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NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter for Retired Conservation Service Employees

Vol. 50, No. 1 January/February 2023

The **ARCSE Newsletter** is published bi-monthly by the Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees, 1900 Canaveral Court, Granbury, TX 76048-4370

Website: www.arcse.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Arnold King

By the time you receive this newsletter, the Holiday season will essentially be over. We had a good year during 2022 and hope to have a good 2023. Our annual meeting at Denver was very successful as we forge a closer relationship with SWCS. In addition, NRCS Chief, **Terry Cosby**, addressed the group and is in favor of working more closely with ARCSE on an effort to inform more retirees about our organization. We have tremendous potential for growth if we can improve our lines of communication with potential retirees. Some of the

local chapters have regular meetings where newly retired folks can be invited to participate. That is an excellent time to introduce them to the advantages of membership in ARCSE. First year memberships are complimentary.

One of our activities this year is to identify candidates for the President-elect position to replace **Julie MacSwain** when she replaces me as president. We have an election committee organized under leadership of **Cheryl Simmons**. If you have interest in serving in that capacity, please let me or Cheryl know, and we will include you as a candidate as the election process goes forth.

We are beginning to make plans for the 2023 annual meeting which will be held jointly with SWCS at Des Moines, Iowa during August 6–9, 2023. As plans are finalized, more information will be provided regarding our annual luncheon and board meeting. We hope some of you plan to attend both the SWCS annual meeting and our luncheon and board meeting.

NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

–Craig Derickson, retired USDA-NRCS

Federal Government Funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023.

On December 23rd, 2022, the House passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, an omnibus spending bill that provides \$1.7 trillion in discretionary funds for the fiscal year 2023 appropriations bills. This bill was approved just hours before a short-term continuing resolution (CR) passed the prior week was set to expire. The legislation includes \$772.5 billion for non-defense discretionary programs and \$858 billion in defense funding, according to a bill summary from Democratic Senator **Patrick Leahy**, chair of the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

Following party lines, the House approved the more than 4,000-page bill by a vote of 225 to 201. The legislation was approved just one day after it was approved by the Senate to wrap up the 2022 year and complete the work of the 117th Congress. The bill also included another short-term extension to keep government funded until the bill is signed by President Biden.

The bill includes \$800 billion in non-defense funding, a \$68 billion and 9.3 percent increase over last year's spending. The omnibus funding not only covers the annual spending bills for every federal agency, but also supplemental aid for the war in Ukraine and natural disaster victims as well.

The large omnibus package also provides funding for a number of other priorities, including: an overhaul of the electoral vote-counting law; funding to prosecute January 6th attackers; retirement savings enhancements; a ban of TikTok from federal devices; protections for pregnant workers; changes to Medicaid and other health care programs; additional funding for the US Capitol Police; more money for child care; new investments in homelessness prevention and affordable housing; and more support for the environment.

The next edition of the ARSCE newsletter will provide more details on FY 2023 appropriations for the federal government and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Fiscal Year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act.

On December 8th, 2022, Congress passed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). This amount is an 8% increase over 2022 levels. As described on the United States Senate Defense Committee website, “the NDAA authorizes funding at the level of \$858 billion for the U.S. military and other critical defense priorities and ensures that our troops have the equipment and resources they need to carry out their missions.” See more at: https://www.armed-services.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/fy23_ndaa_agreement_summary.pdf for additional information.

Federal retirees will see the largest COLA increase in over 40 years for FY 2023.

Federal retirees and Social Security recipients are set to receive the largest increase in their cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in over four decades. The Social Security Administration announced on October 13th, 2022 that the COLA will increase 8.7% for 2023 for many federal retirees. However, those in the Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) will receive a 7.7% COLA starting in January.

Ken Thomas, national president of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) Association, wrote in an October 13th NARFE blog statement: “the large COLA announcement for 2023 is no surprise, given high rates of inflation and climbing consumer prices this year. However, rising health care costs and the unfair treatment of specific federal annuitants could reduce the value of this adjustment, and seniors spend more on health care than any other segment of the U.S. population.” See <https://www.narfe.org/blog/2022/10/13/high-inflation-demonstrates-value-of-cola/>.

Nebraska Federation of NARFE Proposal to Exclude Federal Annuities from Nebraska State Income tax.

President of Nebraska Federation of NARFE, **Harold L. Klaege**, retired USDA-NRCS, announced that Nebraska members are proposing that the Nebraska State Legislature make changes to exclude federal annuities from state income tax. Nebraska NARFE members are currently making contact with their State Senators to provide information and advocate for the need to exclude federal annuity benefits from state income taxes.

In 2022 the Nebraska Legislature approved LB 873, which will exclude Social Security benefits from state income tax over a 4-year period on a sliding scale basis. The Nebraska NARFE proposal is to have the Federal annuities excluded from Nebraska state income tax, in a fashion similar to the Social Security exemption. Several other states currently exempt Federal annuities and benefits from state income taxes.

Second Round of USDA Climate-Smart Funding Awards.

On December 12th, 2022, **Secretary Tom Vilsack** announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing an additional \$325 million for 71 new projects under the second round of funding of the Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities effort. This brings the total investment from both funding pools to more than \$3.1 billion for a total of 141 selected projects to create new market opportunities for agriculture producers.

As noted in the USDA Press Release No. 0262.22: “The goal of the Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities projects is to expand markets for American producers who produce climate-smart commodities, leverage greenhouse gas benefits of climate-smart production, and provide meaningful benefits to producers, including small and underserved producers.”

The press release states that USDA is “working to transform America’s food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America.”

Visit usda.gov/climate-smart-commodities to learn more about these efforts and see usda.gov/climate-solutions for climate-related updates, resources and tools developed across the Department.

NRCS Climate-Smart Mitigation Activities.

To support the USDA Climate Smart initiatives, NRCS has developed a new web page with detailed information on implementation of conservation practices and activities designed to mitigate the impacts of climate change, which is caused by the build-up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Producers interested in applying new climate-smart activities across their operations may be eligible for financial support through the NRCS conservation programs, including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), as well as the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), a partner-driven program leveraging partner resources to advance innovative projects that address issues such as climate change.

The NRCS Climate-Smart website provides: “that when applied appropriately, these activities may deliver quantifiable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and/or increases in carbon sequestration. Many offer co-benefits and ancillary benefits that help operations build climate change resilience while addressing other natural resource concerns such as soil health, water quality, pollinator and wildlife habitat and air quality.” For more information see: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/natural-resource-concerns/climate/climate-smart-mitigation-activities>.

Additional Funding for Ag Producers Through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

Approximately \$20 billion of Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funds will provide additional support for USDA’s conservation programs through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (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 well-known conservation programs are over-subscribed and do not allow all farmers and ranchers seeking conservation assistance to get the help they need, including both financial assistance and technical assistance. The additional funds from the IRA will help farmers and ranchers implement expanded conservation practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase storage of carbon in their soil and trees. For more information see: <https://www.usda.gov/ira>.

USDA to Invest \$8 Million to Expand Monitoring of Soil Carbon.

On September 27th, 2022, USDA announced plans to invest \$8 million to support and expand monitoring of carbon in soil on working agricultural lands, as well as assess how climate-smart practices are affecting carbon sequestration. This is part of the Department's efforts to build out a national soil carbon monitoring network, which was kicked off with soil carbon monitoring on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres in 2021. See <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/usda-to-invest-8-million-to-expand-monitoring-of-soil-carbon>.

The September announcement describes that NRCS would receive proposals for regional projects focusing on soil organic carbon stock monitoring. NRCS will fund four agreements, one in each NRCS region: Northeast, Southeast, Central and West. Funding ranges from \$1.5 to \$2 million, and projects will last two to four years.

NRCS **Chief Terry Cosby** said, "healthy soils are a powerful tool when it comes to sequestering carbon. We want to enhance our measurement tools and integrate them into program delivery to advance quantification efforts of the effects that climate-smart agricultural practices have on carbon sequestration. Soil health management practices and activities are a tremendous part of our strategy when it comes to climate-smart agriculture and forestry."

NRCS solicited for projects that will:

- Deliver training on soil sampling for soil organic carbon and bulk density, data collection, and management and processing methods.
- Conduct outreach to producers to use NRCS' soil carbon monitoring practices.
- Coordinate with NRCS national and State offices and centers to provide technical assistance.
- Identify and recruit specialists to help producers with implementing soil carbon monitoring.
- Reaching diverse producers to participate in soil carbon monitoring and other NRCS conservation activities.

Eligible entities included Tribal governments, nonprofits, universities, State and local governments, and members of the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units Network. See: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/usda-to-invest-8-million-to-expand-monitoring-of-soil-carbon>.

NRCS to Offer Assistance to Soil Carbon Monitoring.

Beginning in fiscal 2023, NRCS will offer a new conservation evaluation and monitoring activity (CEMA) to provide assistance for measuring soil organic carbon stocks. The new activity is used to quantify the levels of organic carbon stored in the soil and monitor the change in soil carbon stocks before and after the implementation of a conservation practice or conservation plan.

The NRCS website describes the new CEMA activity implementation as: "a qualified individual [service provider] will use a hydraulic probe to sample soil to one meter depth. The soil will then be tested for organic carbon and bulk density to provide organic carbon stock levels to farmers and ranchers. Partners will play a critical role in training individuals on the sampling methodology, as well as conducting outreach to producers to inform them of the opportunity through NRCS." See details at: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/usda-to-invest-8-million-to-expand-monitoring-of-soil-carbon>.

National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Annual Meeting to be held in New Orleans, LA, Feb 11th–15th, 2023.

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) just announced that the 77th Annual Meeting will be held in New Orleans, LA in 2023. The meeting will focus on a theme of "Local Resiliency, National Community." Through networking opportunities, guest speakers, interactive sessions, and thought-provoking panels, we will explore how conservation is built by local resiliency and locally-led initiatives, and strengthened through national community with partnerships and collaboration.

Hosted in partnership with the Louisiana Association of Conservation Districts, the 2023 Annual Meeting will take place in New Orleans, Louisiana from February 11-15 at the New Orleans Marriot. Early bird registration was offered through December 23rd, 2022, but check the conference website for the latest details on registration.

NACD's Annual Meeting is the biggest event of the year and brings hundreds of conservation leaders from across the nation together. The Annual Meeting agenda includes a full NACD board meeting and is packed with opportunities for attendees to network and hear from a variety of conservation speakers. Visit NACD's Annual Meeting webpage (<https://www.nacdnet.org/news-and-events/annual-meeting/>) to learn more about some of the exciting breakout sessions and speakers that will be featured at the upcoming meeting.

**DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH/APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER
CONTRIBUTIONS IS FEBRUARY 25TH, 2023.**

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Paul Benedict, Membership Chair

New Life Members

Roger A. Hansen – Columbia, Missouri

Randy Bennett – Girard, Kansas

John Mueller - New Braunfels, Texas

Barry D. Cavanna – Wooster, Ohio

New Member

Deborah LeGear – Eau Claire, Wisconsin

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 made out to "ARCSE" to: **ARCSE, PO Box 8965, Moscow, ID 83843**

**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

ALABAMA

Earl Norton, ARCSE Representative

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Local retirees in the Auburn area have become more visible during the past few months with attendance at the monthly breakfast and involvement in other activities. Our group learned at the breakfast after the previous ARSCE newsletter that **George Martin** received another honor – the recently published book Ancient Life in Alabama, the Fossils, the Finders, and Why It Matters by **Dr. William G. Deutsch** was dedicated to George because of his contributions to paleontology in Alabama.



Preparing for the Lee County Camellia Club Annual Show November 12 at Pioneer Park near Auburn: (L-R) Charlie Mitchell, retired Auburn University Soil Fertility Specialist, and NRCS retirees Ken Rogers, Perry Oakes, and Mac Nelson.



Breakfast attendees at Chappy's Restaurant on December 5: (L_R) Charles Love, Cliff Jones, Charles Bush, Ken Rogers, Earl Norton, George Martin, and Mac Nelson.



NRCS retirees at 2022 Alabama Row Crops Short Course at Auburn University December 13-14 included Bill Kuenstler (FL) far left; Steve Musser and Earl Norton (3rd and 4th from left); joined by Larry Hardy, district conservationist, Vernon, AL.

