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### **WEBMASTER: Vacant**



# NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter for Retired Conservation Service Employees

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Arnold King*

The board is in the throes of planning our next annual board meeting at Des Moines Iowa during early August. Two years ago, we planned to meet concurrently with SWCS at Des Moines when the pandemic hit us and we had to revamp and have our first digital annual meeting. The digital meeting worked well, but in order to continue our efforts toward a closer relationship with SWCS we decided to continue with the face-to-face meetings. The traditional ARCSE luncheon has become very expensive at convention hotels, and it has become difficult to get the local members to participate. For that reason, we are discussing and tentatively planning something a little different this year. I will let you know more when we finalize our plans.

Chief Cosby met with us at the Denver meeting where he discussed upcoming conservation programs and personnel needed to deliver those programs. That led to a discussion of how ARCSE members might be able to provide mentoring and training assistance to field personnel. Chief Cosby indicated more and more of our new hires do not have a farm or ranch background and need special mentoring and training to improve their ability to work with district cooperators. The question is can ARCSE members help with that issue? We have a team of ARCSE and NRCS employees working on a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to address that issue. Hopefully, both organizations will benefit from that effort to get more conservation on the land.

Texas plans to have their annual retiree association meeting at New Braunfels early this spring. **Willeene** and I are on the planning committee, and we struggle to get participation from our newly retired employees. We think part of the problem nationwide may be the difficulty of informing new retirees about ARCSE. Hopefully, the MOU with NRCS might help provide a breakthrough on that issue.

And finally, I want to add that your board of directors and support personnel are in the early stages of developing a long-range plan for ARCSE and we may be calling on members for input later this year.



## NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

—Craig Derickson, retired USDA-NRCS

### Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriations

Our last newsletter included information on the fiscal year (FY) 2023 omnibus budget bill being passed by both the House and Senate as one of last actions of the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress. On December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022, **President Joe Biden** signed that budget bill, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (H.R. 2617) into law. The budget package includes \$1.7 trillion in FY 2023 discretionary government funding for all 12 annual spending bills, as well as a number of other provisions. The bill includes \$44.9 billion in emergency assistance to Ukraine and \$40.6 billion to assist communities across the country recovering from drought, hurricanes, flooding, wildfire, natural disasters, and other matters.

Information released from the House Appropriations Sub-Committee for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies includes important details about the FY 2023 funding. The Sub-Committee summary stated: "In total, the regular 12 appropriations bills include \$800 billion in non-defense funding, a \$68 billion, or 9.3 percent over last year. This is the highest level for non-defense funding ever and a larger increase in both dollars and percentage than fiscal year 2022. The bills also provide \$858 billion in defense funding."

The House report indicates the 2023 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies discretionary funding of \$25.5 billion is a portion of the \$800 billion spending in non-defense funding level cited above. This is an increase of \$737 million,

or three percent above the fiscal year 2022 funding level. In total, the bill includes \$242 billion for discretionary programs funded annually and mandatory programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. For more details on the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, see <https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/FY23%20Summary%20of%20Appropriations%20Provisions.pdf>.

### **Key Funding Components of FY 2023 Appropriations**

The House Appropriations Sub-Committee summary report provides details on key funding components of the appropriations act for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies. The Sub-Committee summary report includes the following details:

Rural Development and Infrastructure – The bill provides nearly \$4 billion for rural development programs. These programs help create an environment for economic growth by providing business and housing opportunities and building sustainable rural infrastructure for the modern economy. The main funding categories within the Rural Development and Infrastructure area include:

*Rural Broadband* – The legislation invests over \$455 million for the expansion of broadband service to provide economic development opportunities and improved education and healthcare services.

*Critical Infrastructure* – The legislation includes responsible infrastructure investments to help the country's rural areas access essential utilities. This includes \$1.47 billion for rural water and waste program loans, and over \$500 million in water and waste grants for clean and reliable drinking water systems and sanitary waste disposal systems.

*Rural Housing Loans and Rental Assistance* – The bill provides a total of \$30 billion in loan authority for the Single-Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program, including \$1.25 billion in direct single family housing loans to low-income rural families.

*Business and Industry Loan Program* – The bill includes \$1.8 billion for the Business and Industry loan program, a 45% increase over fiscal year 2022. This will enable additional lending opportunities to business and non-profits in rural areas.

Food and Nutrition Programs – The bill contains discretionary funding, as well as mandatory funding required by law, for food and nutrition programs within USDA. Other key funding components under Food and Nutrition include:

*Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)* – The bill provides \$6 billion in discretionary funding for WIC and an increase of fruits and vegetables. In fiscal year 2023, WIC will serve an estimated 6.2 million women, infants, and children.

*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)* – The bill provides \$153.8 billion in required mandatory spending for SNAP, including \$3 billion for the SNAP reserve fund, which will serve more than 43 million people.

*Child nutrition programs* – The bill provides \$28.5 billion for child nutrition programs and support for 5.2 billion school lunches and snacks. It also includes \$40 million for the Summer EBT program and \$30 million for school kitchen equipment grants.

