycle. All of these activities help to mitigate climate change by growing plants that capture carbon dioxide and store it in the soil. In addition, farm bill investments in soil health can help to mitigate climate change and prevent food shortages.

Conservation Stewardship Week in 2023

Mark your calendar to celebrate conservation activities with “Stewardship Week” (April 30th through May 7th, 2023), one of the largest national programs to promote natural resource conservation through local Conservation Districts and State

Conservation Associations. Celebrated annually since 1955 between the last Sunday in April and the first Sunday in May through the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The Stewardship Week theme this past year was "One Water," celebrating our watersheds. Find more information and resources at www.nacdn.net/news-and-events/stewardship-week/.

ARCSE MEMBERSHIP DUES Due by January 1st, 2023

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

DEADLINE FOR THE JAN/FEB 2023 NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS IS DECEMBER 25TH, 2022.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Paul Benedict, Membership Chair

New Life Members

John S. Moore – Springfield, Virginia
Craig Derickson – Lincoln, Nebraska

New Members

David Williams – Salem, Missouri
Wendy Williams – Belgrade, Montana

The **Member Locator** is also included in this edition. Use it to look up Members on your travels. Their contact information is in the **ARCSE 2022 Directory**.

**2023 MEMBERSHIP DUES and HARD COPY
NEWSLETTER FEES are due Jan. 1st, 2023.**

For your convenience ARCSE annual dues and hard copy fees can be paid by credit card:

<https://arcsecommunications.wordpress.com/renew/>

Or you can pay by check. Mail checks to:

ARCSE, PO Box 8965, Moscow, ID 83843

Annual membership remains \$18/year, and hard copy fees remain \$12/year. If you are a Life Member (Paid for Life Membership at any time in the past) or are an Honorary Member (Member with 5 or more years of paid membership who turned 91, or will turn 91, in 2022 or earlier), you do not owe annual dues. Life and Honorary members receiving the printed newsletter in the mail must still pay \$12 for that service. If you have questions about your membership or newsletter status do not hesitate to contact me at soilwarden@verizon.net. You will not be bothering me.

Contributions to ARCSE are not expected but are always appreciated. Contributions can be mailed to the address above (please mark contribution on your check), or they can be made online at

<https://arcsecommunications.wordpress.com/give/>

Members receiving the newsletter by printed copy: A green insert dues notice is included with the hard copy newsletter. Please follow the instructions on the notice concerning the address label information to determine if your dues are due.

Members receiving the electronic newsletter: Members receiving the electronic newsletter whose dues are due will receive a separate email from ARCSE with dues notice attached (**WATCH FOR IT**). Life Members, honorary members, and members who have already paid their 2022 dues will receive an email assuring you that your membership dues are paid.

ALABAMA

Earl Norton, ARCSE Representative

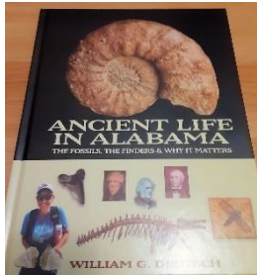
Email: earl.norton@charter.net

The local retirees who meet for breakfast on the first week of each month in Auburn have continued the tradition throughout 2022. Attendance is slowly increasing but is still not back to pre-COVID days. Our October attendance was the best for 2022, and the group was so interested in conversations that



we forgot to take a picture. Of particular interest was the recognition of **George Martin** and his contributions to science. We are proud to present the following information about George.

George Martin, former Assistant State Soil Scientist of Alabama and Soil Data Quality Specialist in Auburn, Alabama, was recently honored by the Alabama Museum of Natural History (ALMNH). George is a Research Associate for the ALMNH and has collected, prepared, and donated thousands of fossil specimens to museums in Alabama and surrounding states. Specimens collected and donated by George have resulted in identification of new species of a shark, a crab, and two marine turtles.



George received the **Alabama Avocational Paleontologist Award for 2022** in recognition of his outstanding contributions in Alabama Paleontology.

George and a number of his fossils are featured in a recently published book "Ancient Life in Alabama, the Fossils, the Finders, and Why It Matters" by **Dr. William G. Deutsch**.

Mr. Earl Norton was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his work in Soil and Water Conservation. Mr. Norton has over 50 years of dedicated service in conservation and is currently working to improve urban sediment and stormwater control practices throughout Alabama. Congratulations Earl!



Earl Norton receiving Lifetime Achievement Award from SWCS.

ARIZONA

Ken Cookson, ARCSE Representative

Email: ckcookson@aol.com

Rod Alt Report: Sally and I traveled to Amarillo, TX on June 14th to participate in The Whing Ding golf tournament at the Amarillo Country Club with my son, **Rod**, June 16–18. We had fun but did not finish in the money. We were 6th out of 14 teams.

On May 25th, Sally and I flew to Richmond, VA to attend Sally's Grandson's **Lance Altizer** wedding. Our flight got canceled on Monday, and we finally got home about 12 hours later than anticipated.

On July 3rd, Sally and I flew to Malaga, Spain to meet up with her daughter **Christine Altizer** and husband **Lance**. The Altizers have purchased a flat in Fuengirola, Spain. We were there for three weeks. We traveled to Tangier, Morocco in Africa, Gibraltar, Ronda, Malaga, Granada, Mijas, and Marbella. We spent lots of time on the Carvajal Beach in Fuengirola. We enjoyed all the restaurants on the beach and ate lots of sea food prepared many different ways. There was not a hitch in our trip until we arrived at JFK airport on July 24th. Our flight to Phoenix got canceled so we stayed the night in the Queens. We got home 24 hours later than expected. Overall, the trip was very good and ready to do it again next year.

Ken Cookson Report: Earlier this year my wife and I went to Hawaii for 17 days. We have been to Hawaii several times and always enjoy ourselves. All pandemic restrictions for flying to Hawaii had been lifted shortly before we left. We were very glad about that.

Our first stop was on Kauai at a time share resort in Poipu for four days on the southern part of the island. We traveled north to Hanalei and the Princeville area. Lots of tourists since it was during Easter vacation time. Parks we had visited in 2019 with very few people were now overflowing with people. Three items of note: There is a blowhole near Poipu that shoots water high in the air when the tide is in. We were there when that happened, and it was spectacular. Also of note is a local restaurant for

breakfast in Kalaheo frequented by the locals. Prepare for a long line unless you get there early. The last note is all the feral chickens on Kauai. They are everywhere, but you see very little road-kill.

We next went to Maui for five days. We stayed at a resort near Kaanapali. We went whale watching and saw some whales doing their jumps. We were accompanied and entertained by a school of porpoises back to shore. They were breaking water and jumping and spinning like ice skaters. Traffic congestion can be a problem and requires some planning.

Next stop was Honolulu. We stayed at a hotel in the Waikiki Beach area for three days. Some of the places we used to go to are now closed because of the pandemic. We drove around the island and continue to marvel at the beauty of the area. Traffic in and around Honolulu is always heavy. Waikiki beach is popular and is great for just being in and near the water. Diamond Head is near to offer beautiful scenery.

The last stop was in the Kailua-Kona area of the Big Island for five days. We drove around the island as much as we could. When Kilauea erupted three years ago, it covered up some of the area we had visited before. Kona coffee is a staple of the area, and we visited a couple of coffee farms. We drove across the mountain on the Senator Inouye highway to Hilo. Along the way we saw several feral goats. We had not noticed them the last time we were there. A fun breakfast spot is the Coffee Shack just south of the Kona area. They have a great view looking out across the countryside, the food is good, and you will be entertained by some geckos on the open window ledges.

ARKANSAS

Ralph Mashburn, ARCSE Representative

Email: ralphmashburn@gmail.com

Bob Price, President of the ARCSE Arkansas chapter, organized and conducted our annual meeting on September 22nd at the Whole Hog Café in Little Rock. The BBQ lunch was self-selected and delicious. A separate room gave us the privacy needed for our visiting and our program. The low attendance was disappointing – perhaps because of the new COVID surge. No doubt we need more of the recent retirees to join with us.

Our program involved interesting and volunteered reports from 4 or 5 attendees about their jobs, volunteering activities and sight-seeing trips since their retirement. Also, the program included reports on recent NRCS program activities and the budget from **Mike Sullivan**, State Conservationist, and **Randy Childress**, Assistant State Conservationist. We sure appreciated them coming.



Dick Babeu visits with Larry and Linda Ward



Bill Townsend, Billy Gardner, and Ken Ziegler. Bob Price and the Wards are in the background.



Randy Childress, Ralph Mashburn, Dick Babeu, Buthel Thomas, and Pat Henry



Mike Sullivan, State Conservationist, and Randy Childress, Assistant State Conservationist, gave very interesting talks about the abundant amount of NRCS work with an ample budget but a shortage of staff.

Certain retired specialists are invited to come back to work so their expertise can be utilized.

Ralph Mashburn has fond memories of friendships with their Dads, **Gene Sullivan** and **Gene Childress**, during college at the University of Arkansas and working together with SCS/NRCS in Arkansas. Ralph and Gene Sullivan even collaborated on some watershed projects in California in the 1980s.

CALIFORNIA

Bill Ward, ARCSE Representative

Email: bluegrassbillward@gmail.com

Greetings to Retirees across the Nation from California!

For the first time that I can remember since initiating our monthly retiree Zoom meetings, we were not able to have one to report on this time—at least not a normal one. I did have one planned for October 5th. I had technical problems on my end and none of our 10 or so participants could hear me at all. A zoom meeting hosted by someone who cannot be heard by the participants is like a ship without a rudder. It does not work very well. Oh well, we'll hope for better luck next time.

Recognizing Thomas (Tom) Wehri as a "Senior Conservationist." I did have the pleasure of helping recognize another NRCS retiree living here in California as a "Senior Conservationist" (minimum age requirement 83). That newly recognized Senior Conservationist is **Thomas (Tom) Wehri**. You can read much about Tom's life and his outstanding SCS/NRCS career in the Senior Conservationist Chronicle portion of this edition of our Newsletter. Congratulations Tom!

I had the pleasure of having my daughter, **Jennifer**, join our Western Lights band for our first performance almost two months after my surgery. I am still moving kind of slow and needed to play from a sitting position, but it was still great to play with my band mates and always extra special to have my daughter join us. Here is a YouTube link to one of the songs she sang with us: <https://youtu.be/AnBv4qMliqg>.

Jennifer sings "Daniel Prayed" with the Western Lights Trio.

Well, that is all for this time around folks. Until next time, be safe and best wishes to all—Bill Ward, CA ARCSE State Rep. and ARCSE West Region VP.

COLORADO

Jack Carlson, ARCSE Representative

Email: pspicata@gmail.com

James (Jim) Fisher, former Deputy State Conservationist in Colorado passed away October 13th after a long and fruitful life. More details in this newsletter's In Memoriam.

The Fort Collins monthly breakfast club met in September and October. **Phil Smith** reported he and his wife **Claire** had this year was likely their last after many years helping with summer activities and learning at Pingree Park west of Fort Collins, Claire as camp nurse and Phil providing environmental science expertise.

Wendall Oaks was feted this past month at his 70th birthday party hosted by his daughters from San Diego, Vermont, Kentucky, Colorado, and New Mexico. It was good to see **Jason** and **Karen Restad**, and catch up on the activities of their clan.

Some of us continue to help Colorado State University (CSU) with various projects. Various CSU colleges and departments are participating on 8 of the Climate Smart Commodity projects recently awarded in September by USDA.

IOWA

Mark Jensen, ARCSE Representative

Email: amjens1@gmail.com

This fall, **Ann** and I took our first post-COVID vacation, other than trips to visit family. We spent some time in the Black Hills. We were there just before the annual buffalo round-up in Custer State Park. A jeep tour through the Park took us right in among a LOT of buffalo. Later, when we drove through the Park, the "wild" burros came up and stuck their heads through our car windows looking for treats. We were watching a couple of them with their heads in the window on my side of the car, when one poked its head through the window on Ann's side and nibbled her neck. The ensuing scream scared me more than the burrows! We enjoyed a chuck wagon dinner, Bear Country USA, touring Deadwood, hiking in the Badlands, Mt. Rushmore, Crazy Horse Mountain, a scenic drive through Spearfish Canyon, more wildlife and pretty scenery, and a lot more. It was a fun trip.

Since the fall of 2019, NRCS retirees **Jody Christiansen** and **Chris Knudsen**, along with **Chris's sister Molly** and friend **Penny**, have been walking the bike trails in Des Moines and surrounding areas. Approximately 250 miles of trails cross through the area, and they walk throughout the year. Recently, Jody, Chris, and Molly signed up for a 50-mile walking challenge through the "My Adventure Challenge." They log their miles starting October 1st and have until November 30th to complete the challenge. Once they have logged 50 miles, they send in their log, and a tree will be planted inside a national park. They were walking an average of six miles on each outing until Jody broke her ankle a year ago. Currently they are walking between 3 to 4 miles each outing. They are confident that they can reach 50 miles in that timeframe. Jody said the trails are beautiful, and it is a wonderful time of year to enjoy the fall colors and cooler temperatures.



Chris Knudsen, Jody Christiansen, and Chris's sister Molly on a winter way



Bridge on a trail in Fort Des Moines Park



Chris's sister Molly, friend Penny, and Jody taking a break on the Bill Riley Trail.