We were pleased to see **Bill Kuenstler**, retired agronomist, Central National Technical Center, Fort Worth, who relocated after retirement to the Florida Panhandle, at a recent conference in Auburn.

CALIFORNIA

Bill Ward, ARCSE Representative

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We had a small group of seven shown below join us for our December 7th retiree Zoom meeting.



**Harold Honeyfield, Bill Ward, Ed Schmidt
Walt Sykes, Phil Hogan**

We all took turns sharing our latest news. One big item was **Phil Hogan**, DC in Woodland sharing that he will be retiring at the end of this year after 44 years of service to the agency, Congratulations, Phil!

I had the opportunity to share a special "family video" with the group. Our 11-year-old granddaughter is following in her Mom's footsteps with a passion for taking acting parts in theater and plays. This last month she had some parts in a recent production of the classic "Wizard of Oz."

There were three shows, and our whole family went to the 2nd show; and it was wonderful! For me, probably the best part of the show was watching **Anberlynn** have so much fun with her parts in the show. I took the opportunity of capturing some video clips and photos to put together a YouTube video to share with family and friends.

A group of ladies in our retiree family are big theater fans as well. **Pat Grover, Diane Holcomb, Anita Brown, and Helen Flach** are core members of this theater fan group. I shared this video with California retirees shortly after our meeting. I dedicated it to this group of ladies with the language: "This video is especially for you ladies!"

<https://youtu.be/OnrnkWrGvAg>

Our Granddaughter **Anberlynn Reeves** enjoys the magic of theater, with parts in the "Wizard of Oz."

Our Western Lights Band is taking a break from getting together during these Holiday months of November and December. We look forward to resuming getting together again and beginning to play public venues in the New Year. Here is one of our band's recent YouTube videos we put together for "Promotion" purposes.

<https://youtu.be/zhxlls8xA8w>

Western Lights Trio covers two Classics: "Corrine Corrina" and "The Ballad of Casey Jones."

It was with sadness that I recently shared news of the passing of former CA STC **Francis Lum** at the age of 93. Many California retirees responded to this news with sadness but fond memories of Francis as our STC including how helpful and impacting he had been to them in their careers.

Until next time, be safe and wishing you all the best in the New Year! Bill Ward, CA ARCSE State Rep., ARCSE West Region VP

COLORADO

Jack Carlson, ARCSE Representative

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The Fort Collins retirees breakfast club continued to meet on the first Tuesday in November and December, including **Jennifer Schukar** for the first time.

Frank Geter and Jack Carlson have been helping the Object Modeling System Laboratory (OMSLab) at Colorado State University (CSU) with quantifying trends following practice change for soil carbon and net CO₂ equivalent removed on ~3,000 farm fields (~250,000 acres) across the country during 2022. The project involves running the DayCent model for each mapped soil in the field calibrated to local conditions. DayCent is the daily timestep version of the CENTURY model developed by Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory (and ARS) at CSU in the 1980-90s. The DayCent version used in the project is the same supporting the COMET-Farm applications used by NRCS and other USDA offices assessing management effects on soil carbon, nitrous oxide and methane emissions. The OMSLab project leverages a computing platform called CSIP to run DayCent at scale to generate very site-specific results.

IOWA

Mark Jensen, ARCSE Representative

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In September, **Kurt Hoeft** and his granddaughter **Brinlee** spent a little time fishing in a local pond. They filled a bucket with 12-inch bluegills. Kurt wins my "philosophy" award for the month with his comment, "Time with grandchildren is what retirement is all about; fish are a bonus."

I had a nice visit with **Maralee Sarasio** the other day. She is still living in her home and is doing well. It was fun to hear and tell stories from days gone by.



Kurt Hoeft and Granddaughter Brinlee fishing at a local pond in September

Roger and Jane Schnoor still live on their farm in Ringgold County. They are doing well, although Roger said that several of his bones seem to rub against each other! Their son **Marty** lives down the road about a mile from them. He does a lot of the farm work for them. After Roger retired in 1994, he became a Technical Service Provider. He did that until about three years ago. Most of his work involved developing CNMPs in several states. He also did some work in Nebraska helping producers sign up for the CRP program. Roger's daughter **Elizabeth** earned her master's degree in nursing from Duke University. She is the Director of Programs for the Children's Hospital in Philadelphia. **Caleb Schnoor**, one of Roger's grandsons, graduated from Iowa State University a couple of years ago and is working in the Mount Ayr Field Office as a Soil Conservationist. He also helps with the farm work in the evenings and on weekends.

The Knoxville Area Community Theatre's (KACT) most recent production was "The Wizard of Oz." As usual, the performance was very entertaining. **Marty and Carol Adkins** were the producers of the program. They also worked on the props. Carol is a mainstay in the costume department; and Marty works on the Set Crew. Marty is the President of the KACT Board, and Carol is the Secretary.



Soil Scientist (mostly) get together in Ames: (L to R) Dave Breitbach, Ron Kuehl, Robin Wisner, Dr. Tom Fenton, Dr. Mary Collins Kuehl, and Herb Wilson.

In the last newsletter, **Herb Wilson** told us about a get-together on September 12th in Ames of former NRCS and Iowa State University folks who worked on soil surveys in Iowa. The picture shows those who were at that event.

Thank you to **Ernie Aust** for the following in which he tells about some of his memories from his long career with SCS/NRCS. "Our (**Pat and Ernie Aust**) recent trip to northwest Iowa had some memories come to mind. Here are a few short thoughts and some reminiscing about the towns and associations. Many more stories could be told. We traveled to Storm Lake for the Providence Consolidated School at Sulphur Springs annual class reunion. I graduated from there in 1954 (11 in the class); then from Iowa State College in 1958. Sulphur Springs school closed in 1960.

When I was home at quarter break around Thanksgiving in 1954, **Ed Crocker**, SCS Work Unit Conservationist, was at the farm checking on some hand-dug tile lines that had been installed. He stopped at the house to report the work was OK. It was late,

and we invited him to have supper with us. When he found out I was attending Iowa State College, he encouraged me to apply for a summer student trainee job, and that was my SCS beginning. Crocker was from Maryland: an interesting character; a World War II veteran who worked in cartography in the Army; then with SCS as a soil scientist and later the work unit conservationist in Storm Lake. You might say he was an early environmentalist. He was very active in the Soil Conservation Society. He convinced the local County Supervisors to quit blanket spraying all the roads for weed control, as it killed so many beneficial plants. I spent a couple summers there as a trainee.

After being discharged from the Army, I was a soil conservationist in Oakland with **C.W. Renaud** ("Reno"), the work unit conservationist. He came up through the CCC camps; then took the tests that were available to become a professional SCS employee and qualify to be the work unit conservationist. There's an interesting side story on the testing. It was for two days at the state office. Reno didn't think it was right to be paid two days' salary for his benefit, so he insisted that the test be given to him on a Friday and Saturday, and the State Office agreed to his wishes. The SCS technicians' classification was as sub professional employees (interesting terminology in today's world). The Oakland technician was **Dolph Rolf**, a World War II Purple Heart veteran. He knew all the conservation practices very well and was an excellent employee to work with. When the state office decided that the WUCs could be upgraded to GS11s, **Walt Weiss**, the area conservationist, wanted Reno to be the first in his area. But the State Office wanted one who had a college degree, so he was the second in the area after Atlantic.

Pat and I were married in Storm Lake in 1963 and all of the soil commissioners from the East Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District attended our wedding. Two of the commissioners, **Clifford Stille** and **Ervin J.J. Koos** were very active beyond the district, serving in State and national positions. Coming to Shenandoah in 1970 was an interesting location with much history. Soil Conservation activities began there in 1930 with the establishment of a soil erosion experiment station in Page County, one of 10 in the nation, by **Hugh Hammond Bennett** who later became the first chief of the Soil Conservation Service when it was established. There was also a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp at Shenandoah with its conservation activities. The Shenandoah SCS Area included the Chariton field office. I got a kick out of a snapshot of the old office staff which was posted on the bulletin board. I worked there as a Soil Conservationist after graduation and before the army draft. Pictured was **T.J. Lang**, technician; **Erwin Aust**, SC; and **Leon Foderberg**, WUC. The caption written on the bottom stated that Lang was training future area conservationists! There are many, many more stories, but these are just a few reflections to share."

Eldon Weber reports that he had his right hip replaced on September 28th. He was in the hospital overnight and was doing well for about a week. Then another health issue hit, and he made a return trip to the hospital for several days. The visits to the hospital and recovery times have interfered with his morning coffee with the "Panera's Coffee Council" that he helped organize after he retired from his post NRCS job with Iowa State University in 2001. Eldon said he was concerned that that group may be causing more problems than they are solving, without him being there! Eldon is also the president of his local Lions Club. He says that with all the time spent resting in bed he has been able to get in some planning time to dream up activities on how to raise funds for Retrieving Freedom, a disabled veteran service dog program.

During the past few months, we have welcomed **Steven Scholtes**, Soil Conservation Technician, from the Decorah Resource Team into our retirement family.

In November, we lost a couple of members of our retirement community. **Dick Mooney** passed away on November 3rd. He was the State Administrative Officer in the State Office for many years. **Fran Koontz** passed away on November 24th. She worked in the State Office in the business section back in the 70s and 80s.

KANSAS

Deanne Lull, ARCSE Representative

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The Kansas retirees wish everyone a joyous holiday season. Weather permitting, **Ron** and I plan to celebrate with our entire family (except one) on Christmas Eve. That means we will have a grand total of nine. Yes, nine! With Ron being the only child, and I have one unmarried brother, our family is very small. We envy those with larger families and the festive celebrations they have.

This fall the travel bug led **Mary Shaffer** on a 12-day tour to Paris and London and a family visit over Thanksgiving. She shares her travel experiences as follow: "I traveled with the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce. We boarded the Amadeus Diamond in Paris. The group sailed on the Seine River to ports in Les Andelys, Le Havre, Rouen, Conflans, and historic Normandy, visiting Omaha Beach and the American Cemetery where 9,000 American troops are laid to rest. We visited Auvers-sur-Oise Excursion-Village of Van Gogh, and the tour guide provided lots of information about the artist. One of my favorite places was Monet's Gardens. Being a flower lover, Monet's gardens were spectacular. In Paris we were bussed through the city, seeing the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame Cathedral, and a walking tour of Montmartre. The tour guide explained that the Paris "City of Lights" is being spruced up for the 2024 Olympics. After Paris, it was on to London via the Eurostar train. I would not have known I was in the Chunnel, except for it being dark. It was a fast, smooth ride. The tour group happened to be in London while demonstrators were protesting the new Prime Minister's signing of the offshore drilling in the North Sea. Londoners were also protesting the death of the Iranian woman who was killed because she didn't wear her hijab correctly. To demonstrate, you must have a permit, and the demonstrations are peaceable. Gun ownership is very difficult in England. In London, because of the demonstrations, the bus driver had trouble maneuvering through our tour route. We were able to see Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, Tower of London, and the London Eye, or the Millennium Wheel, is a cantilevered observation wheel on the South Bank of the River Thames in London. On a private tour I visited Stonehenge outside of London. Cameras are used to monitor your speed on the highways, and speeders will be sent a ticket for speeding! Both France and England have charming villages with very old

stone homes and buildings. Most of them are protected by a historic trust. In the villages we visited, there were no grocery stores, Walmarts, or drug stores. Many houses had small cafes or gift shops. Churches are very prevalent in the countryside. In both France and England, I saw signs about recycling. I asked for a cup of coffee to go on the ship and was told they did not use Styrofoam and all dinnerware was china and metal silverware, no plastic. If you had to-go silverware it was bamboo. The food on the ship was delicious, especially the cheese bar, and wine and beer were provided with dinner.

For Thanksgiving, I went to Dallas for a few days meeting my son **Matthew** and wife **Rita** (they still live in Salina) and family. My grandson **Sam** lives in Dallas. Then on to my daughter **Alison's** in Conroe (Houston) for a few days visiting with her husband, **Leo**, and grandchildren, **Olivia** and **Cruz**. Then to New Braunfels to visit my brother **Mark**. In miles that amounted to 1,700 miles. Always enjoyable to visit the family, just not staying too long!"