International Food Assistance Programs – The bill includes \$2.2 billion for international food aid and to promote US agricultural exports overseas and includes emergency funds provided in the Ukraine supplemental.

Marketing Programs – The bill provides \$237 million to facilitate the movement of agricultural products and market opportunities. This includes \$22.8 million for the National Organic Program and \$30.2 million for the Packers and Stockyards Act.

Agricultural Research – The bill provides \$3.45 billion for agricultural research programs, including the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). This funding includes research investments in land-grant colleges and universities and an increase for the 1890 and 1994 institutions.

Farm Programs – The bill provides \$1.92 billion for farm programs, including \$61 million to resolve ownership and succession of farmland issues. This funding supports conservation, emergency loan programs, and help for farmers and ranchers.

Animal and Plant Health – The bill includes \$1.174 billion for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). This funding will support programs to help control or eradicate plant and animal pests and diseases that can be crippling to U.S. producers.

Conservation Programs – The bill provides \$1.034 billion to help farmers, ranchers, and other private landowners conserve and protect their land. This includes \$77 million for infrastructure for watershed and flood prevention and watershed rehabilitation projects, \$8.5 million for the Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Program, and \$7 million for the Healthy Forests Reserve Program.

Food Safety and Inspection Service – The bill includes \$1.158 billion for food safety and inspection programs and will maintain more than 8,700 frontline inspection personnel for meat, poultry, and egg products at more than 6,500 facilities.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) – Funding for FDA is \$6.6 billion, including targeted increases to address the opioid crisis, medical supply chain issues, cybersecurity of medical devices, and inspections of foreign drug manufacturers.

\* The information provided in this section is taken from the House Appropriations Sub-Committee website at:

<https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/FY23%20Summary%20of%20Appropriations%20Provisions.pdf>.

### **NRCS Chief Terry Cosby Priorities for FY 2023**

NRCS national leaders recently held a business meeting in conjunction with the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) annual meeting in New Orleans, LA. NRCS **Chief Terry Cosby** and **Associate Chief Louis Aspey** shared with ARCSE some of the key priorities presented to NRCS national leaders for inclusion in this newsletter. Chief Cosby's guidance to NRCS leaders included the following priorities:

1. A focus for NRCS to reconnect to traditional conservation roots such as locally-led conservation, science-based approaches, voluntary participation, and strong partnerships.
2. Funding provided through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) provides once-in-a-generation opportunities for NRCS to advance conservation, build partnerships for collaboration on Climate Smart Commodities, provide support for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and the upcoming 2023 Farm Bill.
3. These important new developments and initiatives place NRCS in the spotlight, and NRCS leadership is poised to deliver.
4. NRCS has seen a substantial turnover in personnel since the pandemic began in 2020, with approximately 3,500 new staff added. Those new hires are a mix of new positions and backfilling existing vacant positions. NRCS anticipates continued strong hiring of new positions as the agency addresses the priority items in #2 above. The current NRCS staffing posture is approximately 10,900 employees.
5. NRCS leaders are well aware that bringing on new personnel means that there will continue to be a critical need for training and development of new employees.
6. The post-pandemic staffing turnover has touched the NRCS Senior Executive Staff (SES) cadre as well. The Chief's National Leadership Team includes several new key personnel, including: **Karen Woodrich**, Deputy Chief - Programs (formerly State Conservationist in Kansas); **Angela Biggs**, Deputy Chief - Management & Strategy (formerly State Conservationist in Wisconsin); **Terron Hillsman**, Director - Ecological Sciences Division (formerly State Conservationist in Maryland); **Astrid Martinez**, Director - Conservation Planning and Technical Assistance Division (formerly State Conservationist in Wyoming); **Jerry Raynor**, Director - Financial Assistance Programs Division (formerly State Conservationist in Indiana); and **Kevin Farmer**, Director - Conservation Engineering Division (formerly National Watershed Program Manager in Washington DC). These national leadership positions were all filled within the past year.

### **Inflation Reduction Act Funding for Climate-Smart Agriculture Now Available Nationwide**

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) provided an additional \$19.5 billion over five years for climate-smart agriculture through several of the conservation programs that USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) implements. NRCS is making available \$850 million in fiscal year 2023 for its oversubscribed conservation programs: the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP),

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) and Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).

A news release from Nebraska NRCS dated February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, indicated that producers have until March 17<sup>th</sup> to apply for easement funds and March 31<sup>st</sup> to apply for conservation program funds. These application dates may be different in other states.

### **USDA Providing \$48.6 Million to Manage Risks, Combat Climate Change**

On February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, USDA announced it will invest more than \$48.6 this year through the Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership for projects that mitigate wildfire risk, improve water quality, and restore healthy forest ecosystems on public and private lands.

The news release indicated that through the projects, USDA's Forest Service and NRCS are working together with agricultural producers, forest landowners, and National Forest System lands to improve forest health, using available Farm Bill conservation programs and other authorities.