Ernie and Pat's grandkids camping at the Wabash Arts Camp

Ernie Aust sent an email with an interesting piece about his work career with some reminiscing and many reflections about places he worked and people he worked with – as well as some about his current activities. I'm using the portion on current activities in this newsletter and will save the remainder as something to look forward to in the next one. Throughout his career, Ernie worked in Storm Lake, Osceola, Chariton, Oakland, Hampton, Shenandoah, Council Bluffs, and Des Moines. However, since 1970, he and **Pat** have made Shenandoah their "home base."

Every year Shenandoah has the Wabash Arts Camp the last week of July. Ernie and Pat have had five to eight grandchildren attending grades two through six at the camp each year. It is always a fun time. An exception was the COVID year; however, two of their daughters stepped up and organized an Arts Camp for that year. Ernie said they may have broken some of the COVID rules with over 10 persons from six different states in their house. Since they had over 10 persons, the local Mexican restaurant would not let them in! He says that all is going well for them. They've had a few bouts with COVID but nothing serious with no shots. They've been told that they now have the best immune system as a result. They have continued to have all their normal family celebrations and have gotten along very well. He and Pat plan to celebrate their 60th anniversary at Storm Lake next June.



Ernie and Pat's grandkids camping at the Wabash Arts Camp



Ernie and Pat Aust with some of their grandchildren

Thanks to **Herb Wilson** for the following: "A few former NRCS and Iowa State University folks met in Ames on September 12th. The guy who helped plan our gathering was **Tom Gust**, a recently retired NRCSer who is an ISU agronomy graduate and lifelong NRCS employee who lives in Ames. The most unfortunate part of the day was that Tom could not come because he ended up getting COVID! Yikes.

The significance of the gathering for us was that **Ron, Robin, Mary, and Herb** were soil scientists who worked on the Clayton County Soil Survey from 1973 to 1979. Later, Mary furthered her education at ISU and then moved to Florida where she was a professor of soils at the University of Florida. Ron then moved to Florida where he and Mary were married! After many years in Florida, Ron and Mary retired and moved back to Clayton County where they live on an acreage in Elkader. Ron grew up on a farm close to Elkader. **Dave Breitbach** was the District Conservationist in the 1970s in adjacent Allamakee County, and we crossed paths often in those days. Dave moved to Minnesota where he eventually became state agronomist in Minnesota and retired down south in the warmth of Ames. **Dr. Fenton** is Professor Emeritus at Iowa State's Department of Agronomy. In the 1970s he was our ISU academic soils specialist who would attend and advise NRCS at annual soil quality reviews, including ours in Clayton County. **Robin Wisner** spent his career mapping soils in several Iowa counties and was the Area Soil Scientist in Fort Dodge for the last part of his career. **Tom Gust** was located in the Ames cartographic unit transferring soil lines and symbols for publication for all Iowa counties, including those for the Clayton County Soil Survey."

KANSAS

Deanne Lull, ARCSE Representative

Email: rlull2@cox.net

It has been a very interesting week in Salina with the BOOM! Street Art and Mural Festival underway. World renowned artists from Finland, France, the Netherlands, and Switzerland, accompanied by two artists from the United States, painted murals on several downtown business buildings. It was fun to watch the murals develop from a few sketched lines into a colorful design or picture.

This month was our 62nd wedding anniversary; however, it was a very quiet day at our house. **Ron** hasn't been feeling up to par, but we did celebrate with a nice dinner out.

There was one retirement. **J. Chad Remley** retired on September 30th, 2022. He held the position of the Soil Survey Regional Director for the Northern Great Plains Soil Survey Regional Office in the Kansas State Office in Salina, KS.

One retiree and three spouses passed away recently. Retiree **Dorothy (Maltbie) Gerdes** died on September 28, 2022. **Dorothy** retired in 1992 as a Personnel Management Specialist in the Kansas State Office in Salina, KS. Her husband, **Robert**, preceded her in death in 2018. **Patty J. Erickson**, spouse of **Jerald Erickson** died September 2nd, 2022. **Jerald** preceded her in death in 2019. He retired 1987 as a Biological Technician in the Plant Materials Center in Manhattan, KS. **Mary Kay Graves** died September 3rd, 2022. Her spouse, **Herbert Graves**, survives. He moved to Colorado in 1999 returning to Kansas during his retirement. **James Packard** was joyfully reunited with his wife **Bonnie** on October 8th, 2022. **Bonnie**, who preceded him in death in 2019, retired in 1993 as a Procurement Clerk in the Kansas State Office in Salina.

MAINE

John Simon, ARCSE Representative

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I'm back! Late but back. I have been through a baptism of fire, so to speak, concerning email accounts. The story is too long to tell here! My computer doctor indicated that worms, etc. can't get on to an iPhone, and the Macs are hard to invade. BUT someone got hold of my passwords and was sending out lots of emails with my accounts to hundreds of bogus recipients. My Doc did say that you should change your email account passwords periodically for safety's sake, especially if you are not using an Apple product.

Anyway, I am concerned for our retirees in Florida in the wake of the hurricane! I hope for the best to all of you. If any Floridians care to email me of their condition, I will send it out to the group, or you can do it yourselves.

Our monthly Tuesday breakfast (Sept 13th) included the following 9 retirees: **Judy Boothby, Bob Lagassey, Dan Baumert, Roger Ashe, Bruce Champeon, Karen Champeon, John Simon, Art Taylor, and Brian Stuart.**

Dan Baumert treated us to a big basket full of vegetables from his garden—about 75 by 100 ft. in size. Now that is a big garden! All organic and minimum tillage. Thanks Dan, the tomatoes were great!

Got a note from **Mary Thompson** that she and **Candi** had lunch with **Ed Snow** in Union before he left for Florida in September. Ed, we hope all is well with you down there!

I probably forgot a lot of last month's breakfast conversations, but this is enough.

Below is a picture taken of Mount Katahdin during my July vacation at NEOC camping grounds with my family. Millinocket Lake is in the foreground. I was relaxing in a chair, contemplating life and listening to the soft waves against the shoreline and the gentle breeze in my face. Very relaxing and inspirational. I took many photos, but this is my favorite to observe while relaxing in my easy chair at home! Beautiful world filled with imperfect but lovable human beings!



Millinocket Lake in Foreground and Mount Katahdin in far background–Beautiful and relaxing!

We had a lively crowd of 9 on Oct. 11th at Dysarts. The weather was great, but lots of fog at my home for a bit. Everyone was in good spirits and still able to handle getting older gracefully.

In attendance were: **Roger Ashe, Kyle Bolduc, Patty (Clark) Wright, Brian Stuart, Art Taylor, Judy Boothby, Mary Thompson, Bob Lagassey, and John Simon.**

Someone mentioned that **Wayne Monroe** retired recently. I forgot about that. Can someone help me track down Wayne Monroe to see if he wants to be added to the list of retirees? Someone thought that he may have bought a home in Florida also. Any help would be appreciated.

Lots of chatter but nothing fit to pass along. We just enjoyed each others' company and local news.

Till November 8th take care and be careful out hunting!

MID-ATLANTIC STATES

Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC

Ken Carter, ARCSE Representative

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George Norris passed along some photos of his activities lately. He and his wife **Ellen** had lunch with **June Hoag Brewster** recently. June was the Volunteer Coordinator with NRCS in Virginia and continued this role for years after her retirement. She was affectionately known as the "Volunteer Volunteer Coordinator."

He also passed along his family gathering photo showing four generations of the Norris family at their annual beach reunion.

Weldon H. "Herb" Peterson Jr., 65, of Chesterfield passed away October 17th, 2022. He was born in Petersburg on October 12th, 1957 and was preceded in death by his father, **Weldon H. "Pete" Peterson Sr.** Herb was a member of Beulah United Methodist Church and served as an IT Specialist for the USDA for nearly 35 years.

See the In Memoriam section for more details.





Four Generations of the Norris Family

MISSOURI

Dave Rastorfer, ARCSE Representative

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Mike Blaine: As I write this, we are in West Virginia and Pennsylvania on our annual fall trip to visit our kids and grandkids. The Fall colors here are beautiful. Now we have to get home and get ready for deer season and cut some wood for the winter! Happy Thanksgiving to all. God bless you.

Jim Rickman: We plan to travel to Antarctica in February 2023. **Jere** had neck surgery, so getting out on the ice might be a bit tricky or perhaps something she won't do. Don't know yet. Our son is retiring this December, and that has me feeling very old. We still are lucky to have good health. Tomorrow I am going to **Jim Robinson's** farm and we will brush duck blinds. The lake the blinds are situated on his neighbors and a group of us went on a duck hunting lease. Hope everyone is doing great.

Bill Pauls: Just finished marathon #116 in Des Moines, IA, Sunday, 10/16/22. It was a beautiful weather day. I had several family/friends there. **Kris and I** took our Wolf Pup RV, stayed at a nice RV park in Altoona, IA called Griffs. It's supposed to be 80 tomorrow, so will probably take one of the boats out for a nice fall color ride, then perhaps winterizing? Working bingo tonight, then next up a trivia night for K of C. Also went to a very peaceful/spiritual retreat over on the Mississippi; simply beautiful place. Great place to recharge faith and hope. G'Kids transitioning sports; less softball, more basketball. Even some tennis and chess. God Bless You All

A sad note from **Jerold Crowder:** my son, **Thomas**, passed away September 21st. We had a graveside service for him at the Maplewood Cemetery Saturday near Brownington, MO. Thomas was 54.

Alton Taylor: Trip through NM, AZ, UT, ID, WY, MT, SD, NE, KS, and OK—over 7,100 miles and **Kay's Daughter** did all the driving as well as watching over us. She had an AirBnB waiting for us each night or for several nights. For an old boy raised on the High Plains of Texas this was a new world when you see it one bite at a time, not just a pass through on Interstate.

On Oct. 20th we will be at Tech Agriculture school evening. I went to the 50th so with this being 70th why not check in again? We will be on the Gulf coast the last week in Feb. then a cruise in May out of Galveston for a week with the Taylor family courtesy my daughter and **Harvey**.

Next fall it seems that Alaska needs our inspection. Take time to see, touch, and smell wherever you be.

Nancy Caldwell Ayers: Van and I are very happy on our southern Middle Tennessee Farm between Jack Daniels and George Dickel and now the new distillery of Uncle Nearest (**Nearest Green**)! We now have two granddaughters: **Caroline Jane-4** and **Lily Faye-2**. (See photo in our sunflower field). Being grandparents is the best job we have ever had. My daughter and her family still live in Charleston, MO. Her husband farms a little over 7,000 acres of corn, soybeans, and wheat. They got out of running cattle a few years ago. We got out of running cattle two years ago before the prices fell—great timing! We still put up a lot of warm season grass hay and sell it. I still have about 120 laying hens, two goats, and down to only one Tennessee Walking horse (TWH). After Nancy broke her right leg, she needs a mounting block to get up on her TWH.

Harrison, our menopause baby, graduated from SEMO in May, 2021 with BS in plant and soil science (like mommy) and Ag Business. Now we have two college graduates. He spent last summer as a Ranger at Philmont Ranch in New Mexico. He guided groups of Boy Scouts hiking in the Rockies and camping. This past year he has been working at Jack Daniels Distillery

in Lynchburg, TN. His officer training in the military was delayed for one and a half years because of COVID. He is now at Fort Benning.

Van has been busy working on grant writing and consulting projects with the University of Missouri and USDA. I am so glad 'cause it keeps him out of the house. We are hosting a forest day at our farm, in cooperation with Elk River and Duck River Forestry Association. We have grown sunflowers and pumpkins the last four years. Can't make money any longer with traditional farming. See attached photos.

I have survived and designed several farm ponds for my neighbors in Bedford County. Seems like the NRCS employees in TN don't or are unwilling to do so for landowners. I even did two ponds on our farm and stocked them with channel catfish and bluegill. We have had five overseas trips canceled due to COVID. Just got back from our Canada and Hawaii Cruise. We put our 33' Forest River RV on a lot we rent on Kentucky Lake and have been going up there "to get away" during COVID and use our 20' Rpod to travel around. As always, planning on doing some more traveling while we are still physically able to do so. Hope this newsletter finds everyone healthy and happy.



Caroline Jane and Lily Faye



Van with produce

MONTANA

Lori Valadez, ARCSE Representative [NEW]

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Gooby Ranch Report:

I heard rumors that there were a few feral cows on the mountain that the ranchers hadn't gotten when they moved their herds. I decided we should ride up and collect them. We were a couple of hours from the truck riding up a narrow canyon with a steep hill on one side and a creek in thick brush on the other, when the excitement started. A mama grizzly with three cubs came charging out of the brush right in front of us. They ran up the hill away and stopped to look us over. At the same time the bears came bursting out of the brush, a bunch of grouse also got roused out of the thick brush. The horses thought they were being attacked by an army of grizzlies. **Jeannie** had been riding in front, but in a micro-second she was riding in the rear. Mary Ann, who was riding second, was now on the other side of the thick brush getting bombarded with grouse. My horse thought the safest thing for her to do was to get rid of me. So she did, and I was left sitting on my behind in the middle of the trail wondering where mama grizzly was.

The three cubs came trotting back down the mountain to see if there was any food around. Their mother was right behind them. I had to lay down and be real still so the bears didn't eat me. **Mary Ann** had heard there was no bona fide record of a grizzly attacking a rider on a horse, so she let out a blood-curdling yell and ran directly at the bears. They looked at her as if she was crazy. Since she couldn't scare them away, she reached in my saddle bag, got out my lunch and scattered it on the trail. I had to watch all this while laying in the trail playing dead. While they were distracted, Jeannie caught my horse, came over, hefted me up, draped me over the saddle like I was dead to fool the grizzly, and we rode off. Not only did I have a knot in my stomach, I had a hole in my stomach thinking about no lunch.