During this holiday season the Salina mall sponsored two Christmas concerts. The first one was a Tuba Christmas and the next, A Brass Choir Christmas. Musicians came from Salina and neighboring counties, while others traveled from over 100 miles away to participate. Retiree **John Ourada** played his trombone in the Brass Choir Christmas.

I have learned of two retirements. **Carl D. Jarboe**, Soil Conservation Technician, in the Council Grove Field Office in the Emporia Management Unit, retired October 29th, 2022

Theodore E. Houser retired November 30th, 2022. He served as a Resource Conservationist on the Hays Technical Staff and was headquartered in the Garden City Management Unit in the Tribune Field Office.

Two retirees have passed away. **Thomas Wayne Badger** died on October 25th, 2022. Tom retired in 2001 as the Area Conservationist in the Manhattan Area Office. His wife, **Elaine**, preceded him in death. **Richard G. Jones** passed away on November 6th, 2022. He retired in 1986 as the State Resource Conservationist in the Kansas State Office in Salina, KS. His spouse, **Jean Ann**, survives. I worked with **Richard** early in his career when he was the economist on the Watershed Planning Staff.

MAINE

John Simon, ARCSE Representative

Email: jjhorseshoe39@icloud.com

Our 2nd Tuesday breakfast on Nov 8th had eight retirees: **Dan Baumert, Mary Thompson, Dave Mussulman, Art Taylor, Bruce Champeon, Karen Champeon, Bob Lagassey, and John Simon**. All were in good spirits.

Bob Lagassey finally got his heat-pump installed in his condo and is now learning to run it efficiently. **Dave Mussulman** and his wife are settled in their new home in Hermon. Their Bangor home is sold, thank goodness.

Ellie and Joe Bertolaccini celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary in November! Congratulations to Joe and Ellie! What a Wonderful couple.

Our 2nd Tuesday breakfast on December 13th had 10 Retirees: **Karen and Bruce Champeon, Brian Stewart, Lydia and Dave Mussulman, Art Taylor, Roger Ashe, John Simon, and Patty Wright**.



Truck bed insert on Roger Ashe's truck that eliminates crawling into the back of Roger's truck. Kinda need. Roger says you do not need the cap to keep the rain out.

Dan Baumert brought a large supply of vegetables for all of us from his very large garden. He had some photos of his garden: ~ 75 ft x 100 ft! Thank you, Dan. Yum. The rest of you blessed us with your attendance and good wishes.

May God bless you with peace and comfort during the holidays and in the coming year. Some have lost loved ones in the past year or so and need to cherish the beautiful memories of your years together.

Shalom, John

MID-ATLANTIC STATES

Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC

Ken Carter, ARCSE Representative

Email: duckheadone@gmail.com

Barbara Osgood writes: "Here's a photo for your next newsletter if you want to use it: me with my three rescue Labs who didn't want to be photographed! Rescues #21, 22, and 23."

I think you know I've been rescuing old Labs for 25 years and have written a book about them: 84 Paws: A Life With Old Labs. It's on Amazon. There are even a couple of funny NRCS stories in it."



Barbara Osgood with three of her rescue Labs.

John Peterson wrote: "For some years **Bruce and Julie Knight** have held a lovely Christmas open house at their Fairfax, VA home. The virus made it less often, but this year it was held again. This picture today is of John, Blanche, Julie and Bruce. Other USDA Alums were also there. I saw **Ron and Anne Marlow**, **Gary and Mary Ann Margheim**, and **Stu Shelton**. I should have gotten a picture of all the USDA gang. The Knight's invite neighbors, church friends, and others they know and have worked with. It is always a fun gathering."



John and Blanche Peterson; Julie and Bruce Knight

MISSOURI

Dave Rastorfer, ARCSE Representative

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Jim Sturm: Been busy with the Mercer County Senior Center activities. Got voted this last July as President of the Board of Directors. During the summer months, I enjoyed travelling around on the country roads in the Ranger, some 1,060 miles. Up to Linville, IA for some summer evening ice cream and over in Putnam County to help an old farmer buddy move big round bales. Some days, I haul a Ranger load of steel scraps to a steel recycling guy. Other times, I pull a wagon full of grass clippings to

feed a farm friend's cattle some afternoons. At the moment, the Ranger is parked for the winter. Look forward to March/April for more country travelling.

Dennis Shirk: Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Please put **Terry Hill** on your prayer list. He has cancer and is basically house bound.



Heavy fog turns to ice crystals one morning in December



Border Collie Grace focused on a steer.



Weaning spring calves in November

Dan Switzner: Jim Rehmsmeyer died this last Thursday. I don't have any details. Maybe something in Palmyra news, where they lived. He was a DC in Richmond, MO after moving back here from serving in Washington, DC, I think as a Classification Specialist. Don't quote me on that.

Alton Taylor: Just started my Christmas baking for the Taylor's Christmas (start on the 25th and end on January 7th). My control of typing has not changed. The Alaskan trip is taking shape. I have gained two more great grandsons this year: one in MO and one in VA (hadn't got hands on yet). Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

Jim Rickman: Not much has happened other than it is getting very cold for Texas - single digits tomorrow. We have some land by Quanah, TX that is overrun with feral hogs. Attached is a picture of three hogs that made the mistake of going into a trap. As I write this, these swine are becoming breakfast sausage. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.



Feral Hogs in Texas

Hugh Curry: Forty-five years ago, the Curry family moved to Columbia, MO as the result of a job transfer with SCS (now NRCS). We have stayed, worked, and associated with some wonderful people ever since. Life goes on, prompting new decisions and needs. **Sharon** and I have decided to move to an independent living apartment in Overland Park, KS (about three miles west of the Missouri - Kansas State Line in the Kansas City area. It will be part of a continuing care retirement community known as Tallgrass Creek. One of the big attractions is being located close to our daughter and son-in-law as well as two of our grandchildren and their spouses. Besides, it looks like a nice place to be pampered and live for whatever time we have left.

Our new address will be: 13820 Metcalf Avenue, Apt # 11002, Overland Park, KS 66223. Cell phone numbers (Hugh 573-999-1351 and Sharon 573-449-8562). Hugh's number is the same as present, and Sharon's number is our old land line number we had in Columbia for many years. E-mail addresses also remain the same (hcurry905@gmail.com and scurry905@gmail.com). Present plans are to close on our house sale and move early in February. Stay in touch and know you will always be welcome should you get in the Kansas City Area.

Mike Blaine: Hello to all from Blaine Hill. As I write this on December 23rd, we are having the coldest weather in a long time. I hope the new year brings better temperatures. I am about out of firewood. We keep a fire going in the fireplace insert all the time. We enjoy that extra warmth a lot. We do enjoy this time of year very much. The visits with family, the great holiday food, and the programs and caroling with our church are extra special. And we remember that perfect gift of love that the Father gave by sending Jesus to pay the price for our sin. Merry Christmas and happy new year to all.

MONTANA

Lori Valadez, ARCSE Representative [NEW]

Email: valadez226@gmail.com

Gooby Ranch Report: Merry Christmas

Last year was tough, but it couldn't hold a candle to this year. When the price of gas sky-rocketed, **Mary Ann** could only go to town once every four months to get the food and supplies. After a few months the "best-used-by date" on the food was three months ago. So, when Mary Ann made a meal, she ate part of it and saved the rest. She waited a day to see if it made her sick. If it didn't make her sick, then I got the rest of the meal. I'm always one day behind on my eating. but I never got a belly ache.

Since we were short of water this year, Mary Ann had to make a million trips with the wheelbarrow down to the river to bring back water to do the irrigation. Every few days we took a bath in the wheel barrow before she dumped it. After my bath, the water must have had a lot of good nutrients. Mary Ann said the plants always grew better where she dumped my bath water.

Mary Ann and I went to our High School's "All 50's" Reunion this summer at Sandpoint. Pictures were taken of each class. I got to get my senior year class picture taken four times since it took me four years as a senior to graduate. When I finally graduated, Mary Ann was really proud of me because she no longer had to write my essays.

While I was writing Mary Ann's To-Do list the other day, I added that she needed to shoe the horses so we could head for the hills to look for a big bull elk. Mary Ann did a good job shoeing the horses and copied a picture of a bull elk for me to take along while we were hunting, so I would harvest an elk and not a moose. Every time I thought I saw an elk I got the picture out, but it was never an elk. The whole time we were hunting we saw lots of game, but we never saw an elk. Mary Ann was really happy she didn't have to butcher an elk. **Jeannie** came over, and I showed her the elk picture Mary Ann gave me, and she said "that's not an elk – that's a caribou."

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a great 2023.

NEBRASKA

Norm Kempf, Jim Culver, ARCSE Representatives

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Chairperson, **Jim Culver** opened the meeting of the Lincoln NRCS Retiree Club breakfast at 8:10. Attending were: **Paul Bartlett, Bob Engel, Louie Buller, Moishafa Elrashidi, Jim Culver, Gary Muckel, Keith Sheets, Steve Scheinost, Harold Klaege, Norm Helzer, Dave Camper and Doug Christensen**. The December meeting was canceled due to cold weather.

Donna Dornbusch, our Secretary, was not with us today as she was host for her church group at her home this morning. So **Doug Christenson**, one of the co- Vice-Chairpersons, was willing to take notes for our meeting this morning. Thanks Doug!

Jim reviewed the October meeting minutes as approved. The October meeting featured an excellent overview of the NRCS Watershed program in Nebraska by **Allen Gehring, State Conservation Engineer**; and **Bob Sullivan and Doug Christensen on the watershed staff**. Special appreciation to **Steve Scheinost and Doug Christenson** for contributing recent vacation photos for use in the ARCSE newsletter.

We were very pleased that **Moustafa Elrashidi**, a retired Research Soil Scientist at the National Soil Survey Center here in Lincoln, joined us for breakfast. He shared with us a brief overview of the various places he had worked. Great that he plans to become a regular member of our retirees' group!

The 1994 By-Laws of our retirees' group have been updated! A committee of **Jim Culver, Norm Helzer and Norm Kempf** met in October to review and update our bylaws. The final draft of the by-laws was sent to all members for review prior to our November meeting. A motion was made by **Gary Muckel** to approve the updated By-Laws and seconded by **Steve Scheinost**. There was a call for vote and the By- Laws were unanimously approved and committee members thanked for their work.

Harold Klaege presented news from NARFE. HR 82 was sent to the floor, but no action is expected to be taken. A representative from Blue Cross/Shield will be at the First Lutheran Church this Saturday at 11am to talk about health insurance.

ATTENTION-HELP NEEDED! Would you like your Federal annuities to be tax free on your Nebraska Income Tax? **Harold Klaege** is currently President of the Nebraska NARFE. NARFE in Nebraska would like to amend LB 873-2022 to include Federal Retirees Annuities excluded from being taxed in Nebraska.

NEEDED—Names of Nebraska Senators who would sponsor and support amending LB 873 -2022 to include Federal employees, as well as individuals who receive social security. **Bottom Line**—If you personally know a State Senator or have a friend who has close contact with a State Senator who is willing to help our cause, please call or email Harold so action can begin with the new Nebraska Legislative Session coming up. Harold's phone number is 402-580-8210. Email is hklaege@gmail.com.

We are sad to note that **Joe Calder**, one of our long-time members, passed away October 22nd, 2022 at the age of 87. A large number of SCS/NRCS people attended the Memorial Services for Joe at the Christ United Methodist Church on October 30th, 2022.

Janis Eno passed away on Dec. 2nd, 2022, at the age of 90. She was a long-time technician in the NRCS Soils Laboratory in Lincoln NE. **Dolores Yost** passed away on Nov. 28th, 2022, at the age of 92. She had 43 years of federal service, of which 33 were with NRCS in various clerical positions. **Ruth Ann Boes** passed away on Nov. 19th, 2022, at the age of 74. Ruth worked in the NRCS mail room for over 30 years. **Ray Sinclair** passed away on Dec. 3rd, 2022, at the age of 85. He and his wife, **Colleen** had been married for 63 years. Ray had over 50 years with NRCS as a soil scientist. He held positions in IL, VT, MI, ID, and the National Soil Survey Center in Lincoln, NE

The Foundation for the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Service Society has received 39 applications for Scholarship Awards. Each year the Foundation has been awarding six to eight scholarships in the amount of 1,000 dollars each. Several members of the Foundation met this past fall to develop long range plans to increase funding from various sources to increase contribution funding for the Foundation.