I tried to talk Mary Ann into going back to get the left-over food, but she said to quit whining. Those grizzlies wouldn't leave until they had eaten every crumb. She said since they were eating people food, I should eat grizzly food. A little while later she pointed out an ant hill and said enjoy your lunch. I decided I liked the hole in my stomach. Later, while Mary Ann and Jeannie were talking, I reached over, got her lunch, and put it in my saddle bag. After a couple of hours, Mary Ann said it was time to eat lunch. We stopped and tied up the horses. She reached in her saddle bag, but there was no lunch. Immediately Mary Ann dug through my bag to see if I had stolen her food, but I was clean. While we were riding, I was bringing up the rear as usual, and I managed to snack the whole lunch away. Jeannie divided up her lunch, giving me and Mary Ann half. I no longer had a hole in my stomach. It was over full.

NEBRASKA

Norm Kempf, Jim Culver, ARCSE Representatives

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The September 21st meeting was called to order by Chairperson **Jim Culver**. Attending: **Steve Scheinost, Jim Culver, Gary Muckel, Dave Camper, Paul Barlett, Bob Engel, Harold Klaege, Donna Dornbusch, Gus Dornbusch, Steve Stover, Norman Kempf, and Sylvia Kempf**.

The October 19th meeting was called to order by Chairperson **Jim Culver**. Attending: **Doug Christensen, Louie Buller, Jim Culver, Thomas Reinsch, Dave Camper, Steve Scheinost, Norm Helzer, Harold Klaege, Paul Bartlett, Norm Kempf, Scott Willet, JoAnne Thiele, Donna Dornbusch, and Gary Muckel**. Also attending were **Allen Gehring and Bob Sullivan**. Scott Willet attended his first retirees meeting today.

Jim introduced our guest speaker **Allen Gehring**, State Conservation Engineer of the Nebraska National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), who gave a presentation on watersheds in Nebraska. Allen has been with the agency for over 30 years and began his service as a WAE in Nebraska. After working in several other states, he returned to Nebraska. The watershed program was enacted in 1954 under PL-566. His handout, "USDA-NRCS Watersheds 101," outlined the watershed program in Nebraska, various dam locations, and Nebraska staff working on the watershed program. He talked about the three watershed programs administered within the Watershed Programs Branch: EWPP (Emergency Watershed Protection Program), WRP (Watershed Rehabilitation Program), and WFPO (Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations). The most used in Nebraska is the WFPO. The watershed program is a separately funded program, other than the farm program within the NRCS.

Bob Sullivan, another NRCS employee in Nebraska working as a Dam Safety Engineer, presented additional information on specific dam sites and work being done there.

Doug Christensen also does work for the State Office Engineering Division on a part-time basis (WAE) and works on the funding aspect of watersheds. He stated that Nebraska is number one in the nation on watershed projects. **Arlis Plummer** also does part-time work (WAE) for the watershed division. There was much discussion on the watershed program, especially in Nebraska, by the attendees.

Jim congratulated **Craig Derickson** who is now preparing "Notes from the Potomac" for the Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees newsletter. **Craig** announced that there is a soil and resource group at the University of Nebraska that had planned a cleanup at the Whitehead wetlands, but was canceled because of the heat. It has been rescheduled.

Bob Engel talked about a provision for calculating state income taxes that would allow a portion of school taxes to be used as a credit for state income taxes.

Norm Kempf, Norm Helzer, and Jim Culver met to review the Lincoln Soil Conservation Service Retirees' Club by-laws and standing rules. One of the recommendations was to eliminate the annual dinner in April and the annual breakfast in October where members could bring guests. The changes to the bylaws will be sent out via e-mail to members for review and then be discussed at the October meeting.

JoAnne Thiele will not be serving as the treasurer next year. Three members volunteered to serve on the nominating committee and nominate a new treasurer and vice-president: **Steve Scheinost, Steve Stover, and Gus Dornbusch.**

Norm Kempf gave an update on the health of **Joe Calder** whom he visited recently. Joe has been diagnosed with inoperable brain cancer and was at the Southlake Village Rehabilitation Center. He has now been moved to Country House where he is receiving hospice care. Visitation is restricted to his family. His wife **Flo** is now legally blind and has moved to Windcrest on Van Dorn. Norm has visited Joe and had a nice visit. Norm sent a card around for everyone to sign for Joe.

Steve Stover said he saw **Jim and Marilyn Carr** recently, and they seemed to be doing pretty well

Cheryl Montgomery (wife of Gerald Montgomery) passed away on July 26th, 2022 at the age of 75 years. Gerald was a biologist on the MNTC staff and later served on the Oversight and Evaluation Team for the Midwest Regional Center.

Stu Bohrer died on July 13th, 2022 at the age of 87 years. He was an engineer in Norfolk, NE.

Clayton Graham served as the Deputy State Conservationist in Nebraska and then moved to Georgia as the State Conservationist.

Paul Bartlett and his wife and daughter traveled to Imperial, Nebraska, where it is really dry, and crops are failing.

Harold Klaege attended a NARFE meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona, in August. One of the items discussed was H.R. 82, Social Security Fairness act of 2021. The bill would repeal the government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions on Federal annuities. Harold encouraged attendees to write to Representative **Mike Flood** to encourage him to support the passage of this bill. He also said some estimated that the Federal pay raise for next year would be over eight percent. He also suggested that members write their Nebraska senators about passing a bill that would eliminate Nebraska taxes on Federal annuities. After the meeting, he visited his son and family in Green Valley, AZ, and said the area had had some rains along with some local flooding.



Steve and Sandy Scheinost enjoying the fall colors during a recent tour of the Saso Lake in the White Mountains of New Hampshire.



Lincoln retirees' 3rd Wednesday monthly meeting in action. Left side table: Lou Buller, Thomas Reinsch, Dave Camper and Gary Muckel. Right side of table: Norman Kempf, Paul Bartlett, Norm Helzer and Steve Scheinost. Table to right: Joanne Thiele and Donna Dornbusch.

Norm Kempf's sister (Arlis) from Australia is visiting. They traveled to SD and visited relatives and friends. They also visited a younger brother in Mitchell, SD where he is hospitalized with a broken hip. She has now returned to Australia.

Gary Muckel traveled to Tucson, AZ, to pick up an ammunition package, but also visited his daughter and sister-in-law who live in Arizona. Gas prices in Arizona were very high. **Doug Christensen and wife** traveled via boat along the northeast part of the United States and Canada. They saw a lot of Revolutionary history in the U.S. **Steve Scheinost and wife** took a trip to Niagara Falls and other northeast states. **Tom Reinsch** purchased a sailboat and has sailed on several local lakes.

Steve Scheinost and his wife celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. **Paul Bartlett and his wife** celebrated their 67th anniversary.

Harold Klaege announced that today was his birthday. **Harold**, President of the NARFE Nebraska Chapter, stated that Federal health insurance rates would be going up, and that pay raise for CSRS retirees would be 8.7 percent, 1 percent more than FERS retirees. A representative from BX-BS will speak at the local chapter of NARFE at the next meeting. Harold also talked about the Bubba Closet which provides coats for free for those in need and then took up a collection which he was going to use to purchase a coat(s).

Jim Culver asked if anyone knew that there were two Nebraska volleyball teams in national rankings. He gave the answer as the University of Nebraska is number 3 in Division 1 and Wayne State is number 1 in Division 2.

The closing statement from Jim for September: People will forget what you said, People will forget what you did, But people will never forget – How You Made Them Feel! The closing statement from Jim for October: Take care of your body, it's the only place for you to live.



Allen Gehring, Nebraska NRCS State Conservation Engineer was our guest speaker during our October meeting. Allen gave an excellent presentation on current watershed activity in Nebraska and Nationally. Left to right: **Norman Kempf, Doug Christensen, Bob Sullivan, Allen Gehring (standing), and Lou Buller.**



Doug and Cindy Christensen enjoying their fall colors ocean cruise from New York City to Quebec.

NEW YORK

Nancy Lee, ARCSE Representative

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Sad to report the passing on August 29th, 2022, of former District Conservationist, **Greg Tessman**. Greg served SCS/NRCS for 31 years as DC in a number of NY counties.

Nancy Lee writes that COVID is alive and thriving in NY as she came down with COVID in September—even after receiving all of the shots and boosters. Symptoms were mostly gone within 48 hours, but a lingering cough hung on for 30 days. Even taking precautions and being careful, it still happens!

OREGON

Don Stettler, ARCSE Representative

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A request for news of Oregon retirees resulted in learning the sad news that **Shirley Reed** had passed away. It is understood that an obituary will not be published and that a service is not planned. **Gary Yeomans** told me that he was elated about adding a Great-Granddaughter to the five Greats he already has. From one Great Grandpa to another, congratulations.

In late August I made a nine-day trip to the Hamburg, Germany area. A friend that is native to the area showed me around. I enjoyed taking in the Miniatur Wunderland (German for “miniature wonderland”) a model railway and miniature airport attraction. It has over ten miles of HO track and a sight to see. Also took in the Maritime Museum with its nine floors of exhibits, and toured the fairyland-like town of Bremen among other places.

Perhaps the most unusual experience for me was attending the “Karl May Festival” play at Bad Segeberg, a town about forty miles north of Hamburg. Karl May (1842–1912), a German novelist who wrote stories about the Wild American West despite never having been to the US. Plays based on May’s stories are enacted with professional actors dressed as cowboys and Indians, complete with horses and other animals and birds in an outdoor amphitheater that was once a rock quarry. The play is put on with humor, stunts, fire, and explosions. It is much like the Pendleton Roundup’s Happy Canyon.



Despite losing much because the dialog was in German, I enjoyed it and got the gist of what was going on. The play actually began in English with a woman dressed as a pioneer (long skirt and bonnet) sauntering across the stage to John Denver's *Take Me Home, Country Roads* – "Country roads, take me home, to the place I belong, West Virginia, mountain momma, take me home, country roads." The crowd enthusiastically sang along and clapped in time with the music.

PENNSYLVANIA

Excerpts from The PA Bugle, Tim Murphy.

Pat Cecil writes: "Since I now have only my oldest son Ray and youngest son Richard still living, I decided to move to Louisiana, and I am now living close to my oldest son in Anacoco, LA., and my youngest son in Alexandria, LA. I have many fond memories of living and working in Pennsylvania and on the East Coast. Pennsylvania is still one of my most favorite states that I lived and worked in! Still have contact with some of the friends that I was fortunate to know there."

Alan and Judy Wood missed the Retirees' meeting since they we're enjoying good food and scenery in the Alps!

Tim and Gina Murphy enjoyed a family reunion in Bend, Oregon in August. Our first gathering since Covid gave the opportunity to share the natural beauty of the area with 18 relatives. Tim and son **Evan** enjoyed mountain biking to several waterfalls in the Newberry National Volcanic Monument.

Wayne and Jackie Bogovich spent most of August on a river cruise between Amsterdam and Budapest. "The Rhine, Main and Danube rivers were quite low, so we had to switch ships three times in order to complete our journey. The bus trips between boats allowed us to experience inland things we would not have seen, had we stayed on the boat, including the Autobahn."

The PA retirees met in Somerset on Sept. 18th and 19th, with 24 in attendance.



Left to Right: Tim Hann, Chuck Shrump, Martin Smith, Debbie Shrump, Mary Smith, Wayne Bogovich, Jackie Bogovich, Tom Sierzega, Debbie Watson, Barry Frantz, Phil Sheets, Alice Sheets, Larry Schardt, Nevin Ulery, Tom Calvert, Judy Ulery, Gina Murphy, Gary Smith, Allan Bennett, Anne Smith, Glenna Latshaw, Tim Murphy, Hosea Latshaw. Not pictured: Deb Bennett

TEXAS NORTH

Mike Bogard, ARCSE Representative

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Pat Cecil wrote: I recently moved to Anacoco, LA from Jasper, TX, where I lived for a year after moving from Florida. I lived in Florida, close to my second son **Henry**, for five years after he retired from the U.S. Air Force. He died from cancer that he contracted while serving in Afghanistan. I'm now living close to my oldest son **Ray** and my daughter-in-law **Tammy**. It's been interesting being back in Louisiana!

One thing that many former SCS/NRCS employees do is keep up with continuing education and current events. This photo was taken at a recent meeting of the Texas section of the American Society of Biological and Agricultural Engineers (ASABE) in New Braunfels, TX on October 6th and 7th. The session included numerous outstanding presentations, as well as a chance to visit and catch up with friends.



Texas Retirees: Seated are Richard Bettge, Greg Sokora, and Kenneth Mayben. Standing are Charles Melton, Dwight Head (representing the Texas Tech Red Raiders very well), and John Mueller.

WEST VIRGINIA

Peg Reese, ARCSE Representative

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Jim Clevenger, 88, passed away on Saturday, April 30th, 2022. Prior to his retirement in 1992, Jim was in charge of watershed planning at the State Office in Morgantown. After retirement, one of the many services that he performed was helping to plan retiree annual meetings. You can learn more about his life in the "In Memoriam" section of this newsletter.

Alan and Gretchen Staddon travelled to Australia on September 6th for a Spring visit with our daughter **Heather**, son-in-law **Craig**, and two grandchildren, **Jed** and **Mackenzie**. On Sunday the 18th we attended 8-year old Mackenzie's first Holy Communion. Our son, **Eric** and his wife, **Cathy** arrived in Sydney a few days before we celebrated Jed's 13th birthday on September 25th.

We all flew to Cairns for a fun-filled family vacation on the beautiful northern beaches of Queensland to celebrate Heather's 50th birthday. The whole family boarded the "Reef Magic III" for a 90-minute ride out to Moore Reef, a part of the Great Barrier Reef, for 5 hours of snorkeling and scuba diving. The Coral Sea is truly beautiful! A large variety of tropical fish and types of coral provided a great experience for all. Later in the week we did a tube float down through riffles, calm waters, and rapids of the Mulgrave River. Monday, some of our group stayed in Cairns for more beach time while the rest of us boarded the Kuranda Scenic Railway for a 3-hour trip up through Barron Gorge, passing waterfalls and crossing high bridges before arriving at Kuranda for lunch and a tour of this small town in the refreshing cool mountain air. We then made our way to the Kuranda Skyrail for the above-treetop descent by cable car, providing magnificent views of this World Heritage Rainforest. An opportunity opened up for Eric, Cathy and me to revisit the Great Barrier Reef for another snorkel and scuba dive adventure on

Wednesday aboard the Catamaran "Ocean Freedom." More tropical fish, a turtle, and a small stingray added to the memories of our trip. Our last day in Queensland consisted of a drive up the coast to Port Douglas for some last-minute shopping and lunch before heading to Cairns Airport for our flight back to Sydney. We visited Symbio Wildlife Park for some great photos and one last seafood dinner on Friday evening before heading back to the USA on Saturday October 8th.



Standing on the Reef Magic III Platform in the Great Barrier Reef are: Craig Haran, Cathy Staddon at back with Mackenzie Haran in front, Josiah (Jed) Haran, Heather Haran in back with Gretchen Staddon in front, E. Alan Staddon in back, and Eric Staddon

In mid-October, the WVU Soil Judging Team competed in the 2022 Southeast Regional Collegiate Soils Contest at Clemson University in South Carolina. According to Coach **Jim Thompson**, "The seven students from the Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Design were among 61 students representing 11 different schools. The dry 'red clay dirt' of the southern Piedmont landscapes proved to be a challenge, but three days of practice prepared the team for the unfamiliar soils and helped them calibrate their soil judging skills to the local conditions." Four WVU students placed in the top 25, and the team finished seventh.



Envirothon. Active Employees Katy McBride and Julie Stutler bookend retirees Larry Greynolds, Kelley Sponaugle, Bill Harris, Peg Reese, Jim Michael, and Sam Sheets

Six retirees attended the 25th WV Envirothon Celebration in Flatwoods on October 17th. One of the speakers at the event was retired Area Conservationist **Kelley Sponaugle**. Kelley and **Walter Winant** coached the Shady Springs HS Envirothon teams for 16 years. In his speech, Kelley emphasized the influence that the Envirothon had on the students and coaches. His Shady Springs teams won first place seven times, second place five times, and third place two times. In addition to the prestige, the

students won more than \$45,000 in scholarships. More impressive is the academic achievements of nineteen of his alumni. Sixteen students have doctorates, one is a Rhodes Scholar, and many now have MS and BS degrees. Most chose fields other than environmental fields including medical, dental, law, and fashion design. Some of their employers are WVU, MIT, University of Louisville, US Air Force, and the US Naval Academy. Two of his former Envirothon team members hold a special place in his heart: his son Kyle and daughter Cara. **Kyle Sponaugle** graduated from WVU with a BS in Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering and continued his education at Dallas Theological Institute where he received a master's in Theology. He is a Civilian Minister at the US Naval Academy. **Cara Sponaugle Farr** has a BS and MS degree in Soils and Environmental Science from WVU and works for the US Forest Service as the National Program Coordinator for Burned Area Emergency Response.

WISCONSIN

Deb Legear, ARCSE Representative

Email: deb.legear@gmail.com

Jim Enlow, ARCSE State Representative, has served Wisconsin well for the last 25 years. I want to take this opportunity to thank Jim for his dedication and service to retirees and their families over the years. I will be stepping into some very large shoes to represent Wisconsin as we go forward.

Let me introduce myself. I am **Deb LeGear**, and I live in Eau Claire, WI. I retired from federal service two years ago. I look forward to working with current and future retirees.



Pictured from left to right taken in Green Lake: Greg Rebman, Vic Price and Jim Enlow



Pictured from left to right, taken in Green Lake: Jim Enlow, Lynnette Enlow, Sue Gunlach, Steve Prissel, Howard Gundlach, Erv Lesczynski, Mark Buelke, Gene Nimmer, Vic Price, Greg Rebman, Jim Kaap, Ted Manning, and Deb LeGear, present but not pictured.

Wisconsin retirees had lunch meetings this last quarter in Osseo on August 18th at the Northwoods Brew Pub, another in Green Lake at Langford's Pub on September 8th, and a third luncheon in Shawano on October 13th at the Landing.

SENIOR CONSERVATIONISTS

Senior Conservationists have reached the minimum age of 83 years and have completed the Senior Conservationist Questionnaire (download at <https://arcsecommunications.wordpress.com/senior-conservationists/>). 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 Thomas (Tom) Wehri

Senior Conservationist **Tom Wehri** was born April 6, 1939 in Kalida Ohio. Tom was the oldest of 10 children and was raised on his family's general purpose dairy farm. Tom grew up thinking he was going to be a farmer.

Military service for Tom and the economic conditions of the 1950s were such that working off his family's farm became a necessity. After high school a county agent connected Tom with SCS, and he started work with SCS as a WAE (GS-2) Technician.

The opportunity to attend college with help from the GI Bill made it possible to move from his technician position to various leadership positions with SCS/NRCS. Tom's educational background includes a BS in Civil Engineering from Ohio State University in 1972 and a Master's in Public Administration degree from the John F Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University in 1982.

Tom recognizes he has many people in SCS/NRCS to thank for their support and encouragement along his career journey. In Tom's own words speaking about out agency, "We are a great family."

For Tom his most satisfying positions were his initial Technician Position and his position as a State Conservationist (Arkansas). In Tom's own words again, "When in the field you see conservation installed on the ground. As a State Conservationist, you can work with strong local personnel and partners again to install conservation practices. To see conservation work get done made me feel proud." Tom spent considerable time working in Washington, DC in various positions helping to manage our agency's National Watershed and EWP Programs. Tom also worked as a Program leader and Planner in Watershed Development in Idaho and California.

Over the past 20 years Tom has been working closely with local Conservation Districts. He served as the Executive Director for a group of 100 Resource Conservation Districts for 8 years and is a Past President. He works especially close with his local Placer County RCD which has grown from a two-person staff to 17 now. Tom clearly understands the value of the NRCS/RCD partnership in getting conservation on the ground.

Tom and his wife **Naomi** of 61 years currently live in Roseville CA. They have 2 sons, 1 daughter, 4 grandchildren, and 1 great grandchild. Tom enjoys golf, senior hiking, traveling, and photography of landscapes and natural resources.

SENIOR CONSERVATIONIST CHRONICLE

Senior Conservationist Leland Hardy

Upon my 1995 retirement, **Elwin Ross** (WNTC Irrigation Engineer) and I formed H & R Engineering to provide on-farm and ranch engineering. In the beginning we worked more than full time. We added **Bruce Wilson** (Oregon SCS/NRCS Agricultural Engineer) when he retired in 2007. Elwin retired the second time in 2009, and I think 2023 will be my year to do the same. When projects needed, H & R Engineering hired retired SCS/NRCS Geologists and Agronomist plus a Soil Scientist.

In June, **Pat** and I moved into Capital Manor, a Retirement Community in west Salem, OR. Our new address is 1955 Salem Dallas Hwy. NW, Apt. 922, Salem, OR 97304.

SENIOR CONSERVATIONIST CHRONICLE

Senior Conservationist

James F. Brasfield

Senior Conservationist **James F. Brassfield** was born July 10, 1931, at Gadsden, TN. Gadsden is a town in Crockett County and lies about 20 miles NW of Jackson, TN. James was raised on his family's farm and attended community schools. Following high school, he served in the U.S. Navy from Nov. 27, 1950, until his honorable discharge on August 26, 1954 as Yeoman 2nd Class Petty Officer YN2. James had enrolled in the University of Tennessee - Martin but later transferred to the main campus in Knoxville under the GI bill. He graduated in 1957 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy.

James began his career with SCS as a student trainee at Shelbyville, Bedford County, TN. The following summers found him as a trainee in Pulaski, Giles County, and back in Shelbyville. When he graduated from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville he was assigned to the Williamson County, TN office. James applied for a fellowship to Iowa State University and was accepted as a graduate student. He took courses during the regular terms and spent two summers mapping glacial and loessal soils, first in Bremer County and then in Cass County with the SCS Survey Party in each. Upon successful completion of his Master of Science, "Soil Genesis and Classification" in 1961, James returned to Tennessee. He was assigned to Robertson County, but had been there for only three months, when he was assigned to Warren County where he later was leader of the Soil Survey Party. Following completion of that survey, he was assigned to lead the soil survey in DeKalb County, TN. During this survey, James was asked to join the World Soil Geography Unit in Hyattsville, MD. After security clearance, he transferred to the Unit on Dec., 1965. He worked there for 3 1/2 years. In July 1969, James was assigned to SCS Florida operations as Assistant State Soil Scientist. He held this position until 1977, when he was transferred to the South National Technical Center, Ft. Worth, TX. While working there he was promoted to a GS-13 Soils Correlator. James worked there until his retirement on Jan. 1, 1987.

After retirement, James and his wife **Helen**, moved to Humphreys County, TN. They built their home on a farm that James had bought in the early 1960s. From 1987 to 2010, James worked his beef cattle operation. Sadly, Helen passed away in 2005. They had been married 43 years. In 2011, James married **LeAnn McCrary Hollis**. James has two stepdaughters, three stepsons, four step-grandchildren, and five step-great grandchildren. In addition to family activities, he reports that he enjoys hiking and being in nature as well as investing in the stock market.

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES

1800 Canaveral Court, Granbury, TX 76048-4370

2022 MEMBER LOCATOR

November 1, 2022 (Sorted alphabetically by State, City, then Last Name)

Use this current listing to find members in states or cities you may be passing through.

Find contact information for members in the 2022 ARCSE Member Directory.

First Name	Last Name	City	State	First Name	Last Name	City	State	First Name	Last Name	City	State
Charles	Love	Auburn	AL	Duane L	Johnson	Cedaredge	CO	Francis	Lum	Honolulu	HI
P George	Martin	Auburn	AL	Ivan R.	Wilkinson	Estes Park	CO	Rick	Bednarek	Altoona	IA
John C	Meetze	Auburn	AL	Jack R.	Carlson	Fort Collins	CO	Jody	Christiansen	Altoona	IA
Stephen	Musser	Auburn	AL	Larry	Flentie	Fort Collins	CO	David D	Breitbach	Ames	IA
Marshall	Nelson	Auburn	AL	Charles M	Hart	Fort Collins	CO	Thomas	Gust	Ames	IA
"Mac"				Dennis	Lytle	Fort Collins	CO	John K.	Skerritt	Ames	IA
Earl L	Norton	Auburn	AL	Scott	Snover	Fort Collins	CO	Eldon C	Weber	Ames	IA
Ernest V	Todd	Auburn	AL	Wendell	Hassell	Fruita	CO	Dennis G	Miller	Ankeny	IA
Philip	Abney	Hokes	AL	Paul J	Ohland	Ft Collins	CO	Lee C.	White	Ankeny	IA
David L	Schertz	Northport	AL	Stuart N.	Keil	Ft. Collins	CO	John H	Wilson	Ankeny	IA
Kenneth	Howell	Southside	AL	Emery C	Johnson	Grand Junction	CO	(Herb)			
Billy A	Garner	Booneville	AR	Jim	Gulliford	Littleton	CO	Debra A	Vonnahme	Arcadia	IA
Ralph	Mashburn	England	AR	Richard L	Porter	Longmont	CO	Gerald C.	Stevens	Boone	IA
Harry S	Rucker, Jr.	Heber Springs	AR	Wendall R	Oakes	Loveland	CO	Lyle W	Asell	Chariton	IA
Dennis	Hackbart	Little Rock	AR	Carter	Christenson	Lyons	CO	Scott	Osborn	Cherokee	IA
George	Dahlke	North Little Rock	AR	Edwin W	Olmsted	Northglenn	CO	Brian C.	Peterson	Corning	IA
M Bruce	McCullough	Ozark	AR	Jerry D	Schwie	Northglenn	CO	Lawrence L	Dorgan	Creston	IA
Christopher P	Williams	Chandler	AZ	Larry D	Miles	Pagosa Springs	CO	Jeff	Godwin	Cumberland	IA
Wade	Biddix	Goodyear	AZ	William	Ireland	Chaplin	CT	Dennis L	Hurtz	Decorah	IA
Thomas E	Calhoun	Green Valley	AZ	Marjorie	Faber	Coventry	CT	Keith	Krause	Delhi	IA
A Glen	Johnson	Mesa	AZ	Joseph	Csiki Jr.	Willington	CT	Jay	Ford	Denison	IA
Gordon O	Klofstad	Mesa	AZ	Joseph E	Polulech	Woodstock Valley	CT	Thomas	O'Connor	Des Moines	IA
Ron	Lowery	Mesa	AZ	Bruce	Knight	Washington	DC	Maralee J	Sarasio	Des Moines	IA
Karl R.	Klingelhofer	Oro Valley	AZ	Richard P	Bennett	Georgetown	DE	Donald K	Ummel	Des Moines	IA
Stephen	Black	Phoenix	AZ	James W	Stingel	Lewes	DE	Kathleen	Woida	Des Moines	IA
J Gordon	Odell	Saddlebrooke	AZ	Edward J.	Brzostek	Ocean View	DE	Ronald J.	Kuehl	Elkader	IA
John C	Lowrey	Sun City West	AZ	Andrea M.	Cora	Rehoboth Beach	DE	Roger A	Will	Emmetsburg	IA
Rodney M	Alt	Surprise	AZ	Robert W	Belcher	Brooksville	FL	Lane	Collins	Fairfield	IA
Ruth	Wilimek	Tempe	AZ	Maurice J	Mausbach	Daytona Beach	FL	Stanley R	Simmons	Fairfield	IA
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John D	Hedlund	Tucson	AZ	William E	Austin	Gainesville	FL	Lew A	Brent	Knoxville	IA
Joseph L	Knisley	Tucson	AZ	Robert G	Halstead	Homosassa	FL	Dale	DuVal	Logan	IA
Cathy E	McGuire	Tucson	AZ	Willis J	Ridenour	Largo	FL	Roger	Link	Maxwell	IA
Ronald E	Moreland	Tucson	AZ	Marc	Crouch	Leesburg	FL	Arnold "Arnie"	Wetzstein	McGregor	IA
Romy	Myszk	Antioch	CA	Raymond L	Marshall	Mt Dora	FL	Marvin D	Brown	Mt Pleasant	IA
Ron	Harben	Arroyo Grande	CA	Sterling B.	Caple	North Port	FL	Steve	Manternach	Nevada	IA
Hewlett F	Todd	Chico	CA	Mary Jane	Jolly	Ocklawaha	FL	Barbara	Stewart	Newton	IA
Darwyn H	Briggs	Davis	CA	"Janie"				Mark	Lindflott	Northwood	IA
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Edward	Schmit	Davis	CA	Janice	Reid	Palm Coast	FL	Bill	Hammit	Portsmouth	IA
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Paul	Koluvek	Winters	CA	Kenneth M	Kaneshiro	Aiea	HI	James A.	Cornwell	Boise	ID
								Stanley	Hobson	Boise	ID
								Gerald G	Larson	Boise	ID
								William O.	Moore	Boise	ID