The money thrown in **Harold's** hat last month yielded two coats for children in need. Nice job Harold.

The nominating committee of **Steve Stover, Steve Scheinost and Gus Dornbusch** will present their slate of officers for 2023 at the next meeting. There was some excellent discussion on some options on selection of individual for officers. Two positions need filled. They are Vice-Chairperson and Treasurer.



Norman Kempf and Lou Boller traditionally take their limit of quality fish on their ice fishing ventures.



Nebraska hard core ice fisherman like Lou Boller and Norman Kempf are always eager to get on the ice. A warmer last year resulted in little ice fishing – however this current extreme cold weather will result in good solid ice on lakes such as above where they will enjoy their fishing experiences.



Our Lincoln Retirees Club experienced some challenging times this year. We started of the year with zoom meeting because of COVID and ended the year with a canceled meeting due to extreme cold blizzard winter weather. However in between we had some excellent meetings such as the above one held in June, 2022.



Lou Buller enjoyed another successful deer hunting experience with his son Scott hunting at his longtime favorite place on the Platte River in central Nebraska.

The Nebraska Ag Expo was held on December 6–8, 2022 at the Lancaster Event Center fairgrounds in Lincoln. Expo featured lots of Big Farm Equipment, and many very educational exhibits.

The Closing statement: *Happiness is not in the mere possession of money; it lies in the joy of achievement, and in the thrill of creative effort.* – **Franklin Roosevelt** – President.

Minutes recorded by **Doug Christensen**, Co Vice-Chairperson

Respectfully submitted, **Jim Culver and Norman Kempf**.

OKLAHOMA

Randy Freeland, ARCSE Representative

Email: freelandrandy50@gmail.com

The Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees met at the Golden Corral Buffet Restaurant in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on October 28, 2022. Thirty-three people were in attendance. They were **Laurie Bogle** and her daughter **Krishell Boerngen**, **Larry Caldwell**, **Steve Chessmore**, **Les and Barbara Conner**, **Fred Fortney**, **Dennis and Brenda Fowler**, **Wayne Fjeseth**, **Randy and Bonnie Freeland**, **Harry Fritzler**, **Sandra and Terry Hough**, **Terrell Howard**, **David Hungerford**, **Bill Johnson**, **Nick Lambeth**, **George Moreland** and guest **Betty Gilbert**, **Kevin and Cheri Norton**, **John Pewthers** and guest **Eyvonne Hart**, **Ben Pollard**, **Brent Reavis**, **Dan Runnels**, **J. Kirk Schreiner**, **Jim and Terry Smith**, **Ed Stinchcomb**, and **Darol Wilson**.

President **Steve Chessmore** called the meeting to order. He welcomed everyone, especially several that had never attended before. **Fred Fortney** provided a blessing, and everyone enjoyed the buffet meal.

We were very happy to have several attending for the first time. They included: **Terrell Howard** who retired in 2019 from Arnett; **Brent Reavis** who retired from Holdenville in 2016; **Dennis Fowler** who retired from Chandler in 2021 and **Kirk Schreiner** who retired from Lawton in 2017.

Ed Stinchcomb was cleaning out closets and moving to a new home and found five “brand new” SCS hats. He conducted a drawing, and five lucky winners went away with an SCS “never-before-worn” cap. **Darol Wilson**, **Terrell Howard**, **Brent Reavis**, **George Moreland**, and **Larry Caldwell** were the lucky winners.

Randy currently has 161 members on his SCS/NRCS Retiree's email group.



President Steve Chessmore addressing the group.

After our April Meeting and the Newsletter was sent out, we got a few responses from those not able to join us. Here are a few:
 Hi Randy: I just read the minutes of the last meeting in April. Sounds like a good one. Wish I'd been there! I am currently the secretary for the Friends of the Yale Public Library Association (FYPLA) and stay active with fundraisers and other activities we do for the library. I'm also active with my church. We have one grandson, **Sammy**, who's nine. Also, two grand dogs, Beasley and Frasier, who are much more spoiled than Sammy! I'm in my 8th year of remission from Stage IV Breast Cancer, so am very thankful for this blessing from God! I'm hoping to make it to one of the meetings in the near future. Take care, **Becka Redding**."

And this one from **Carolyn Webb**: "It is wonderful to hear from all these friends through the newsletter. Did another 5K in May. Of course, Bob and I both got medals and ribbons in our age division. Who else 82 and 83 are going to complete! Not completely over the Covid I got in Jan. Although we had all our shots. But I'm better."

Also got a response from **David Buland** about **Ted and Linda Kuntz**. I feel sure Ted would be comfortable with me sharing information about his and Linda's health and their contact information. Here is what **David** had to say: "Hello Randy, thanks for the Oklahoma section article in the last ARCSE newsletter. Attached is Ted Kuntz's updated contact information. He called me last night, after being out of touch for months. In mid-March, Ted had a blood disorder that put him in a nine-day coma and a long hospital stay. It also caused some memory issues, both short-term and long-term. While Ted was in the hospital, they sold the house and cars. Ted is slowly recovering and is trying to get back in touch with friends. Please pass this information along to his friends."

Ted and Linda are currently at

Apt 202, Golden Oaks Apartments, 5505 West 19th Av., Stillwater, OK 74074. ted@thekuntzs.com. Ted's phone number: (919) 323-6274. Linda's phone number: (919) 323-6273.

Forms were passed around for retirees to provide their retirement activities (i.e., volunteer work, travel, part-time work, activities, etc.). This information is used for the National and Oklahoma Retired SCS/NRCS Employees Association newsletters. Here are a few received at this meeting:



Les and Barbara Conner have been assisting the Oklahoma Baptist Convention with disaster relief over the past couple of years. They have assisted with flooding, hurricanes, and tornado damage in multiple states including Louisiana, Missouri, and Florida as well as Oklahoma. They prepare meals as well as clean up. **Les** also assists at the OSU Botanic Garden. **Fred Fortney** serves as Associate District Director of the Payne County Conservation District. His latest challenge is helping **Gayle** with her struggles with breast cancer and the side effects of that treatment. **Lauri Bogle** is traveling and trying to see as many of the National Parks as possible. **J. Kirk Schreiner** owns and operates a large ranch and serves as the Chairman of Tillman County Conservation District. He and his wife, **Carisas**, have one son who is a Senior at Frederick High School. He retired in June 2017 after working 36 years. He was the District Conservationist at Dewey, Sayre, and Lawton Field Offices.

Brent Reavis worked 35 years, spending most of his time at the Holdenville Field Office. He retired as the Zone Resource Specialist at the McAlester Technical Service Office. After retiring, he started teaching agriculture at Holdenville High School for five years, retiring again in May 2021. He now substitute-teaches in area schools. He and his wife "Betty" love to travel with their travel trailer. They have been to Disney World, Alaska, and numerous other destinations. He has also taken up fly fishing and plans to travel the U.S. doing that. They have five grandkids and two more on the way.

Bill Johnson shared that he enjoyed the Friday luncheon meeting. There were only eight people there who he knew from his SCS service, retiring in 1989 and being retired more years than he worked. **Bill** also meant to tell the group how pleased he is that his Grandson, **Bryce**, with a degree in Range Management, has been hired by NRCS at the GS-7 level and reports to Hollis on Nov. 20th.



A few comments were received in response to the email announcing the October 28th, 2022, meeting. **Phil Perryman** was taking his daughter to Oklahoma City for foot surgery. **Carolyn Webb** said they had kids visiting from California but to be sure and tell everyone "Hello." **Fredia and Stan Rice** were sad to miss the meeting but would drown their sorrows with a trip to Utah to see some of the National Parks. **Winnie Jacques** was unable to join us but just recently celebrated her 95th birthday! Due to the loss of a sister, **Don Bartolina** had to miss our meeting this time.

Many retirees have expressed their appreciation for the information presented on the website www.joepad.com. When they are not able to attend the meetings, the website provides pictures, list of attendees, etc. **Joe Freeland**, retired Construction Engineer, has been very gracious to keep the website updated after each meeting.

Secretary-Treasurer **Sandra Hough** read the list of those retiring since April 2022: **Rick Lane**, Planning Engineer, State Office, Stillwater, 6/3/2022 42 years' service; **Gary O'Neill**, State Conservationist, State Office, Stillwater, 9/1/2022, 39+ years' service, 9+ years in Oklahoma; **Robert Toole**, Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program Director, former OCC & NRCS, 8/31/2022, 47 years' service; **Carl Woods**, Soil Scientist, McAlester and Pauls Valley, 9/30/2022; **Steve Barner**, WRP Specialist, Stillwater SO, headquartered in McAlester, 9/23/2022; **Betty Bone**, Love County Conservation District, formerly SCS/District Secretary, 6/2022; **Don Sternitzke**, Water Management Specialist, 5/25/2022.

She also read the list of known retirees who have passed since April 2022: **Pat Hedges**, CET, Chickasha WS, 5/17/2022, 90 years old, retired mid 1980's; **Bill Harney**, SC, Perry, 6/21/2022, 83 years old, worked in Atoka, Cherokee, Enid, Alva, Perry, Medford, Newkirk & Tahlequah, retired in 2004 with 42 years' service; **Bob Sorrels**, Design Engineer, Stillwater SO, died in July 2022, retired May 2001; **Alvie Trissell**, DC, Cherokee, 8/25/2022, 87 years old, 36 years' service; **Gayland Sandy**, Watersheds, Perry, 8/25/2022, 85 years old, 30 years' service; **Bettie Todd**, State Administrative Officer, Stillwater SO, 9/10/2022, 81 years old, retired in 1994 with 33 years' service, worked for six federal agencies; **Roy Cook**, SCT, Buffalo, 9/20/22, 73 years old, retired 11/30/2019 with 12 years' service.

Ben Pollard recently made a presentation to new NRCS employees. There were 70+ employees with three years or less service of the 240 employees in Oklahoma. He provided a two-hour orientation on the history. **Larry Caldwell** provided information on the watershed program in the state.

Ben Pollard serves on the nine-person board of the Oklahoma Conservation Historical Society (OCHS). Three retired NRCS employees are members of the nine-person board: **Joe Freeland**, **Stan Rice**, and **Larry Caldwell**. The oral histories which were gathered can be accessed at: <https://library.okstate.edu/oralhistory/digital/>.

Several conservationists who have provided oral histories are now deceased, emphasizing the need to obtain as many as possible before it is too late. In partnership with the Oklahoma Historical Society, a conservation history photo collection has been established on the Gateway to Oklahoma History website that is managed by the Oklahoma Historical Society. The collection is made up of black and white conservation photos primarily from the 1930s through the 1960s. Photos are being provided by Conservation Districts and NRCS. The photos are digitized and labeled and posted to the website. The original photos are permanently archived at the Oklahoma History Center. To date over 1,200 photos have been digitized. The photos may be accessed at: <http://gateway.okhistory.org/explore/collections/OKCHS>. Another 10,000 photos are being processed, with the goal of having 20,000 photos in the collection by 2023.

In an effort to better promote Oklahoma's conservation history and serve the Society's membership, a website was established. The website can be accessed at: <https://www.oklahomaconservationhistory.org>.

Ben Pollard made available 2023 Membership forms for those interested in becoming members or renewing their memberships. Memberships for 2023 with the Oklahoma Conservation Historical Society are being accepted in the following categories: General (\$25), Family (\$40), Organization (\$50), Sustaining (\$100), Corporate: Bronze (\$500) Silver (\$750) Gold (\$1,000). Checks should be made payable to: OCHS, 3312 Cypress Mill Avenue, Stillwater, OK 74074. The SCS/NRCS Retiree group became members in October 2018 and renewed their membership at the April 2022 meeting.



Secretary Sandra Hough and rest of group

An election of officers for the Oklahoma SCS-NRCS Retired Employees will be held in April 2023. Officers serve a period of two years and will assume their duties in October 2023. **Kirk Schreiner** has agreed to serve as President, and **Ed Stinchcomb** has agreed to serve as Vice-President. **Sandra Hough** will continue to serve as Secretary-Treasurer unless someone would like to assume those duties. She has served in that capacity since 2008.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 28th, 2023, at the Golden Corral on MacArthur Boulevard in Oklahoma City. The Golden Corral opens at 10:30am, so there is extra time for visiting before the meeting starts at 11:30am.

OREGON

Don Stettler, ARCSE Representative

Email: don.stettler@comcast.net

Jim Marron, who at retirement in 2013 was on the staff of the National Water and Climate Center, has now retired from active coaching both the Aloha and Beaverton High Schools' softball teams. He began coaching Little League and USA Softball in 1976. In 1993 he became a team coach for a softball travel team, playing games all over the US and Canada. Jim is the Commissioner for Washington County, Oregon USA Softball. It is the largest travel ball concentration in Oregon and has produced three National Championship teams with over 800 players. And Jim says, "It's still fun."

Louise Davis reports that she and **Del** have moved into their new house. They feel like they have lived there forever, which confirms it was the right decision for them. Keeping them busy is cleaning out their old home. A sale of remaining things will be held in a year or so.

The Pacific Northwest White Christmas came two days too early last December. The weather was back to the gloomy gray and rain on the big day.



Stef Aschmann is looking forward to February when her dragon boat team will be competing in an international dragon boat race on ice in Ottawa, Canada. The boats are on runners and paddles are modified ski poles. She anticipates that it will be very cold but interesting.

TENNESSEE

Allen Crowe, ARCSE Representative

Submitted by **Dana York**

Meeting Notes from 12/15/22, by **Traci Horne**.

On Thursday 12/15/22, we met at the Shoney's in Lebanon for lunch and fellowship. We had 15 in attendance: **James Sims**, **Allen Crowe**, **Debbie Brasfield**, **Darwin Newton**, **Jim Lansford**, **Gary Handley**, **Larry and Connie Hasty**, **James Creasy**, **Bobby Moore**, **Donald Dotson**, **Terry Gupton**, **Naomi Hamilton-Johnson**, **Will Nesby**, **Traci Horne**.

We all paid tribute to the memory of **Vic Simpson**

We also elected some new officers: **James Sims** will be the new President. **Patty Lane** will be the new Treasurer. **Traci Horne** will stay the secretary. Thank you to **Debbie Brasfield** for the job she did as President the past few years.

Kevin Brown turned 70 on Sunday and is babysitting in South Carolina until this Saturday. **Joe Couch** said he hopes to attend a meeting soon. **Patty Lane** has been sick and is unable to attend, wanted to tell everyone "Hello." **Shirley Childs** was unable to attend this meeting but wanted to tell everyone "Hello" also. Debbie shared that **Jeanne Eastham** had to attend a grandma's Christmas show/party and could not attend.

Billy Headden's wife has vision problems, and he was unable to come. **Darwin** shared that **John Jenkins** recently had cataract surgery. **James Creasy** shared that **Jerry Prater** was doing well, but unable to attend. **Ray Curl** had a Dr. appointment today and was unable to attend. He is currently staying at an assisted living facility near his home but is still able to go home and do some woodturning.

Donald shared that he, **Mike Zeman**, and **John Harris** were all pallbearers at **Larry Goff's** funeral. They have maintained contact with his wife, **Beth**. **James Creasy** really enjoys our meetings and is now 66 years old. He went to work for the city of Spencer a few days after retiring. He stated that when one door closes, another door opens.

Gary Handley has now retired from driving a school bus. He killed a 21-point buck in his yard from the back porch on 11/11. He has some really nice pictures to prove it.

Donald Dotson and **Donna** both had COVID at our last meeting in Cookeville, so they didn't come. He talked to **Nancy Harris** recently and enjoyed catching up with her. His granddaughter is about to graduate from Belmont's school of nursing. **Allen Crowe** still loves working on and maintaining cars. On his newest vehicle (20-year-old Lincoln), he has run into some of the computer chips and circuit board parts and the difficulty of finding and replacing them.

Bobby Moore is still working part time at a surveying company. His 22-year-old grandson is also working there until he graduates. He and **Brenda** have been married 60 years. She has some health issues and was unable to attend. He still maintains about a dozen family farms. He is expecting a new great grandson in February.

James Sims just spent a week dog sitting for his daughter while she and her husband were cruising. Had to set up his new computer for NRCS/ACES and spent a week doing that and transferring data. Working on Mary's Creek, McNairy Cypress, and Waverly's flooding issues where they just got \$1,000,000 and are working with the Corps of Engineers for a new plan. Still working on Spencer water supply, Oneida, and Jamestown cities and is involved with pumps, dams, and studies.

Traci Horne recently returned from Panama City Beach where she celebrated Thanksgiving with her parents, brother, aunt, uncle, and cousin. Just had cataract surgeries on both eyes and no longer needs glasses or contacts. Plans to start working with NRCS in January in the ACES program.

Darwin Newton retired in 2004. He and **Martha Lynn** have travelled to all 50 states and about half of the national parks. He has been to the Caribbean, Europe, China and has several more trips planned. He and **John Jenkins** have a consulting company and stay very busy. He has worked at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green for 13½ years. Has seven grandchildren now.

Larry Hasty has had several Dr. appointments and has also had cataract surgery but still needs glasses. He has a grandson and wife who are fostering a lot of kids for DCS. DCS is in desperate need and call him regularly for help. Stays busy doing volunteer work and is busy at church.

Jim Lansford is holding his own. He does have issues with vision loss and balance. He thanked **Terry Gupton** for driving him to the meeting. He is blessed with a good support system. **Terry Gupton** retired in 2004, does a lot of volunteer work. He works with the Board and at Roane State Community College. He is healthy and enjoys working with his cattle and grazing lands.

Will Nesby gets up early and calls his lady friend, **Jean** in Memphis each day. Has five kids, nine grandkids, and four great grandkids. He has a good time, life is good. He also has a brother in Memphis, too. **Naomi Hamilton-Johnson** is doing well, but still has some health issues that have not changed. She has had a sciatic nerve problem and has been doing therapy to help with that. She is going to Celina to celebrate Christmas with her family.

Debbie Brasfield does volunteer work. She still works with ACES and does a lot of babysitting for her granddaughters.

Our next meeting will be on the 3rd Thursday in March, 2023. Mark your calendars for 3/16/2023. It will be held in the middle Tennessee area, most likely at the Hermitage House Smorgasbord.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

–Traci Horne

TEXAS NORTH

Mike Bogard, ARCSE Representative

Email: bogard61@centurylink.net

Arnold King wrote: "Willeene and I recently enjoyed a trans-Atlantic cruise disembarking from the coast near London in the UK. We spent three days in London visiting some fantastic museums and actually seeing the mummy/sarcophagus of Cleopatra. We left London and on the way to the ship we visited Stonehenge. Various ports in Spain, Portugal, and the Canary Islands were visited and enjoyed. A region of Spain called Galatia is where the apostle James did his ministry and where his remains are contained in a huge cathedral. It is a long, but interesting story based on legends passed down through time."



Ed Schwille wrote:

Yesterday the fifteenth, **Ruth, Kris** and I met with **Dr. Okani** (chemo doc.) as a follow-up to my third round of chemo. We came away with a bleak outlook on my health. Here is what told to us. My lung cancer is considered in the 4th stage. We will schedule a PET scan Jan. 4th to see if the chemo at a reduced rate of 50% is having any success reducing the cancer cells. We will begin the 4th round of chemo on December 27th for only four days because of holidays. I plan to continue the chemo for the 4th, 5th, and 6th round. I do not feel bad. Blood count is good both red and white. I am weak but I can continue to do whatever I wish, such as cultivate the garden or visit the neighbors. Here is the kicker, I cannot drive – period. **Kris, Alvin, Marty B.** or the neighbors will change off taking me wherever I want to go. My plans are to make the rounds to visit most of those close by.

I can drive the side by side, new Cub Cadet, and the outboard (sic) no water in the lake. Ruth and I want wish each and every one a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Bye for now.

WEST VIRGINIA

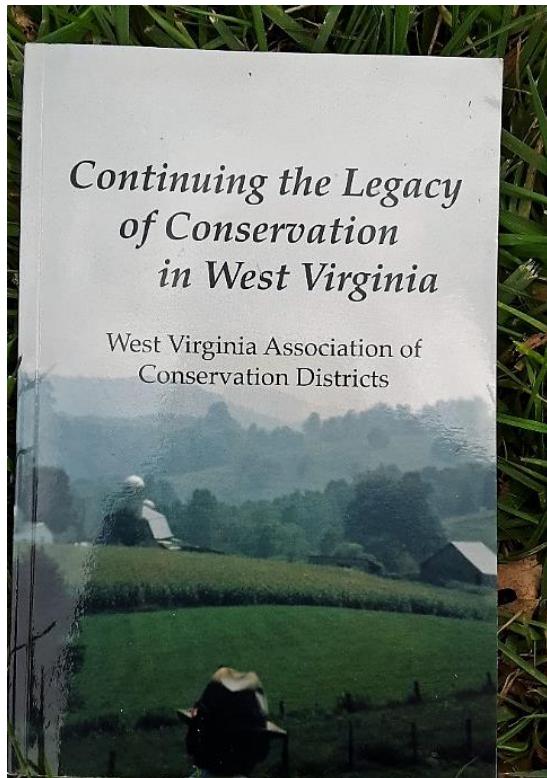
Peg Reese, ARCSE Representative

Email: pegreesewv@gmail.com

Larry Greynolds retired February 2nd, 2020 and traded his job with NRCS for a position on the Elk Conservation District board as an Associate Supervisor. Since then, he was elected to the Elk CD board and now serves as the Sec./Treasurer. He represents Elk CD on the Nicholas County Farmland Protection Board, WV Association of RC&D Councils, and as Vice-chair of the WV Envirothon. Larry is also the first President of the newly formed WVACD Foundation, which was created to allow the WVACD to accept donations. These donations will be used for scholarships. It is obvious that Larry is well regarded by his peers.



At the annual WVACD Auxiliary auction, John Pitsanbarger (Elk CD President) and Danny Lutz (Eastern Panhandle Conservation District) helped Larry celebrate his anniversary (and raise money for scholarships) by bidding on a gift basket, ornament, and two rubber chickens which they took great delight in bestowing on Larry to take home to his wife.



The WV Association of Conservation Districts published a sequel to *Footsteps on the Land, Reflections on the Water*, titled *Continuing the Legacy of Conservation in West Virginia*. It was compiled by Joe Gumm and Shirley Hyre.

Other NRCS retirees who are conservation district supervisors are: **Bill Harris**, Vice-Chair for the Southern Conservation District; **Jim Michael**, Vice-chair for the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District; and **Sam Sheets**, Little Kanawha Conservation District.

Christmas came early to **Becky Strogen** when her daughter **Meghan** gave birth to a second daughter.

WISCONSIN

Deb Legear, ARCSE Representative

Email: deb.legear@gmail.com

Judy Derricks from Osseo wrote:

Next time you find yourself traveling up or down interstate 90 or crossing Wisconsin on Hwy 10 make Osseo, WI a destination. While eating lunch and PIE at the Norske Nook look across the street, you will find a unique gift shop. Sod roof, round hobbit doors, complete with lake frontage. Make this a destination.

Inside the Gingham Goat you will find unique gifts. Rosemaling, jewelry, collectibles, wool mittens, quilting, and aprons barely touch the list of items available. The Gingham Goat Gift Shop features eight retired **NRCS** crafters. Check it out, and you may receive an appreciation gift from the owner herself.

Judy Derricks has been an entrepreneur for many years. Now that she is free to grow her business, the sky is the limit. Come see the gardens filled with what other than native forbs. Dreams do come true. Don't wait too long to make them happen.



Gingham Goat, Osseo WI

Julie MacSwain from River Falls wrote:

It's hard to believe it has been 1½ years since I retired from USDA-NRCS. Since retirement, I have taken on the role of ARCSE President-Elect, Earth Team volunteer, and am serving as the House Mother for Alpha Gamma Rho-Alpha Psi Chapter in River Falls, WI. I must say serving as a House Mom for over 40 college men has been quite the adventure.

Giving back in retirement means a great deal to me. The role of House Mother provides me with a great Avenue to influence you adults.

Looking forward to 2023!



Julie Mac Swain



Alpha Gamma Rho-Alpha Psi Chapter, River Falls, WI

Scott and Kirsten Mueller from Madison wrote:

We built a garage!