Rob	Sampson	Boise	ID	Robert B	Crawford	Newton	KS	Bruce E.	Green	Vandalia	MI
Mark	Weatherstone	Bonnors Ferry	ID	Don	von Wolffradt	Overland Park	KS	Justin L	Murray	Rochester	MN
Richard	Van Klaveren	Hayden	ID	Harold	Blume	Salina	KS	Margaret	Gangl	Roseville	MN
Wm (Bill) R	Evans	Lewiston	ID	Deanne	Lull	Salina	KS	Marlene	Mechelke	St Paul	MN
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Rob	Fredericksen	Meridian	ID	Jim & Bobbie	Wallace	Salina	KS	Michael	Blaine	Baring	MO
Daniel	Ogle	Meridian	ID	Tom	Badger	Topeka	KS	Lyle	Noblitt	Carrollton	MO
Donna	Beggs	Moscow	ID	Harlan E	Dietz	Topeka	KS	Hugh	Curry	Columbia	MO
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Cheryl	Simmons	Moscow	ID	Bill W	Milliken	Fulton	KY	J.R.	Flores	Columbia	MO
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Richard L	Dickerson	Champaign	IL	Anthony	Burns	Pendleton	KY	Burns (Ed)	Smith	Columbia	MO
Earl Eugene	Evans	Champaign	IL	Billie Morgan	Haslett	Richmond	KY	Rita Marie	Williams	Fair Grove	MO
Ben	Mingo	Champaign	IL	Joseph	Branco	Alexandria	LA	Francis F	Miller	Hartsburg	MO
Earl E	Voss	Champaign	IL	Kevin D	Norton	Woodworth Ln	LA	Dennis	Hilger	Independence	MO
Andy	Cerven	Charleston	IL	Jeffrey G	Anliker	Belchertown	MA	Robert L	Hummel	Jefferson City	MO
Charles S	Fisher	Decatur	IL	Cecil B	Curran	Hadley	MA	Kenneth E	Benham	Joplin	MO
John R.	Garrity	Earlville	IL	James A	Wesoloski	Hadley	MA	Charles D	Cheek	Kansas City	MO
Glenn H	Paulsgrove	Galesburg	IL	Valerie	Oksendahl	Longmeadow	MA	John J (Jack)	Walker	Kansas City	MO
Ronald	Gebhardt	Island Lake	IL	Terry	D'Addio	Bethesda	MD	Michael J	Bradley	Kirksburg	MO
Lee H	Bridgman	Jacksonville	IL	Doug	Holy	Bethesda	MD	David	Lightle	Labadie	MO
Jim E	McQuilkin	Magnolia	IL	Edward G	Riekert	Bowie	MD	Marvin L	Knabach	Lee's Summit	MO
Elsie Mae	Campbell	Mahomet	IL	Gale W	TeSelle	Bowie	MD	Ross	Braun	New Haven	MO
J Wiley	Scott	Mahomet	IL	Eleanor	Bogner	Catonsville	MD	James E	Sturm	Princeton	MO
Neil	Pellmann	Mokena	IL	Dave	Mason	Centreville	MD	David	Williams	Salem	MO
Bob	McLeese	Monticello	IL	William	Boyer	Chester	MD	F. Tyler	Smith	Springfield	MO
Nancy	Phalen	Monticello	IL	Obie D	Ashford	Columbia	MD	Ellis	Benham	Stockton	MO
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Arthur A	Bryant	Peotone	IL	& Judy				Charles B	Tisdale	Raymond	MS
James F	Steinkamp	Quincy	IL	James E.	Hannawald	Denton	MD	Wendy	Williams	Belgrade	MT
Loran E.	Davis	Shelbyville	IL	Diana	Morse	District Heights	MD	Phillip	Farnes	Bozeman	MT
(Gene)				William U	Reybold	Easton	MD	Scott	Hoag, Jr.	Bozeman	MT
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James L	Evans	Urbana	IL	Donald	Woodward	Gaithersburg	MD	Lori	Valadez	Bozeman	MT
Judith C	Hummel	Urbana	IL	Lee B	Shields	Greenbelt	MD	Gordon	Watson	Bozeman	MT
James	Rospopo	Woodstock	IL	Roger	Cronshey	Huntington	MD	Dick	Gooby	Twin Bridges	MT
Rex	Brock	Bourbon	IN	Noller	Herbert	Huntingtown	MD	Francis T	Holt	Asheville	NC
Glen A.	Weesies	Brownsburg	IN	Lillian V	Woods	Laurel	MD	Angela	Gragg	Boone	NC
Dick	Gilbert	Carmel	IN		Shawver			James H	Canterberry	Cary	NC
B Harold	Kracht	Crown Point	IN	Robert R	Ensor	Manchester	MD	Rex O.	Tracy	Cary	NC
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Rebecca	Fletcher	Danville	IN	Michael P	Sigrist	Pocomoke City	MD	Jesse R	Stevens	Clayton	NC
Dan	McCain	Delphi	IN	Hagner R	Mister	Prince Frederick	MD	Rodney W.	Johnson	Elizabeth City	NC
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Jane	Hardisty	Greenfield	IN	Richard W	Hardy	Salisbury	MD	Randall W	Giessler	Faith	NC
Elias	Bloom	Indianapolis	IN	Robert	Snieckus	Silver Spring	MD	William J.	Harrell	Four Oaks	NC
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Charlie	Gossett	Indianapolis	IN	Peter M	Tidd	Belfast	ME	Rufus	Croom	Goldsboro	NC
Jerry D	Larson	Indianapolis	IN	Patty	Wright	Exeter	ME	Donald L	Basinger	Greensboro	NC
Mike	McGovern	Indianapolis	IN	D Bruce	Champeon	Glenburn	ME	Richard A	Gallo	Holly Springs	NC
Wayne C	Mullin	LaFayette	IN	John J	Simon	Hampden	ME	Dennie G	Burns	Kitty Hawk	NC
Roger	Roeske	Lucerne	IN	George &	Stevens	Lincoln	ME	P. Benjamin	Robinson, Jr.	Lincolnton	NC
Richard L	Schafer	Plainfield	IN	Nancy				Phyllis K	Pate	Lumberton	NC
Jerry J	Pearson	Plymouth	IN	Arthur	Taylor	Milford	ME	Craig M	Right	Mebane	NC
Donald E.	Weaver	Richmond	IN	William G	Moulton	Pittston	ME	Lane	Price	Mill Spring	NC
John M	Robbins, Jr.	Scottsburg	IN	Stephen S.	Davis	Presque Isle	ME	John C	Hill	Mt Gilead	NC
Robert C	Martin	Wabash	IN	Loren W	Berndt	Bridgman	MI	Francis	Zaik	Pine Knoll	NC
Carl S	Diehl	Warsaw	IN	Thomas J	Fedewa	Fowler	MI			Shores	
Earl A	Terpstra	Washington	IN	Thomas H	Purkey	Gaylord	MI	Robert	Horton, Jr.	Pinehurst	NC
Charles C	McKee	West LaFayette	IN	Julius O.	Pigott	Jackson	MI	Maurice	Cook	Raleigh	NC
Franklin	Furr	Winamac	IN	William J	Fude	Lansing	MI	Thomas T.	Cutts	Raleigh	NC
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C Owen	Maddux	El Dorado	KS	Daniel F	Kesselring	Marshall	MI	John J	Garrett	Raleigh	NC
Randy	Bennett	Girard	KS	Dwight &	Quisenberry	Okemos	MI	W. Hubert	Hawkins	Raleigh	NC
Roger L	Haberman	Larned	KS	Norma				Edgar L	Helme	Raleigh	NC
William B	Sorensen	Ness City	KS	Robert G	Law	Oscoda	MI	Horace	Smith	Raleigh	NC

Greg Walker Raleigh NC	Bob Parkinson Columbus OH	Nevin L Ulery Elizabeth PA
Manly S Wilder Raleigh NC	Clifford E Simpson Englewood OH	Shirley L Thomas Elizabethtown PA
Sam Bingham Rutherfordton NC	David F Berna Grove City OH	Wayne M. Maresch Emlenton PA
Larry Hendrix Salisbury NC	Richard W Rush Grove City OH	John R Akers Everett PA
Suzanne C Schenkel Southern Pines NC	John H Brown, Jr. Marion OH	Steven A Probst Gettysburg PA
Frank Clearfield Southport NC	K Keith Huffman Marysville OH	Rollin N Swank Graysville PA
Dominic Fetterer Southport NC	Charles F Lamborn Mt Gilead OH	Timothy J. Murphy Harrisburg PA
V. Loring McIntyre Swannanoa NC	Norman Mull New Paris OH	Gary P. Smith Harrisburg PA
Rodney E. Woolard Washington NC	Scott Jerrome Pickerington OH	Robert L Hilliard Lancaster PA
Tim Garrett Waynesville NC	Mike Monnin Pickerington OH	Walter Hosea Latshaw Lebanon PA
M. Alan Walker Waynesville NC	D Rex Mapes Powell OH	Alan Wood Lebanon PA
Talmadge J Wiggins Wilkesboro NC	Michael Plunkett Powell OH	Larry Schardt Lewistown PA
Robert A Bird Bismarck ND	Mark DeBrock Reynoldsburg OH	Norman G Wolfrom Lock Haven PA
Gary Tibke Bismarck ND	Karl H Reinhardt Sidney OH	Harvey Pinkerton Marble PA
Norman Koester Beaver Lake NE	Larry Tornos Sunbury OH	Jeff Mahood Mechanicsburg PA
James R. Gerding Elkhorn NE	Lennie Losh Westerville OH	John J Mank Mechanicsburg PA
Dave Camper Lincoln NE	Ralph E Gray Willoughby OH	Frederick E Bubb New Cumberland PA
Doug Christensen Lincoln NE	Barry Cavanna Wooster OH	David C. Tindall New Hope PA
James Culver Lincoln NE	Joseph R Steiger Zanesville OH	Mike W. Anderson New Oxford PA
Craig Derickson Lincoln NE	Robert C Maples Ada OK	Charles Ford Philadelphia PA
Gus & Donna Dornbusch Lincoln NE	Wes Oneth McAlester OK	Howard W Hall Quarryville PA
William G Hance Lincoln NE	Nickey J Lambeth Okemah OK	Edward Sokoloski Scott Township PA
Norman Helzer Lincoln NE	Jimmy D Thomas Okmulgee OK	Judith L Hughes Shiremanstown PA
Norman & Kempf Lincoln NE	Joe Freeland Pauls Valley OK	Gene Krotzer Somerset PA
Sylvia	Clifford L Williams Sayre OK	Wayne M. Bogovich Sugar Run PA
Harold L. Klaege Lincoln NE	Larry Caldwell Stillwater OK	Frederick H Schuetz Trappe PA
Robert S MacLauchlan Lincoln NE	Ronnie L. Clark Stillwater OK	Duane E Pyscher Wernersville PA
Henry R Mount Lincoln NE	Fred J Fortney Stillwater OK	Frank E Resides West Chester PA
Gary B Muckel Lincoln NE	Randy Freeland Stillwater OK	Paul Welle West Chester PA
Kenneth E Noonan Lincoln NE	Jimmie W Frie Stillwater OK	Donald E McCandless, Jr. West Sunbury PA
Steven C Stover Lincoln NE	John E Witty Adrian OR	Michael Kolman York PA
JoAnne Thiele Lincoln NE	Donald E Greiner Albany OR	Curtis Sharp York PA
Charline A Woodside Lincoln NE	John D Hedlund Aloha OR	Juan Martinez Gurabo PR
Dana Snyder Seward NE	Ralph S Wadleigh Aloha OR	Richard G Hutchins Charlestown RI
Ann Jackson Wadsworth Canaan NH	Gerald W Yeomans Baker City OR	Richard Vongkhamdy Coventry RI
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Annunziata Paolini Ewing NJ	Clifton E Deal Gresham OR	James N Krider Clemson SC
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Laurence R Irelan Pennsville NJ	Maurice L Jernstedt Hubbard OR	Douglas W. Deaderick Columbia SC
Luther F McDougal Mimbres NM	Patricia L Straka Keizer OR	Niles Glasgow Columbia SC
Kenneth B Leiting Rio Rancho NM	Edward E Weber Keizer OR	Ellis D. Morrow Columbia SC
Jim P Thornton Sante Fe NM	Matthew H. Fillmore Lebanon OR	Larry H Robinson Columbia SC
James A Linebaugh Carson City NV	Garry L. Schaefer Molalla OR	Dennis Bauknight Easley SC
Ross S. Lahren North Las Vegas NV	Louise Davis Oregon City OR	Johnny M Eubanks Gilbert SC
Charles R. Houston Reno NV	Roy E Bright Portland OR	James C Sanders Greenwood SC
Loretta Krall Reno NV	Tommy A George Portland OR	Ann Christie Heath Springs SC
Loren J Spencer Reno NV	Leonard L. Gilson Portland OR	Gene E. Hardee Jonesville SC
Elizabeth Warner Washoe Valley NV	Roberta L Hart Portland OR	Russell F Patrick Lancaster SC
Paul A Dodd Baldwinsville NY	Cliff Hillebrandt Portland OR	Jacob W Black Laurens SC
Henry S Stamatel Camillus NY	Jack P Kanal Portland OR	Hugh Caldwell Lexington SC
William P Yolton Canastota NY	Bruce Newton Portland OR	Dave Demarest Moore SC
Paul Ray Chittenango NY	Jeffrey P. Repp Portland OR	George H Comer Murrells Inlet SC
Joe DelVecchio Clayton NY	Donald E. Wallin Rainier OR	George & Stevens N Myrtle Beach SC
Donald W Lake Erieville NY	Leland A Hardy Salem OR	Daniel Guy Saluda SC
B. Keith Reece Fayetteville NY	Frank F Reckendorf Salem OR	Ned McGill Starr SC
Eugene C Hanchett Latham NY	Duane K Setness Salem OR	Bunyan W Anderson Timmonsville SC
Frederick L. Gilbert Manlius NY	Bob Graham Terrebonne OR	Ron E Hendricks Gann Valley SD
Julius D Toenniesen Rush NY	Chad L. McGrath Tigard OR	James C Hunt Mitchell SD
Allan S. Connell Southold NY	Thomas W Calvert Berlin PA	Yvonne Haefner Mobridge SD
Nancy Lee Waterloo NY	Samuel E Young Bloomsburg PA	Verle R. Smith Spearfish SD
Richard K Crowe Whitney Point NY	Robert T Heidecker, Jr. Boiling Springs PA	Rod Baumberger Sturgis SD
Jon Gerken Carroll OH	Donna Krebs Centre Hall PA	
William Richards Circleville OH	William R Parrish Ebensburg PA	
Byron H Nolte Columbus OH	Carl A Du Poldt Edgemont PA	