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

Leland Hardy

(reposted with additional information)

Senior Conservationist **Leland “Lee” Hardy** was born and raised in LaGrande, Oregon. Lee graduated from Oregon State College (now Oregon State University) with a BS Degree in Agricultural Engineering. SCS employment consisted of four Oregon Field Engineer Positions, Oregon Area Engineer, Oregon State Planning Engineer, Arizona State Irrigation Engineer, and a 25-State NTC Irrigation Engineer position in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Upon NRCS retirement in 1995, H & R Engineering, Inc. was formed with **Elwin Ross** (WNTC Irrigation Engineer, retired) to provide on-farm and ranch engineering. **Bruce Wilson** (Oregon Agricultural Engineer, retired) was added in 2007. Retired SCS/NRCS engineers, geologists, agronomists, and a soil scientist have been used to provide other discipline inputs.

Honors Received

- 1960 to 1995 Multiple SCS/NRCS awards.
- 1993 National Irrigation Association “Person of the Year” award.
- 2006 Pacific Northwest Section American Society of Agriculture and Biological Engineers (ASABE) “Engineer of the Year” award.
- 2008 Oregon Association of Conservation Districts “Associate Director of the Year”.
- 2020 Oregon State University “Diamond Pioneer Agricultural Career Achievement Registry” (for life-long, career contributions to Oregon Agriculture).

Special Experience, Publications, Volunteer Activities, etc.

- 1967 Oregon Professional Engineers License, 1974 Oregon Professional Land Surveyor License and Oregon Certified Water Right Examiner License.
- 1979 Authored first draft of the “SCS Oregon Agricultural Waste Management Field Handbook.”
- 1980 Coauthored Interagency proposed “Oregon Waste Management Program – Operation and Control.” (The proposed OWM Program was approved by Oregon Legislature in 1980).
- 1982+ Authored and presented numerous “White Papers” at American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE), American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE), American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and Irrigation Association National meetings.

- 1988 Authored Arizona SCS field pamphlet, “Estimating Soil Moisture by Feel and Appearance.” The field pamphlet was approved for National NRCS distribution including being reformatted into Spanish in about 2000.
- 1993 Contribution, review of materials and edited SCS National Engineering Handbook Part 623 “Irrigation Water Requirements” Handbook.
- 1994 Managed Funds, Coordinated with University of Arizona staff, contributed material and edited two 30-minute PBS Quality, SCS funded, Educational Videos “How Water Moves Through Soil” and “How Chemicals Move through Soil.”
- 1995 Co-authored with Elwin Ross NRCS “National Irrigation Guide, NEH Part 652.” Coordinated intra-agency review and resolved suggestions.
- 1995 to present Co-owner and Senior Engineer “H & R Engineering, LLC. (Formerly H & R Engineering Inc).
- 1996 Coauthored American Society of Civil Engineers, “Selection of Farm Irrigation Methods” Manual.
- 1997 Contribution and review of materials for USDI Bureau of Reclamation, USDA Agriculture Research Service and USDA National Resource Conservation Service “Water Measurement Manual.”
- 1995 to present Marion Soil and Water Conservation District Associate Director and Professional Engineer Volunteer.

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.

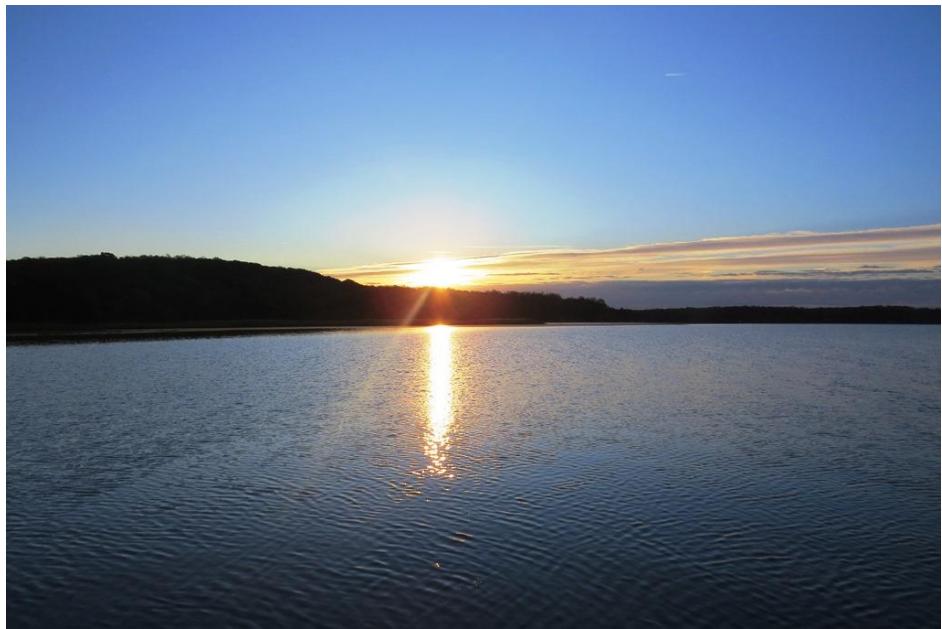
Surname	Year	<i>In-Memoriam</i> (Note: These are recent notices. For a complete list, please see www.arcse.org)
Badger	2022	ARCSE Life Member Thomas Wayne Badger (79) of Topeka, Kansas, passed away October 25, 2022, at the Stormont-Vail Hospital in Topeka. He was born on August 31, 1943, in Scranton, Kansas, the son of Glen and Minetta (Finlay) Badger . On June 5, 1965, Tom was united in marriage to Laura Elaine Smith in Scranton. Tom received a bachelor's degree from Kansas State University in Agricultural Education. He worked as an Area Conservationist for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and retired with over 35 years of service. He had also worked on the Governor's Water Quality Project. He served for 6 years in the Kansas Army National Guard, was a member of the Stull Community of Faith Church, the Topeka Sunflower Lions Club and the Vesper Lodge #136 in Burlingame A.F. & A.M. Tom was preceded in death by his wife, Elaine, on October 23, 2020; by an infant daughter, Tracy Badger . Tom is survived by his two children, Todd Badger of Stuart, Florida and Tara Phillips of Sedgwick, Kansas; eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. A Celebration of Life for Tom will be held on March 18, 2023 at 11:00am at the Stull Community of Faith Church. Inurnment will be in the Burlingame Cemetery at a later date. Memorial contributions in memory of Tom may be made to the Kansas Lions Sight Foundation or the Stull Community of Faith Church, sent in care of Feltner Funeral Home, 818 Topeka Avenue, Lyndon, KS 66451. Online condolences for the family may be left at feltnerfuneralhome.com .
Barge	2022	Kenneth “Ken” Frank Barge (63) of Salinas, California, passed away October 25, 2022, in an automobile accident. Ken was the husband of Kay Joy Barge , who recently retired as Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations in Salinas for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. On November 13, 2004, Ken married Kay Joy , who he met while serving on jury duty together. Ken worked most of his career in the Building Materials industry. He had a passion for traveling, adventure, food, beer and wine, music, bargain hunting and much more. In 2010 he graduated with an Associates of Art in Culinary Arts Hospitality Management at American River College in Sacramento. In addition to his wife Kay Joy , Ken's survivors include daughter Michelle Gray (Thomas Wallace) ; son, David Barge , stepson Korey Kirschenmann (Carroll) ; grandchildren Seth Sharer ; Jaxon Epling ; Ivy Wallace ; Hilzarie Velazquez ; Kate and Knox Kirschenmann .
Beyer	2022	David Hugo Beyer (75) of Stephenville, Texas, passed away on November 19, 2022. David was born on October 29, 1947, to Hugo and Lydia Beyer in Taylor, Texas. He attended Texas A&M University where he received a degree in agricultural engineering. He worked as an engineer for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service for 42 years. He married Reta Holley in 1969. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Reta ; sons Jason Beyer (Wynona) , and Wayne Beyer (Brandy) and granddaughters Ainsley and Bethany .
Boese	2022	Ruth Ann Boese (74) of Lincoln, Nebraska (formerly of Ashland, Nebraska), passed away peacefully at Bryan Hospital after a courageous battle with colon cancer, on November 19, 2022, surrounded by her loving family. She was born on July 8, 1948, in Nebraska City, Nebraska, to Kenneth and Esther (Steinhoff) Wessel of Avoca, Nebraska. Ruth attended Nebraska School for the Deaf in Omaha and was in the graduating class of 1967. She worked for USDA-National Resources Conservation Service for over 30 years and also worked for Mahoney State Park for over 20 years. Ruth enjoyed sewing, crafts, teddy bears, her dogs and Husker volleyball. She also loved playing games, especially Tripoly, Carbles, UNO and Skipbo. Her children remember many Saturday nights filled with poker and pitch with the deaf community. Ruth also loved bowling and she continued to play with her grandchildren. Ruth is survived by her children: Diane (Kevin) Klein of Lincoln, Nebraska; Michael (Angela) Boese of Noblesville, Indiana; Debra (Lloyd) Weyers of Lincoln, Nebraska; 9 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to the Omaha Association for the Deaf, Avoca Cemetery Association, or Capital Humane Society.
Calder	2022	ARCSE Member Joseph “Joe” F. Calder (87) of Lincoln, Nebraska, passed away on October 22, 2022. He was born on a farm near Hardy, Nebraska, to Joseph J. and Tena (Jensby) Calder on June 13, 1935. Joe worked for many years

		as a Civil Engineer for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, working on projects in Arizona, Montana, and Nebraska. He enjoyed many hobbies including golfing, being outdoors, traveling, being a Husker fan; most importantly he enjoyed time spent with family, especially participating in his grandchildren's many activities. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Florence "Flo" Calder ; sons Randy (Barbi) of Lincoln and Tim (Becky) of Cincinnati, Ohio; 4 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild with another on the way in April, 2023. Services were held October 30, 2022, at Christ United Methodist Church in Lincoln (10) with Rev. Dr. Richard O. Randolph officiating. Memorials may be given to the Teammates Mentoring Program, 6801 'O' Street, Lincoln, NE 68510.
Dean	2022	ARCSE Member James "Jimmy" Elijah Dean (73) of Athens, Georgia passed away September 5, 2022. He was the son of the late George and Eloise Dean . Jimmy grew up in Ashburn, Georgia. He was a graduate of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and the University of Georgia. Jimmy worked for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, starting as a Soil Conservationist, and retiring as the State Agronomist for Georgia in 2005. He lived most of his adult life in Athens. Jimmy loved time spent with family. He enjoyed golf, gardening, and camping trips. Jimmy loved his faith and studying His word. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Lori , and their sons: Jason (Megan) , Justin (Lesley) , and Eric (Gabrielle) . A celebration of life service was held September 9 at Lord & Stephens, East. Donations in Jimmy's honor may be made to Shepherd Center for Brain and Spinal Cord Injury www.shepherd.org .
Eno	2022	Janis Aileen (Trabert) Eno (90) of Plattsmouth, Nebraska (formerly of Lincoln, Nebraska), peacefully passed away on December 2, 2022, at The Nebraska Masonic Home in Plattsmouth. She was born on September 4, 1932 to Neil Sterling Trabert Sr. and Aileen Dak (Wright) Trabert in Hastings, Nebraska. She attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln for two years before marrying Gene Leroy Eno on August 23, 1952, at First Presbyterian Church in Lincoln. Janis and Gene made their home and raised their seven children in Lincoln. She worked as a Cartographer for the Nebraska Department of Roads, where she made county and state maps. Then Janis worked as a Lab Technician for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in Lincoln until she retired in 1995. Janis was a longtime member of First Presbyterian Church in Lincoln. She was active in the music program, women's circles, sewing group, and she was an Elder/Deacon. Janis also played the organ for the Lincoln Latvian Church for several years. She is survived by her five children: Sally (Billie) L. Plants, John W. Eno, Karen A. Meyer, Tom L. Eno, and Todd A. Eno , nine grandchildren, three great grandchildren, and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Janis was preceded in death by her husband: Gene L. Eno , her son: Michael Lee Eno , and her daughter: Rhonda Kay Eno .
Hedlund	2022	Lifetime ARCSE Member John Douglas "JD" Hedlund , (86) of Aloha, Oregon passed away July 16, 2022. JD was born on February 9, 1936, to Philip and Agnes Hedlund of Frederic, Wisconsin. He grew up on the family farm. He attended the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, then went to the University of Arizona where he received his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Engineering in 1958. JD moved to Massachusetts where he earned his Master of Science degree in Agriculture in 1960. He accepted a position to work for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in 1960 where he worked until his retirement in 1994. His career began in Nevada, then to Colorado, and ended in Oregon where he was a Water Quality Specialist at the National Technology Center in Portland. Massachusetts is where he met his future wife, Brenda Carol Macomber , the mother of his seven children. Four children were born in Nevada, two children were born in Colorado, with child number seven born in Oregon. In 1984, JD became a widower after Brenda's sudden death, leaving him to raise his children alone with his youngest only six years old. A task he embraced wholeheartedly and with determination. JD made a yearly trip to Wisconsin to visit his mother and his sisters and their families. It was on one of those trips he met and married his second wife, Sandra "Sandy" Kaye Meyer . They married in October 2001. They spent half the year in Oregon and half in Arizona. He enjoyed her companionship and took many trips, played a lot of card games together over the next 20 years. Survivors include his second wife, Sandy Hedlund; his children, Karl (Natasha), Kirk, Kathi Raymond (Don), Keith (Angie), and Kelli Cromwell (Chad) ; grandchildren, Kelsie (Brandon), Kohl, Blake, Taylor, and Peyton ; one great-granddaughter, Tessa ; his stepchildren, Sara and Melissa ; and step-grandchildren, Katy, Danny Jr., Austin and Sydney .
Jones	2022	Former ARCSE Member Richard G. Jones (91) of Salina, Kansas, passed away November 6, 2022. Richard was born December 16, 1930, in Pawnee City, Nebraska to Mildred and Glenn Jones . He was a veteran of the United States Navy, serving 4 years. He graduated from Kansas State University in 1959, worked over 30 years for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, retiring in 1986. He spent 20 years serving as the Executive Director of Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD). Richard was an avid golfer and an enthusiastic fan of Kansas State University. He is survived by his wife Jean Ann , 3 children, Lynn Droege, Jeff Jones and Nancy Chapman , 4 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.
Kaul	2022	ARCSE Life Member Kenneth Dale Kaul (82) of Spokane, Washington, passed away November 24, 2022, after a brave battle against cancer and several months of declining health, Ken died peacefully with his beloved wife, Tina , and family by his side. Ken was born in Malta, Montana, on November 14, 1940, to Fred Harold Kaul and Albertina Cathryn (VandeWiele) Kaul . His work ethic inspired him to enlist in the Army National Guard directly after high school where he trained in California and served in Montana. He was honorably discharged in 1966 after serving his country for 8 years. Ken returned to Montana to attend the University of Montana where he graduated in 1964 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forest Conservation. He went on to devote his life's work to the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service where he proudly worked for over 40 years in Montana, Minnesota, Oregon, Florida, and then finally back to Bozeman, Montana, to complete his career. Ken retired in 2001. In retirement Ken was the ARCSE State Representative for Washington. He was also active in the Spokane NARFE - National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association. Ken was an avid hunter and fisherman, taking pride in teaching his sons how to appreciate the outdoors. A well-earned retirement brought Ken and Tina to Spokane, Washington. Ken kept his faith and devotion to the Catholic church, enjoying pilgrimages around the world, including a special trip to the Holy Land in 2015. Ken is survived by his devoted wife, Tina Kaul , and their four sons Grant (Corina) Kaul of Waco, Texas, Travis (Kim) Kaul of Sandpoint, Idaho, Konrad (Kandy) Kaul of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and Stuart (Allie) Kaul of Charlotte, North Carolina; 10 grandchildren: Ashley, Austen, Christiana, Cameron, Katherine, Andrew, Kolin, Kaden, Celia, and Daniel ; and two great-grandchildren, Willow and Mateo .
King	2022	Todd Bryan King (54) of Granbury, Texas, passed away on December 1, 2022, in Fort Worth, Texas with his family at his side. Todd was the son of ARCSE President Arnold King and his wife Willeene King . Todd was born on March 11, 1968, in Hereford, Texas. Following his parents from Hereford to Silverton, Dalhart, and Gainesville, the family moved to

		<p>Colorado, and on to Fairfax, Virginia. It was in Virginia that Todd became a dedicated Boy Scout learning to love his country, nature, animals, and the outdoors. The King Family moved back to Texas where Todd graduated from Southwest High School in 1986. He began rodeoing in high school and his passion for that sport followed him throughout his life. Todd joined the United States Navy in 1991 and served as a certified anti-submarine warfare technician which took him all over the world during Desert Storm. Todd graduated from Sul Ross State University in 1994 with a Bachelor's in Animal Science. In addition to his parents Arnold and Willeene King, Todd's survivors include children, Gage Anderson King, Gillian Alice King, Greyson Bailey King, and Georgia Avery King; sister-Tamra King, and the mother of his Children Holly Hartford-King. Todd was preceded in death by infant daughter Kelsey Morgan King. Memorials in Todd's memory may be donated to: Wounded Warrior Project, PO Box 758516, Topeka, Kansas, www.support.woundedwarriorproject.org or Tunnel to Towers Foundation, 2361 Hylan Blvd. Staten Island, NY 10306 www.t2t.org/donate.</p>
Koontz	2022	Frances Elaine (McKeever) Koontz (88) of Johnston, Iowa, passed away peacefully on November 24, 2022. She was born September 22, 1934, in Des Moines, Iowa. Fran worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in the Iowa State Office in the business section in the 1970s and 1980s. She was a dedicated activist for the Des Moines community for decades. Fran was a planning and zoning commissioner, was founder and president of ACCENT, an Eastside neighborhood association, along with many other civic duties. She was honored to receive the Woman of Achievement Award. Her greatest blessing was her family and she shared 61 years of marriage with the love of her life, Raymond , who was always by her side. Fran is survived by her 3 children, 4 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband.
LaMar	2022	Otho Wallace LaMar (87) of Marlow, Oklahoma, passed away on November 22, 2022, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Otho was born on November 12, 1935, in Cyril, Oklahoma to William Roy and Sarah Melinda (Wright) LaMar . He earned a degree in agronomy from Oklahoma State University, formerly known as Oklahoma A&M. Otho married his loving wife, Emma Marie Allison , in 1957 in Anadarko. She preceded him in death in May of 2006. Otho was a man of knowledge and many achievements, a man that loved his land, farming and serving his country proudly in the United States Army Reserves for more than 30 years. He worked over 30 years with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service where he was a soil scientist and retired as a District Conservationist. He was passionate about his registered black angus cattle operation and his dog, Elizabeth. Otho served on different boards and committees throughout Stephens County, one being the Stephens County District #5 Rural Water Board, as well as supporting many local and state agriculture programs. Otho's survivors include his son, Carl Oran LaMar (Maria) of Bray, Oklahoma; and granddaughter, Sarah Elena LaMar of Oklahoma City.
Lovelace	2022	Blake E. Lovelace, Jr. (90) of Gatesville, Texas, passed away November 22, 2022, at his home. Blake was born to Blake and Alice Lovelace on November 21, 1932, in the Ireland community of Hamilton County, Texas. He attended Texas A&M University, graduating with honors in 1954. He was a member of the Corps of Cadets, the swim team, and Alpha Zeta. He married his co-pilot in life, Dorothy M. Harrell of Jonesboro, Texas, on July 17, 1954. He worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service and retired after 30 years of service with numerous awards and promotions, retiring as Area Conservationist in Mt. Pleasant, Texas, in 1989. Blake was the official weather recorder of daily rainfall, temperatures, snow, and barometric pressure in Gaines County. He was also selected through the USDA to study and monitor radiation during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1960. Blake's survivors include his wife of 68 years, Dorothy Lovelace ; three children, Stanley Blake (Carianne) Lovelace , Judy A. (Jon) Brown , and Julie D. Lovelace ; four grandchildren, Michael Blake Brown , Emily Williams , Barron Lovelace , Lynley Lovelace , and Courtney Stucky ; and four great grandchildren, Sully , Everett Blake , Lelan and Jack .
Lum	2022	Life and Honorary ARCSE Member Francis Chan Hing Lum (93) of Honolulu, Hawaii, passed away October 4, 2022. He worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. Among the positions he held was State Conservationist in California, and Assistant Chief. Among his survivors is his wife, Bertha Lum. <i>Editor's note: The family indicated that Francis did not want a published obituary, so this is brief.</i>
McCool	2022	Resource Conservationist Seth Gene McCool (40) of Mountain View, Oklahoma passed away unexpectedly on December 12, 2022. Seth was an employee of the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Lawton, Oklahoma. He grew up near Chickasha, Oklahoma on a small family farm raising wheat and alfalfa. He started his own custom harvesting business, McCool Custom Cutting, better known to some as 2Dam McCool Harvesting. After high school he spent a year living his dream of working on a cattle ranch in Wyoming. After returning home he joined the United States Air Force where he served as a firefighter traveling the world serving his country. The Air Force was a huge piece of his heart and he had so much pride for his service. But farming was his passion. While stationed in Florida he baled hay on his days off, staying close to his farming roots. In South Korea, he chased the local rice farmers around on his bicycle watching and learning cultural farming habits. Seth served active duty for six years, before settling down and working on a large ranch near Wichita, Kansas. Seth used his GI Bill to pursue his degree attaining an associate degree from Northern Oklahoma College in 2015, then a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Science in 2018 from Cameron University. Seth spent two years in Iraq working as civilian firefighter for KBR, Inc. He loved his many international friends and kept in close contact. In 2017 he attained his goal of a position with the NRCS. From his first position in Fairview, then to Lawton, Hobart, and back to Lawton his profession of helping farmers and taking care of the land is what he was meant to do in life. Seth loved being on horseback. He loved nature, caring for the land and working the way of life he knew best. Seth met the love of his life Laci Mace in 2016, they were united in marriage on December 1, 2018, on the porch of their home in Mountain View, Oklahoma. To this union was born one daughter, Macee LaVee in 2019. Seth settled down and bought a piece of property investing in his family legacy for his daughter. He raised sheep and ran horses, practicing conservation efforts he so believed in. The 80 acres was another one of his dreams come true. He leaves this legacy to his daughter Macee who will be raised to know the history he so loved. Seth was involved in his local volunteer fire departments, numerous organizations and trainings with the USDA, and the Big Pasture Burn Association. Survivors include his wife Laci McCool and daughter Macee LaVee McCool , Mother Regina McCool , of Mountain View, Oklahoma, sister: Cassara McCool Reyes , of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
Messenger	2022	District Conservationist Alan Ray Messenger (63) of Guymon, Oklahoma, passed away November 30, 2022, at his residence surrounded by his family. Alan was born November 17, 1959, to Keith and Virginia (Lawrence) Messenger . He attended Fort Hays State University, graduating in 1982 with a degree in Ag Business. Throughout college and after,