Julian L.	Meuer	Webster	SD
Darwin	Newton	Ashland City	TN
Harold D.	Jones	Bean Station	TN
Jim	Lansford	Cookeville	TN
Donald L.	Dotson	Franklin	TN
Hardy	Cloutier	Germantown	TN
Robin	Heard	Hohenwald	TN
Doris Marie	Blackwell	Jackson	TN
Dana	York	Jonesborough	TN
James F	Brasfield	McEwen	TN
Raymond P	Sims	Nashville	TN
Glenn	Headdden	Union City	TN
Robert	Sanders	White Bluff	TN
Benjamin C.	Doerge	Arlington	TX
Bernie	Owen	Arlington	TX
Marie	Wallace	Belton	TX
Rafael J.	Guerrero	Benbrook	TX
Ed	Thomas	Bryan	TX
Martin E	Vavra	Bryan	TX
Rosendo	Trevino III	Bulverde	TX
Johnny	Green	Burleson	TX
Henry	Bogusch	Cleburne	TX
Mark	Boysen	Crowley	TX
David V.	Buland	Crowley	TX
William	Erion	Crowley	TX
Clyde L.	Goodman	Fort Worth	TX
Marvin	Daniel	Fredericksburg	TX
Earl R	Blakley	Ft Worth	TX
Calvin M	Jackson	Ft Worth	TX
Frank	Richardson	Ft Worth	TX
W Ken	Twitty	Ft. Worth	TX
Michael H	Bogard	Gatesville	TX
William J	Gradle	Georgetown	TX
Rhett H	Johnson	Granbury	TX
Arnold D.	King	Granbury	TX
David A	Stockbridge	Granbury	TX
Earl D.	Archer	Grandbury	TX
Edward	Schwille	Groesbeck	TX
Ronald L	Hilliard	Haskell	TX
Wilson	Scaling	Henrietta	TX
Patricia	Cecil	Jasper	TX
Bailey	Mayo	Lubbock	TX
Hector	Gonzalez	McAllen	TX
Tim	Holland	Meridian	TX
John D	O'Connor	Mt Pleasant	TX
Carl F	Englerth	New Braunfels	TX
John	Mueller	New Braunfels	TX
Wayburn D	Mitchell	Paducah	TX
Larry D	Miles	Round Rock	TX
Paul F	Larson	Sherman	TX
James D	Abbott	Temple	TX

Robert C	Brown	Temple	TX
John P	Burt	Temple	TX
Charles	Melton	Temple	TX
Ronnie G.	Skala	Temple	TX
Charles M	Thompson	Temple	TX
Wesley	Miller	Victoria	TX
Steve and Karen	Garner	Weatherford	TX
Richard B	Heizer	Weatherford	TX
Jon G	Werner	Eden	UT
Phillip J	Nelson	Farmington	UT
Wm 'Bill'	Goddard	Fillmore	UT
Warren	Lytton	Herriman	UT
Richard	Baird	North Ogden	UT
Phillip D	Coombs	Salt Lake City	UT
J Michael	Nethery	Smithfield	UT
Eileen	Begovich	Alexandria	VA
Lawrence	Clark	Alexandria	VA
R Neil	Sampson	Alexandria	VA
Robert K	Reaves	Arlington	VA
Jerry	Seinwill	Arlington	VA
Joseph S	Haugh	Ashburn	VA
Janet	Perry	Barboursville	VA
Gerald W	Root	Bumpass	VA
John W	Peterson	Burke	VA
Edgar H	Nelson	Cross Junction	VA
James H	Spitz	Daleville	VA
Ronald W.	Gilkeson	Dayton	VA
Barbara	Osgood	Fairfax	VA
Keith O	Schmude	Fairfax	VA
Ronald L.	Marlow	Fairfax Sta	VA
Ron	Page	Fairfax Sta	VA
Diane	Gelburd	Falls Church	VA
Gary R	Gross	Fredericksburg	VA
Kenneth E.	Carter	Glen Allen	VA
Helen M	Jennings	Kilmarnock	VA
Carol	Campbell	King George	VA
Warren M	Lee	Locust Grove	VA
Melvin	Womack	Mechancisville	VA
Barry L.	Kintzer	Mechanicsburg	VA
George C	Norris	Richmond	VA
Tom H	Pointer	Ringgold	VA
Bill	Irwin	Springfield	VA
John S.	Moore	Springfield	VA
Paul R	Newcombe	Springfield	VA
Walter J	Ochs	Springfield	VA
Jerry M.	Bernard	Stafford	VA
Gary A	Margheim	Stafford	VA
Paul W	Benedict	Stephens City	VA
Richard L	Duesterhaus	Vienna	VA
Tom	Weber	Warrenton	VA
Ronald W	Tuttle	Winchester	VA

Marc	Safley	Woodbridge	VA
Dave	Thackeray	Woodbridge	VA
Francis M	Keeler	Colchester	VT
David G	Van Houten	Essex Junction	VT
Raymond N.	Brown	South Burlington	VT
Daniel A	Smith	Chelan	WA
Jon	Lea	La Center	WA
Phil	McCloud	Mount Vernon	WA
Gilbert R	Landtiser	Sequim	WA
Thomas L.	Spofford	Soap Lake	WA
A. Stefan	Fechter	Spokane	WA
Kenneth D	Kaul	Spokane	WA
W J "Joe"	Carmack	Spokane Valley	WA
Mark	Parson	Stevenson	WA
Lowell W.	Kenedy	Vancouver	WA
Lamont	Robbins	Vancouver	WA
David L	Omernik	Antigo	WI
Roman A	Statz	Baraboo	WI
Scott	Swanberg	Hudson	WI
William	Conner	Madison	WI
James L	Enlow	Madison	WI
Michael C	Schendel	Menomonie	WI
Carol A	Wettstein	Middleton	WI
Patricia	Leavenworth	Mount Horeb	WI
Emeron P	Christensen	Onalaska	WI
Irwin	Ten Haken	Portage	WI
Julie	MacSwain	River Falls	WI
Julie	McSwain	River Falls	WI
Louis C	Barber	Siren	WI
Steven J	Price	Spring Valley	WI
Norbert E	Wozniak	Stevens Point	WI
Olin C	Fimreite	Whitehall	WI
James R	Michael	Berkeley Springs	WV
Richard L.	Judy	Beverly	WV
Carrie	Wetsch	Elkins	WV
David F	Burns	Fairmont	WV
Gary A	Gwinn	Hambleton	WV
Tom	Noonan	Morgantown	WV
Margaret (Peg)	Reese	Morgantown	WV
Delores "Dee" R	Weston	Morgantown	WV
John S.	Weller	Philippi	WV
Orland C.	Parks	Scherr	WV
Betty A	Ball	Williamstown	WV
Jim W	Doughty	Buffalo	WY
Ted	Gilbert	Casper	WY
David O	Taylor	Casper	WY

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)
Boothby	2022	Senior Conservationist and Lifetime ARCSE member Charles Laurence Boothby (86) of Bangor, Maine, passed away January 23, 2022, at a Bangor hospital. He was born to Laurence B. Boothby and E. Louise (Ricker) Boothby on the family farm in Livermore, Maine. He was christened in the Second Universalist Church of Livermore and remained a proud Universalist his whole life. He attended the University of Maine in Orono (UMO) majoring in Agronomy. He was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, serving a year as Chapter President. While at UMO he met Judy White , whose parents were not initially impressed until he offered to sharpen his future mother-in-law's knives to a fine edge. Charlie and Judy were married during the great slush storm of February 8, 1958, at the First Universalist Church in Bangor. They moved to Falmouth, Maine for Charlie's new job with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS), working as a Soil Conservationist. The next month, the Draft Board called him to report for a physical and to board a train for Fort Dix, New Jersey. While in basic training, Charlie was recruited by the Army Counterintelligence Corps (CIC). After CIC training in Baltimore, he was sent to Fort McPherson in Georgia for the rest of his 2-year enlistment. In August 1959, he received a Direct Commission in the Corps of Engineers and stayed in the Army Reserves until his retirement in 1989 with the rank of Colonel. In 1960, Charlie went back to work with SCS in Cumberland and Oxford Counties in Maine. In 1962, he was appointed District Conservationist for Waldo County, Maine. In 1964 he accepted appointment as the first Executive Director of the Maine Soil and Water Conservation Commission, based in Augusta, Maine. In 1976, Charlie earned a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Maine at Augusta and was offered a position with the National Association of Conservation Districts in Washington, D.C. so the family moved to Fairfax, Virginia where all three boys graduated from Chantilly High School. In 2000, Charlie and Judy decided it was time to move back home to Maine, and they settled in Judy's family home in Bangor. Charlie leapt headlong into leadership roles in the church. Outside the church, Charles was quite involved in the leadership of many community organizations. One of his proudest roles was serving on the board of Four Directions Development Corporation, which provides loans to persons of the four Wabanaki tribes in Maine. In retirement, Charlie and Judy enjoyed getting together with fellow retirees at Dysart's Restaurant. Charlie was predeceased by his oldest son Timothy in 1984 at age 23, and his middle son Andrew in 2018 at age 55. Among survivors are his wife, Judith Boothby , his son, Rev. Paul Boothby (Krista) of Easton, Maryland, grandson Taylor Boothby of Palm City, Florida. Memorial Gifts will be most welcome at Four Directions Development Corp, 20 Godfrey Drive, Orono, ME 04473, or at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Bangor, 120 Park St., Bangor 04401.
Brooks	2022	Donald Brooks (76) of Caneyville, Kentucky, passed away April 9, 2022, at his residence. Donald was born November 13, 1945, in Caneyville to the late Gladys Lewis Brooks and Leander Jack Brooks . He loved his job of working with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Services as a Soil Conservation Technician. He enjoyed the outdoors, hunting, and gardening. Donald was a member of the Falls of Rough Baptist Church. Donald leaves behind is wife of 55 years, Fran , one daughter, Jennifer (Wayne) , two granddaughters, Fallon , and Lauren , two grandsons, Josh and Caleb , and thirteen great-grandchildren.
Chavez	2022	Fermin George Chavez Jr. (68) of Los Lunas, New Mexico, passed away August 21, 2022, with his family at his bedside. George was raised in Tomé, New Mexico. He was a 1977 graduate of New Mexico State University, where he majored in science and agriculture. After living and working in Nebraska for seven years, he returned to New Mexico, where he was married to Teresa Ann Leaton , the love of his life, of Roswell, New Mexico on May 25, 1985. George worked for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service for 37 years. He was a Rangeland Management Specialist in New Mexico and Nebraska. He served as the New Mexico State Resource Conservationist before he retired in 2013. He was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. George was an avid traveler with his wife visiting the east and west coasts and historical sites in between. He loved the outdoors, hunting, fishing camping and riding horses. He is survived by his loving wife of 37 years, Teresa Chavez ; mother, Sally Chavez ; children, Joshua (Catherine) and Amy Brainard (Jesse) ; and his grandchildren, Dareon , Dante and Sienna Brainard , and Grace and Benjamin Chavez , and a newborn baby Chavez .
Cleary	2022	Paul Howard Cleary (79) of Goldendale, Washington, passed away suddenly on August 30, 2022. Paul was born in Mount Vernon, Washington in 1943 to Howard and Margaret Cleary. He grew up in Portland, Oregon. He attended the University of Portland where he earned a General Engineering degree. While in school, Paul met Judith Fay Stadter , and they married in 1964. Paul's career was as a Civil Engineer and later Hydraulic Engineer with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service/Natural Resources Conservation Service. He focused on water retention, irrigation, and erosion prevention. His work took him and his family many places: Portland, Hood River, and Albany, Oregon, Spooner and Madison, Wisconsin, Reno, Nevada, and then back to Portland, Oregon, where after 34 years of service he retired. Throughout these years, Paul and his family enjoyed cross-country road trips to visit family, hiking, camping, and many trips to the Oregon coast. After a brief stint as a consultant, Paul and Judy moved to Goldendale, WA for a retirement job with the Conservation Districts, working on similar projects he enjoyed. Paul placed a great importance in being a member of the Parish of the Holy Spirit often attending daily mass. He was a long-time member of the Knights of Columbus. He is survived by his wife Judy , 6 children Paula , Tim , Peter , Janet , Amy , and Kevin , 9 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren.
Clevenger	2022	ARCSE Member James Patrick Clevenger (88) of Morgantown, West Virginia passed away on April 30, 2022, in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Jim was born on May 12, 1933, near Webster Springs, West Virginia, the son of the late Roal Patrick and Rose Ann Payne Clevenger . Jim graduated from West Virginia University where he received a degree in civil engineering, graduating with honors in 1960. He was a member of Tau Beta Pi and Chi Epsilon honorary fraternities. He was a veteran of the United States Army, serving during the Korean War from 1952 to 1955 with the Army Security