		<p>he worked at the Mumma Feed Yard in Dighton, Kansas before starting his lifetime career at the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). On November 7, 1992, Alan was united in marriage to Shurma Rae (Milburn) in Rolla, Kansas. They resided in Hugoton for eight years before they moved their family to Guymon in the Fall of 2000. He was a member and Elder of the First Christian Church in Guymon, always ready to lend a hand to keep the church looking its best. In addition to his service to the church, he assisted with the local Boys Scout troop his son is a member of. Alan liked to stay busy, working on his garden, helping with harvest, woodworking, and acting as an unofficial handyman at home and at church. Survivors include his mother Virginia Messenger of Dighton, Kansas, his wife Shurma of the home, one daughter: Audra Messenger of Guymon, three sons: Garrett Messenger of Hooker, Oklahoma, Russ Messenger of Stillwater, Oklahoma, and Wyatt Messenger of Guymon</p>
Miller	2022	<p>James D. Miller, Jr. (96) of Owenton, Kentucky, passed away peacefully on December 22, 2022. Jim was born on May 1, 1926, in South Irvine, Kentucky to his parents, James and Dina Miller. Soon after high school graduation, Jim enlisted in the United States Navy, joining his only sibling, Birchell, in the Pacific Theater. He served on the U.S.S. Sappho as a Higgins boat coxswain. Upon returning to Kentucky, he attended his beloved Berea College and was a pitcher on the baseball team. As a 1950 Berea graduate, Jim moved to Lawrenceburg, Kentucky, where he met his future wife of 66 years, Aileen Moffett. Jim's career with the USDA-Soil Conservationist spanned 35 years, serving the farmers of Owen, Grant, Nelson, and Lincoln Counties as District Conservationist. After retirement, Jim continued his volunteer work. Owenton First Baptist Church named him Deacon Emeritus for decades of faithful service. He was well known for his bountiful garden from which he delivered vegetables to so many friends. Jim was a Big Band music enthusiast, a public library supporter, a Louisville Cardinals fan, and a devoted grandfather. His wife Aileen preceded him in death in 2018. He is survived by his son Steve (Pat) Miller, of Louisville, Kentucky, and his grandsons, Blake and Clarke.</p>
Mooney	2022	<p>Richard "Dick" Mooney (78) of Urbandale, Iowa, passed away November 3, 2022. Dick was born to John and Florence Mooney in Omaha, Nebraska, on Nov. 9, 1943. In 1965 he graduated from the University of Northern Iowa, where he met his wife Helen to whom he was married for 55 years. For 31 years Dick worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, becoming State Administrative Officer, where he made some lifelong friends. He was a faithful Iowa Hawkeye fan through good and bad years. An avid reader, he especially enjoyed reading mystery novels. A man of great wit and humor, he loved to laugh and make others laugh. He is survived by his wife Helen, son Christopher, sister-in-law Mary Meyer (Tom Dullard) and many nieces and nephews and friends. Donations may be made in his memory to the Multiple Sclerosis Society.</p>
Plunkett	2022	<p>ARCSE Member Michael Keith Plunkett (72) of Powell, Ohio, passed away on October 29, 2022. Michael was born March 13, 1950, the son of John and Audrey (Davis) Plunkett. Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, Mike came to Columbus to attend The Ohio State University. While there studying Agriculture, he met his wife, Janet Seibert. Although Mike spent some of his career in computer technology, he was a dedicated soil scientist who never tired of telling his kids what kind of rock formation they were driving past or pondering the composition of the soil of the fields they were passing on long car trips. He worked for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Ohio, first as a soil scientist and finishing his career as an Assistant State Conservationist, retiring in 2015. Mike fought against a chronic illness for many years. In recent years, Mike signed up for numerous medical trials. The trials were exhausting, but he continued because he wanted to find solutions for those who would come after him. He devoted himself to doing whatever he could to protect his family and others like him. During better times, he travelled the world with his beloved wife, cruising to Norway, Spain, and New Zealand. When home, he returned to serving the causes of his youth as editor of the Ohio Pedologists newsletter and as a member of the Parsons Avenue Wellfield Protection Board, as well as being a doting grandpa. He fought an admirable fight, and he will be missed dearly. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Janet (Seibert) Plunkett; children Christopher Plunkett and Amanda (Walker) Hardy; granddaughters, and Genevieve and Grace Hardy. Donations in Michael's name may be made to St. Michael St. Vincent de Paul Society or the Scholarship fund that the Association of Ohio Pedologists has established at https://mediamagnet.osu.edu/items/13061.</p>
Reckendorf	2022	<p>Elisabeth "Elisa" Reckendorf (86) of Salem, Oregon, passed away November 12, 2022. Elisa was the wife Senior Conservationist and Life ARCSE member Frank F. Reckendorf. Frank was a Sedimentation Geologist (geomorphologist) for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service at the West National Technical Center in Portland, Oregon, retiring in 1994. Elisa was born on January 4, 1936, in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Her dad, George Theodor Steidel, worked with the Navy, so she moved around a lot during her youth, attending four different high schools. She and Frank met in 1956 at the wedding of one of Frank's former girlfriends! Three years later, in 1959, they were married in Waukegan, Illinois. Shortly thereafter, they moved to Ames, Iowa, where Frank enrolled in the Department of Geology. Elisa found employment as a high school teacher. Elisa and Frank moved to Corvallis, Oregon in 1963. Elisa enrolled in Home Economics at Oregon College of Education to work on her Master's Degree, while Frank enrolled in the Soils Department to work on a PhD. She later taught Home Management and Personal Finance at Oregon State University, Portland State University, and Marylhurst College. Starting in 1976 she served as the Consumer Education Coordinator for Portland Public Schools. She taught classes for district teachers and wrote curriculum with them for grades K-12. She felt that this was a fine professional opportunity until the program ended in 1979. She was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease in 2014, and moved into Brookdale Assisted Living in Keizer, in 2015. She resided there until her death. Her Parkinson's was the major reason for her declining health this past year. She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Frank; her son Peter J. Reckendorf, of Lynnwood, Washington; her daughter, Karel J. Reckendorf, of Salem, Oregon; her granddaughter, Rosanna DeGrado of Salem, Oregon; great grandson, Kiernon Hall DeGrado, of Salem, Oregon; and great granddaughter, Raya Garrett.</p>
Safley	2022	<p>ARCSE Life Member Dr. John Marcus "Marc" Safley (75) of Woodbridge, Virginia, passed away November 30, 2022. Marc was born on January 4, 1947, to Gladys Williams Safley and John Marcus Safley in Milan, Tennessee. The family later settled in Nashville, Tennessee. A Commodore at heart, Marc earned his Bachelor of Arts degree (Biology) from Vanderbilt University, then went on to obtain his Masters (Botany) in 1968 and his PhD (Plant and Soil Sciences) in 1974, both respectively from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Marc began his career in 1974 with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) in Tennessee. In 1978, Marc moved his family to Washington, DC to work in the NRCS national headquarters where he held several positions during his career including Acting Director and Assistant Director of the Ecological Sciences Division, National Agro-Ecologist, Natural Resource Database Manager, Environmental Specialist, Program Analyst, USDA Drought Coordinator and Resource Conservationist. He authored journal articles, book chapters, publications, policy analyses, environmental assessments and impact statements. He</p>

		<p>served on several USDA and NCRS task forces and was honored to be a part of delegations to Central Europe, India, South Africa, and Japan. In addition, Marc contributed to the development of six Farm Bills between 1985 and 2008 as well as many special projects of national and international significance. Marc received numerous awards for his leadership and integration of ecological principles into NRCS conservation policy. Marc was also an active member of numerous organizations and professional societies including the Soil & Conservation Society. Marc retired in 2008 and for 13 years, was Senior Conservationist Chronicler for the Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees. Marc never met a stranger and was loved by all who knew him. He will be remembered for his faith, kindness, wisdom, compassion, listening ear and quick wit. He cherished his time with his family and loved catching up with friends. Marc was greatly involved with his church where he participated in many committees. He led the Worship Ministry and taught Sunday School for years. A lifelong baritone, Marc dearly loved to sing in the choir. He will be sorely missed. Marc is survived by his wife of 52 years, Kendrick Riley Safley; daughter, Rachel Williams (Brad) of Dallas, Texas; son, Jim Safley (Christiann) of Arlington, Virginia; grandchildren, Courtney Williams, Ryan Williams, and Ursa Safley; sister, Mary Montgomery (Richard) of Fayetteville, Tennessee and many loving nieces and nephews.</p>
Simpson	2014	Former ARCSE member Dewey Paton Simpson (88) of Maryville, Tennessee passed away March 31, 2014, at the Kindred Center in Maryville. Dewey was born to William David and Mamie C. Young Simpson on November 18, 1925. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture and Biology from Middle Tennessee State University. He was retired from the USDA-Soil Conservation Service after 42 years of federal service where he worked as a district conservationist. He was also an Army Veteran with service during World War II. He was a member of the Kiwanis of Alcoa, past Board Member of the Blount County Children's Home, avid hiker, and involved in numerous community conservation projects including the early days of the recycling program in Maryville. He assisted many farmers and landowners to apply conservation on their land during his 34-year tenure as District Conservationist for Blount County. His favorite hobby was his daily walks with his beloved pets in local parks.
Simpson	2022	Dewey Victor (Vic) Simpson (75) of Nashville, Tennessee passed away peacefully at Select Specialty Hospital, Nashville, Tennessee on November 21, 2022. Vic was born in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany to Dewey Paton and Gertraud Kapp Simpson on September 8, 1947. Throughout his life and career, he lived in many states, but loved Tennessee and specifically Nashville. Vic obtained both a Bachelor of Science and Master's degrees from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He worked as an educator and later for the federal government within the USDA-Soil Conservation Service as a Soil Conservationist in multiple leadership roles around the United States. Vic's father Dewey Paton Simpson worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service as a District Conservationist in Maryville, Tennessee. Vic was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 34 years, Harriett Demetros Simpson and his parents, Dewey and Gertraud Simpson . Among his survivors are three children Rachel (Todd) Halford , Nicholas (Jenny) Simpson , Valerie (Adam) Landa ; five grandchildren Camden and Colton Simpson , Abigail and Zachary Landa , and Hunter Halford .
Simpson	2022	Gertraud "Omi" Kapp Simpson (86) of Maryville, Tennessee passed away September 25, 2022. Omi was the wife of the late Dewey Paton Simpson who worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service as a District Conservationist in Blount County Tennessee for 34 years. Dewey retired in 1994 and passed away in 2014. Omi was born in Germany in 1936. Mrs. Simpson was trained and worked as a nurse in Germany and with the Red Cross, but spent most of adult life as a homemaker, mother, neighbor, and friend to many people.
Sinclair	2022	Harold "Raymond" Sinclair Jr. (85) of Indianapolis, Indiana, passed away December 3, 2022, with his loving wife of almost 63 years by his side. Ray was born on March 19, 1937, in rural Mason County, Illinois. The son of Harold Raymond, Sr. and Grace Sinclair was born and raised on a grain and livestock farm in west central Illinois. He attended the University of Illinois obtaining his Master of Science in August 1961. Ray married A. Colleen Cross on January 30, 1959. Ray worked his entire career as a Soil Scientist with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), formerly the Soil Conservation Service. Counting his college internships, Ray had more than 50 years of service as a Soil Scientist. As worked as a soil scientist stationed in Illinois, Vermont, Michigan, and Indiana, where he did soil correlation, soil interpretations, soil investigations, technical soil services, soil manuscripts, soil cartographic work, land evaluation, and site assessment. Ray was heavily involved in research for mine reclamation. He served as the State Soil Scientist in Indiana for 16 years. Ray's final position with NRCS was at the National Soil Survey Center in Lincoln, Nebraska. In that role, he furnished technical soils information to local, state, and federal agencies; consultants; agricultural businesses; and individuals. Ray had been a member of the American Society of Agronomy and Soil Science Society of America for 55 years. He was a Certified Crop Adviser through the American Society of Agronomy. He was a member of Chapel Hill United Methodist Church in Indianapolis. Ray was preceded in death by great-granddaughter, Mahla Vernon . Survivors include his wife, Colleen ; five children: Amy (Ed) Vernon , Paragon, Indiana; Alice (Mark) Ostendorf , Fort Mitchell, Kentucky; Duane (Sue) Sinclair , Carmel, Indiana; Jon Sinclair , Box Elder, South Dakota; and Sara (Sean) Brito , Melbourne, Australia; 13 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren: Marie (Laura) Moreno , Josh (Amanda) Vernon , Kate (Mark) Nienaber , Ben (Alysha) Ostendorf , Wes (Courtney) Vernon , Steven Sinclair , Matthew Sinclair , Carmen Vernon , Kristen (Christopher) Brann , Jonathan Sinclair , Nick Brito , Henry Sinclair , Alex Brito , Joshua Vernon , Bella Vernon , Wesley Vernon , Thomas Nienaber , Fitz Vernon , Ruth Nienaber , Aurora Ostendorf , Gideon Ostendorf , Anali Moreno , and Chava Vernon .
Yost	2022	Dolores M. Yost (92) of Lincoln, Nebraska passed away on November 28, 2022. She was born on March 8, 1930, in Lincoln to Henry and Pauline (Strauch) Yost . She was a lifelong Lincoln resident and a 1948 graduate of Lincoln High School. She retired from the US Department of Agriculture after working 43 years at various clerical jobs, 33 years of which were with the Soil Conservation Service. Following her retirement, she worked part time as the evening receptionist at the Eastmont Towers Retirement Home. She was a lifetime member of Trinity Lutheran Church. She was a member of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority and the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association. She is survived by many nieces and nephews.



Sunrise on the water.