		Agency. Much of that time was spent at a small base in Kyoto Japan. Jim married Mary Cunningham of Pisgah, West Virginia, on June 14, 1958, at Spruce Street United Methodist Church. They were devoted and loving partners for over 61 years until her death on January 1, 2020. Jim worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service for 35 years in several different engineering and management positions. Most of those years were spent in West Virginia working on flood control projects. He also worked with farmers and landowners on conservation and pollution control measures. During his tenure, he helped with the planning, design, and construction of over 150 flood control dams, many of which serve multiple purposes such as water supplies and recreation. He oversaw Water Resources planning for West Virginia when he retired in 1992. Jim was a member of the Suncrest United Methodist Church where he was quite active. He was also a member of the Suncrest Kiwanis Club, West Virginia Tree Farmers Association, National and West Virginia Societies of Professional Engineers, and the American Legion. During his retirement years, he enjoyed working on the farm, golf, traveling, volunteer work helping others and above all his grandchildren. He had a long, healthy, and wonderful life. Jim is survived by two sons, Joe (Beth) , and Jimmy ; son-in-law JJ ; granddaughters Katie , Maggie , Molly (Jacob) ; grandsons Quinn , Wes , Walt and Ian and great-grandsons Noah and Patrick . In addition to his wife, Jim was preceded in death by his daughter Kim .
Cook	2022	Roy Wade Cook II (72) of Buffalo, Oklahoma passed away September 20, 2022. Roy was born January 28, 1949, in Mooreland, Oklahoma to Roy Wade and Wilma Eunice (Bennett) Cook . Roy attended Oklahoma State University, receiving his Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education in 1971. Also in 1971, Roy was blessed with the birth of his daughter, Kimberly Marie . After graduating Roy went to West Point, Nebraska as a teacher of Agriculture until the fall of 1972. Returning to Stillwater, Oklahoma Roy went to work as a welder working on the I-35 Turnpike until he left for basic training in September of 1973. Roy was in the Army Reserves Company C 5th Battalion from 1973 to 1975. After basic training Roy returned to the family farm working with his dad. In 1991 Roy founded Draco Cattle Company that he operated until 2007. After retiring from the feed yard, Roy went to work for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service as a technician in the Buffalo, Oklahoma Field Office. He retired in 2019. Roy married the love of his life Ronda Sue Rogers June 4, 2011, at the Cook Farm. After retirement Roy and Ronda had the most fun and enjoyed spending time with family, traveling and working on their home in the country. Roy was preceded in death by his daughter, Kimberly Botts . Survivors include his wife Ronda Cook ; children Stan Botts , Nanci (Greg) Ellis , David (Bee Lin) Rader , Grandchildren; Kaimi (Botts) Smith , Brooklyn Botts , Kailie Rader , Natalie Rader , Addalie Rader , and Great Grandchildren; Holden Smith , and Kimberlyn Smith .
Eddy	2022	Hugh Victor Eddy Jr. (88) of Nelson, Wisconsin passed away surrounded by loved ones, on January 15th, 2022, at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Wabasha, Minnesota. Hugh was born to Hugh V. Eddy Sr. and Elnora (Gilbertson) Eddy in Sparta, Wisconsin. After high school graduation, he joined the United States Air Force and was stationed at a hospital in Wiesbaden, Germany for over three years as a medic. After the service, he went to Utah State University studying Agronomy. Hugh married Doris B. Copus in December of 1958. They enjoyed three summers working in Idaho and Wyoming for the USDA-Forest Service. After graduating from college, he went to work for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. He worked as a Soil Conservationist in Kosciusko County in Indiana for five years. He was then transferred to Buffalo County in Wisconsin where he was the District Conservationist for another 25 years before retiring. Hugh is survived by his wife of 63 years, Doris Eddy ; three children, Carrie (Steve) Bacon , of Eau Claire, Wisconsin; Jennifer Torres , of Plainview, Minnesota; and Scott (Tiffany Wiles) Eddy , of Nelson, Wisconsin; seven grandchildren; and four great grandchildren.
Erickson	2022	Patty "Pat" Joan Erickson (86) of Leonardville, Kansas passed away September 2, 2022, at the Leonardville Nursing Home. She was the wife of the late Jerald "Jerry" Edwin Erickson , former Biological Technician at the Plant Materials Center in Manhattan, Kansas for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. Jerry retired in 1987 and passed away in 2019. They celebrated 64 years of marriage before Jerry's passing in 2019.
Fisher	2022	Senior Conservationist and Honorary ARCSE Member James (Jim) Roswell Fisher (94) of Lakewood, Colorado passed away October 13, 2022. Jim was born to Charles and Millie Fisher on January 5, 1928, in Washington, D.C. Due to his father's job with the U.S. Geological Survey, Jim's family moved extensively across the United States. When he was 5, he began his schooling in the first grade in Farmington, New Mexico, and after that attended many different schools, the longest periods in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Albuquerque, New Mexico. In 1945, he graduated from high school in Rolla, Missouri. In 1948, he graduated with a degree in Civil Engineering from the then Missouri School of Mines, now called Missouri University of Science and Technology. Jim began his career as a field engineer with the U.S. Geological Survey, surveying, and mapping in the central northern states in the summer and in the south during the winter months. In 1949, he met and married Claudine Moore of Palestine, Texas. They had a son, Robert , who gave them three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He took an interest in Masonry and became Master Mason in 1955. He pursued additional learning and was made a Knight Templar in 1956 and became a Shriner in Minneapolis in 1956 and later in Denver. He eventually joined the Golden City Lodge No. 1 in Golden, Colorado. In 1955, Jim decided to make a career change and began working with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service as an engineer. He met and married Gloria Skare in 1961. They had two sons, Charles and Timothy , and one grandchild. He held several engineering positions in Minnesota and Montana before moving to Lakewood, Colorado in 1975. After 36 years of government service, he retired from the Soil Conservation Service in 1983 ending his service as Deputy State Conservationist for Colorado. Jim was a Registered Professional Engineer in four states. In retirement Jim first did consulting engineering work in Colorado and later he and Gloria went on a one-and-a-half-year assignment to the island of Nevis in the Caribbean. Afterward, he worked as Director for the Small Watershed Program with the National Association of Conservation Districts where he planned and managed national and regional meetings. This position allowed him and Gloria to travel to many different locations throughout the country. After that he provided parttime assistance to the Jefferson County, Colorado elections board in the Absentee Ballot section. To be outside and play with friends. He loved his 1959 outboard motorboat and he and his family spent lots of time on the water, fishing and water skiing. He was also an amateur gardener and was proud of his annual crop of tomatoes. Jim was an active member of Lutheran Church of the Master in Lakewood. He is survived by his wife of 61 years Gloria , sons Robert , Charles , and Timothy , daughters-in-law Sharon and Marci , grandchildren Renee , Randy , Robin , and Alyssa , and six great-grandchildren.
Gerdess	2022	Dorothy (Maltbie) Gerdess (93) of Salina, Kansas, passed away on September 28, 2022. She was born to Bessie and Ernest Maltbie , of Amorita, Oklahoma on March 4, 1929. Dorothy married Robert "Bob" N. Gerdess of Amorita,

		Oklahoma on May 28, 1947. They had been married 71 years when Bob passed away on August 21, 2018. Dorothy worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service and retired as a Personnel Management Specialist in 1992 in the Kansas State Office in Salina, Kansas. Dorothy and Bob were Charter Members of Christ the King Lutheran Church and very active there. She is survived by 3 children, Cynthia Smith (Lowell) , Kansas City, Missouri; Ronald Gerdes , Houston, Texas; Richard Gerdes (Lisa) , Salina; 7 grandchildren; Shawn (Kelli) and Kevin (Laura) Smith, Sara (Kindler) Nurnberg (Todd), Bryan (Susan) Gerdes; Christi, Ryan and Brandon (Sierra) Hysong ; and 16 great grandchildren.
Graves	2022	Mary Kay (Buchanan) Graves (77) of Chapman, Kansas passed away peacefully at her home on September 3, 2022. Kay was married (July 20, 1968) to retired USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service employee Herbert Russell Graves, Jr. Herbert was an engineer in the Kansas State Office for many years. Kay attended Altus Junior College and Southwest Oklahoma State University, graduating in 1967 with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. She taught for several years in the Lakin, Kansas school district. In addition to her husband Herbert , she is survived by two children, Russell Wayne (Tammy) of Kansas City, Missouri, and Cynthia Dlynn Markley (Chad) of Abilene, Kansas
Knutson	2022	Honorary ARCSE Member Russell Leo Knutson (94) of Boone, Iowa, passed away September 27, 2022. Russell was born on August 24, 1928, to Mary and Wilmer Knutson of Soldier, Iowa. He grew up on a western Iowa farm and became a Sergeant in the Army Air Corps during World War II, earning a purple heart. After the war, he married Donna Hummel of Cushing, Iowa, on September 9, 1951. He attended Iowa State University, obtaining a degree in engineering, and began working for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. Russell was a Hydraulic Engineer on the Watershed Planning staff in the Des Moines State Office. He retired in 1984 and moved to the country north of Boone, Iowa, where he built a home, worked a small farm, and broke and trained mustangs, horses, and a mule. He was always involved with the local community, he participated in Boy Scouts, Lions Club, the Augustana Lutheran church, horse and mule riding with family and friends, square dancing, traveling, camping, and hiking. Russ was an active man up to his passing; from tinkering with farm equipment to breaking wild horses to genealogy, carving, and hunting hobbies, and hosting family get-togethers. He always had a smile, helpful advice, and a gin and tonic. Russell was preceded in death by his wife of 69 years, Donna, in 2020, and a granddaughter Caroline in 2021. He is survived by three children and their spouses, Richard (Lori), Steven (Lorrie) both of Iowa and Gary (Peggy) of Florida; three grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Memorial services were held October 8, 2022, at Augustana Lutheran Church in Boone, with Pastor Dan Solomon officiating. Burial was at Mineral Ridge Cemetery.
Northcut	2022	Beade O'Brien Northcut (87) of Robinson, Texas passed away peacefully during his sleep on August 27, 2022. Beade was born in Brady, Texas on October 29, 1934, to Bead Monroe Northcut and Thelma O'Brien Northcut . He enlisted in the National Guard at the age of 18 and later completed Officer Candidate School in the Army Reserve. He retired from the military as a Lt. Colonel on his 60th birthday. He attended Texas Technological College – now Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. He graduated from Tech in May 1959 earning a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Engineering. During Beade's last years at Tech, he began working for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS) as a student trainee. Upon graduation, he was hired as a full-time employee and began a career that would span over 31 years. Beade was a Registered Professional Engineer and a Registered Professional Land Surveyor. It was in Lubbock that he met the love of his life, Darlene Talley . Beade and Darlene were married in Lubbock on November 10, 1960. After retiring from the SCS, Beade worked for Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board. From 1999 to 2014, he worked as a private land surveyor. Beade was a devoted disciple of Christ at Bethel Methodist Church. He was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years, Darlene. He is survived by his four children Cheryle Tyson (Bob), David Northcut (Claire), Mark Northcut, Kristi Johnson (Russell) ; ten grandchildren and two great granddaughters.
O'Bannon	2022	Linnea "Lyn" Regina O'Bannon (76) of Grimes, Iowa, passed away in her home on August 18, 2022, surrounded by her family. Lyn was the wife of the late John O'Bannon , who was an engineer in the Des Moines State Office for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service at the time of his passing on September 5, 1996, at age 49. Lyn was born June 30, 1946 in St Paul, Minnesota to Raymond and Marcia (Jasmin) Huffmeyer . She married John in 1969. After her children started school, Lyn worked as a skip trace loan officer for Wells Fargo Bank. After 20 years she retired and became a full-time Grandma. In addition to her husband John, she was preceded in death by daughter Elisha Marguerite O'Bannon . Linnea is survived by her children Mary Rittel (Dan), John (Shana) and Sean (Sarah) ; as well as six grandchildren.
Packard	2022	Jim Packard (89) of Salina, Kansas passed away October 8, 2022. Jim was the husband of Bonnie Packard , former Procurement Clerk in the Kansas State Office of the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in Salina. Bonnie retired in 1993 and passed away in 2019.
Peterson	2022	Weldon H. "Herb" Peterson Jr. (65) of Chesterfield, Virginia passed away October 17, 2022. He was born in Petersburg on October 12, 1957. Herb was a member of Beulah United Methodist Church. He served as an IT Specialist for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service for nearly 35 years. He was an avid fan of University of Virginia sports, especially basketball, and he enjoyed playing golf at Meadowbrook Country Club. Above all, he was a devoted father and husband and there was nothing he cherished more than spending time with his family. Among his survivors are his mother, Joan Peterson ; wife of 35 years, Joanna Peterson ; children, Russell (Caroline), Alison and Katherine Peterson . A celebration of life will be held from 2pm to 4pm October 28, 2022, at Meadowbrook Country Club, 3700 Cogbill Road, Richmond, Virginia 23234. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Red Cross https://www.redcross.org/donate/donation.html/ or to Feed More: https://give.feedmore.org/give/153066/#/donation/checkout
Read	2022	ARCSE Member Hershel Richard Read (81) of Maryville, Tennessee passed away September 25, 2022, at Asbury Place, in Maryville. Hershel was born May 31, 1941, in Wayne County, Illinois to Frank and Nellie Read . After Hershel graduated from the University of Kentucky with a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Engineering in 1966, he began his career with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) (formerly Soil Conservation Service) in Lexington, Kentucky, before returning to University of Kentucky to earn a master's degree in Agricultural Engineering in 1969. He continued his career with NRCS, serving in Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., Iowa, Georgia, and California. In 1976, he was awarded a scholarship to Colorado State University, where he completed the course work for a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering. While working full-time for NRCS, he completed his dissertation and received his degree in 1987. Hershel concluded his 34-year career by serving in the USDA Chair at the Industrial College of the Armed Services

		at Ft. McNair for two years. Hershel retired to Kitty Hawk, NC, in 1999 where he taught boating safety classes for the Coast Guard Auxiliary for nearly 15 years and fished so frequently that the fish trembled when the boat engine started each day. Due to declining health, he moved to Asbury Place, Maryville, TN, in 2015. He was preceded in death by daughter, Jami Read of Athens, Georgia. Survivors include his wife of 60 years, Barbara Read ; his daughter, Alica Ketchem (Joe) ; and his grandson Brian Ketchem (Shannon) .
Ross	2022	Elwin Ashburn Ross (85) of Redmond, Oregon, passed away from a stroke on August 13, 2022, at St. Charles Medical Center in Bend, Oregon. Elwin was born to Lawrence A. and Hazel Marie Dorathy Ross on September 20, 1936, in Boise, Idaho. He was raised on a farm in Meridian, Idaho with two sisters and a brother. He married his high school sweetheart, Bonnie McPherson on May 18, 1956. He then graduated from Boise Junior College in June 1956 receiving an Associate of Arts degree, then attending University of Idaho, in Moscow, graduating June 1959 with a degree in Agricultural Engineering. After graduating from the University of Idaho, Elwin began working for USDA Soil Conservation Service in Moscow as a Civil Engineer from 1959 to 1961. He then worked in Weiser, Idaho working as a Civil Engineer from 1961 to 1967. Then the family packed up and moved to Bend, Oregon in 1967 where Elwin was Area Engineer. In 1977 they moved on to Greeley, Colorado where he was Area Engineer until 1980. And finally, a move to Portland, Oregon to work at the West National Technical Center (WNTC) where Elwin finished up his career with SCS. He held several positions while at WNTC, the last one being Irrigation Engineer for the 13 western states. He retired after 35 years of service in July 1992. Upon retiring, Elwin and Bonnie moved to Redmond, Oregon where he started H & R Engineering with fellow retiree, Lee Hardy , from SCS started where Elwin was an engineering consultant for 15 years. During his career, Elwin received his Professional Engineer of Oregon license in 1976. He was a member of American Society of Civil Engineers and American Society of Agricultural Engineers. Elwin is survived by his wife, Bonnie ; two sons Dan and Doug ; five grandchildren Nathan , MacKenzie , Lauren , Casey (Laura) and Kaytlynn ; and two great-grandchildren Blakely and Mateo . He was preceded in death by daughter Rexene .
Sandy	2022	Gayland Laverne Sandy (85) of Perry, Oklahoma passed away on August 25, 2022. He was born on May 25, 1937, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to Laverne Sandy and Mabel Louise (Crouch) Sandy . He attended Oklahoma State University for 3 ½ years where he studied Meteorology. He went on to finish his undergraduate degree at Central State University in Edmond, Oklahoma, graduating with a bachelor's degree in 1969. Gayland met the love of his life, Jackie Boaz and they were married on December 18, 1977, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service as a land management/flood control specialist for over 30 years. During this time, he served in the Army Reserves for 5 years. He enjoyed hunting and fishing, always grew a large garden and was a hobby farmer and rancher. He was very involved with the First Christian Church of Perry. Gayland leaves behind to celebrate his life daughter Marsha Metcalf (Joey) of Mannford, Oklahoma, son Brett Sandy (Valerie) of Perry, daughter Kym Payne (Mark) of Stillwater, Oklahoma, stepdaughter Cindy Williams (Jay) of Perry, stepdaughter Tina Hardy of Stillwater, grandchildren: Jake Myers , Derek Myers , Wes Myers , Braxton Sandy , Bobbie Murrow , Brandie Carter , Heather Frable , Alicia Malget , Mike Knott , Cody Payne , Lacey Payne , Justin Williams , Jason Williams , and Erin Hardy ; twenty-two great grandchildren with 1 on the way, as well as 5 great-great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife Jackie, and grandson Jared Williams .
Tessman	2022	Gregory A. Tessmann (65) of Gasport, New York, passed away August 29, 2022. Greg was a retired District Conservationist from Lockport, New York, who had a long and varied career in the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. During his career, Greg received many awards from the USDA and NRCS including The Civil Rights Award and The Thousands Points of Light Initiative from President George W Bush for his contributions to the needs of the community and support of the USDA. In retirement, Greg became passionate in serving the community on a larger scale. He was a member of the board for the Morlock Foundation where he served the community hands on at the Evangel Assembly of God food pantry. Greg Loved God, his family, this great country, the Buffalo Bills, and the land and being outdoors. He enjoyed fishing, deer hunting with the guys, bird hunting and watching the dogs on point, and taking friends and family for boat rides around Lime Lake. He had a knack for making people laugh, sometimes without saying a word. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him. He is survived by his wife LuAnn (nee Calamita) Tessmann , and stepchildren Alayna and Dominic Clementi .
Todd	2022	Former ARCSE Member Bettie Jane (Sissons) Todd (81) of Stillwater, Oklahoma, passed away September 10, 2022, in Stillwater. Bettie was born on November 17, 1940, in Stillwater, the oldest child of Ray and Mary (Blair) Sissons . She attended Draughton's Business College and Oklahoma State University. During her 33-year career, she worked for six Federal Government agencies in several states, including the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS). Bettie retired in 1994 as the State Administrative Officer in the Oklahoma State Office for SCS. Oklahoma ARCSE State Representative Randy Freeland says she was a delightful person that everyone liked. Bettie was a member of the Cherokee Nation, First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater where she served as a Deacon, and the National Association of Retired Federal Employees. Bettie is survived by two sons: David Todd of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Kenneth Todd (Marsha) of Guthrie, Oklahoma; three grandchildren: Caitlin LeBlanc (Cody) of Houston, Texas, and Kenzi Todd (Jack) of Guthrie; and three great grandchildren: Madison George , Michaela and Easton LeBlanc of Houston.
Trissell	2022	Charles "Alvie" Trissell (87) of Cherokee, Oklahoma, passed away August 25, 2022, at Beadles Nursing Home in Alva, Oklahoma. Alvie was born September 28, 1934, in Cordell, Oklahoma to Jesse Earl and Ruby Jewell Trissell . He graduated from Oklahoma State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy. On December 22, 1957, he married Pauline Culver . Alvie served his country by enlisting in the United States Army in 1958 and continued thereafter serving in the Army Reserves until 1964. Alvie worked as a Soil Conservationist for the US Department of Agriculture for 36 years, much of that as District Conservationist for Alfalfa County in Oklahoma. He greatly enjoyed working on the ground and with farmers helping to plan crops, build terraces and ponds. Alvie served as a liaison between the conservation district and the Northern Oklahoma Development Board of Trustees from 1971, when NODA was founded, until he retired from the district in 1992. At that time, he was eligible to join the NODA Board of Trustees, was nominated and accepted the same year. Alvie's second "job" was making anything from wood – wooden toys, wooden furniture, anything to do with wood. He was a member of First Baptist Church in Cherokee. Survivors include his wife, Pauline Trissell ; his daughters, Shirley Trissell and Debra Rite ; and his son, David Trissell .
Vanderbur	2022	Gene Francis Vanderbur (85) of Mapleton, Iowa passed away September 25, 2022, at his Century family farm home, not 20 ft from where he was born. He died of a broken heart three days after the passing of his best friend and wife, Lois

		<p>Ann Vanderbur. Gene Francis was born September 26, 1936, in Mapleton, Iowa, the son of Vern F. and Clementa B. (Hoy) Vanderbur. He served in the United States Marine Corps and subsequently graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in Agricultural Business. After traveling the world, he decided the best place to raise his family was on the farm he grew up on. He then proceeded to have a productive career at the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in Onawa, Iowa where he worked as a Soil Conservation Technician. Lois and Gene were united into marriage December 31, 1963, at Austin Messiah Lutheran Church in Austin, Illinois. Gene was a member of St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Mapleton. Those left to cherish his memory include his children, Krista (Toni) Elmquist of Spirit Lake, Iowa, and Lars (Jennifer) Vanderbur of Papillion, Nebraska; seven grandchildren, Adrienne (Dylan) Gill, Erika (Phil) McGrain, Mitchell Elmquist, Aidan Vanderbur, Madeline Vanderbur, Isabelle Vanderbur, and Lily Vanderbur; great-grandchildren, Adeline Gill, Crofton Gill, and baby girl McGrain due in November; and many other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Lois Ann Vanderbur; and two children, Kit Louise Vanderbur (in infancy) and Kirk Charles Vanderbur.</p>
Vanderbur	2022	<p>Lois Ann Vanderbur (79) of Mapleton, Iowa, passed away September 22, 2022, at Maple Heights Nursing Home in Mapleton. Lois was the wife of Gene Vanderbur who was a Soil Conservation Technician for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service in Monona County, Iowa, for many years. Lois Ann was born September 28, 1942, in Omaha, Nebraska, the daughter of Roy A. and Hazel M. (Lundquist) Palmquist. She attended Iowa State University where she met Gene. They were married December 31, 1963. At the time of her death, survivors included her husband, Gene (who died 3 days later); children, Krista (Toni) Elmquist, and Lars (Jennifer) Vanderbur; seven grandchildren, one great-grandchild and one on the way. She was preceded in death by two children, Kit Louise Vanderbur (in infancy) and Kirk Charles Vanderbur.</p>
Wolter	2022	<p>Gene Ernest Wolter (81) of Marion, Iowa, passed away on September 11, 2022, at Emery Place, of Lewy Body Dementia. Gene was born November 22, 1940, in Waterloo, Iowa, the son of Ernest and Esther Wolter. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Denver, Iowa. He attended Wartburg College for two years and graduated from Iowa State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy in 1963. There he met Valois Peterson. They were married on Aug. 17, 1963, at Zion Lutheran Church in Gowrie, Iowa. They recently celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary. Gene worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service worked as a Soil Conservationist and District Conservationist in several counties, with the last many years being the District Conservationist in Linn County, Iowa. He and his family attended 12 International Soil and Water Conservation Society Conferences. Gene was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Marion. Gene's hobbies and interests were fishing, canoeing, camping, gardening, and traveling. Gene is survived by his wife, Val, and his four children: son, Gary (Melynda), daughter, Nancy (Frank Gaffney), twin sons, Mark (Maki) and Doug (Jaime); and 11 grandchildren, Adam, Austin, Alex, Liz, Noah, Taka, Mia, Emie, Lily, Luke, and Harper.</p>



In Glacier National Park