### **2023 Farm Bill – Work Underway by Senate Committee On Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry**

Every five years, Congress passes legislation that sets national agriculture, nutrition, conservation, and forestry policy for the US. This legislation is commonly referred to as the "Farm Bill."

The Senate Committee formally kicked off development of the 2023 Farm Bill with field hearings in both Michigan and Arkansas in 2022. Field hearings continued in November and December of 2022 and are planned to continue throughout the early parts of 2023.

The current Farm Bill legislation is set to expire on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and committee work began in early January, 2023 when new members of Congress came into office. Many organizations with interest in agriculture, commodities, environmental protection, and related natural resources will become increasingly involved in Farm Bill development activities in the coming months.

The Committee invites ideas and proposals for the 2023 Farm Bill, as well as feedback about the 2018 Farm Bill. Submissions are welcomed by emailing [FarmBill2023@ag.senate.gov](mailto:FarmBill2023@ag.senate.gov). For more information on the 2023 Farm Bill visit the Senate Committee website at: <https://www.agriculture.senate.gov/farm-bill>.

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## **More on the ACES program opportunities**

**Julie MacSwain**, President-Elect

The Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services (ACES) Program provides a cost-effective recruitment opportunity to obtain the services of non-federal, experienced workers aged 55 and older. Through agreements with eligible nonprofit organizations, as defined in the Community Service Senior Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 3056 et. seq.), NRCS recruits and utilizes the services of these workers on a temporary basis, while minimizing agency administrative costs, time, and resources. Enrollees who are receiving retirement benefits can put their talents and experience to use, on a part-time to full-time basis, with no effect on their annuity.

There are many types of enrollee positions that can be filled and are consistent with the agency's critical needs. A key is that use of ACES enrollees does not displace or negatively impact federal employees or affect existing federal contracts for services. Often, but not always, these enrollees are retired federal employees. In many cases, an enrollee's position is more narrowly focused on a particular skill set rather than the typical federal employee position, to optimize use of the enrollee's experience most effectively and efficiently.

- NRCS had 478 active ACES participants on FY 2022 (experienced workers).
- The spending level on the program for FY2022 exceeded 14 million dollars.
- National Experienced Workforce Solutions (NEW Solutions) has an agreement with NRCS to place experienced workers into positions supporting conservation and environmental protection efforts. See more about ACES at <https://newsolutions.org/programs/aces-program-nrcs/>.

<b>DEADLINE FOR THE MAY/JUNE 2023 NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS IS APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2023.</b>
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## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

**Paul Benedict, Membership Chair**

### **New Life Members**

William Gary Kobylski – Foley, Alabama  
 Carter D. Christenson – Lyons, Colorado  
 Kristin Smith – Biloxi, Mississippi  
 Annuziata (Nancy) R. Paolini – Ewing, New Jersey  
 Mike W. Anderson – New Oxford, Pennsylvania  
 Ronnie L. Taylor – Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

### **New Members**

ShayMaria Silvestri – Highland Park, New Jersey  
 Barbara Phillips – Ringoes, New Jersey  
 Kent Hardmeyer – Newton, New Jersey  
 Linda Peterson – Flemington, New Jersey  
 Mary E. Podoll – Baldwin, North Dakota  
 Laura Coover – Corolla, North Carolina  
 Keith Widdel – Stevens Point, Wisconsin  
 Jay Brooker – Missoula, Montana  
 Tim Meyer – Eau Claire, Wisconsin  
 Karl Gilbertson – Viroqua, Wisconsin  
 Judy Derricks – Osseo, Wisconsin

**2023 MEMBERSHIP DUES and HARD COPY NEWSLETTER FEES were due Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.**

I would like to thank all the ARCSE members who have paid their 2023 dues and hard copy fees. Please remember, if you are not a Life Member or an Honorary Member (Member who turned 91 by 12/31/22 with 5 years of paid membership), you must pay your 2023 dues by **April 15, 2023**. Otherwise, you will no longer be considered an active ARCSE member, and you will not get the **May/June ARCSE Newsletter** and **2023 ARCSE Directory**. If you do not pay your newsletter hard copy fee by April 15, you will no longer receive the newsletter by mail. If I have an email address on file for you, we will email you the newsletter. If you have questions about your membership status, please contact me. 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**

### **2023 ARCSE Directory**

The 2023 ARCSE Directory will be coming out with the May/June Newsletter. This is your last chance to update your information. If you need to change street address, email address, phone number, etc., please let me know by April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, by emailing me at [soilwarden@verizon.net](mailto:soilwarden@verizon.net).

## ALABAMA

**Earl Norton, ARCSE Representative**

**Email: [earl.norton@charter.net](mailto:earl.norton@charter.net)**

In Alabama since Christmas, we've had many beautiful days, plenty of rain, and local retirees met monthly for breakfast to share news and blues.

Three local icons have gone to greener pastures since Christmas. See the In Memoriam section about **Sherrill Parker** and **Dr. Richard Guthrie** – these guys had remarkable careers and will be sorely missed by their many friends.

Also, we lost **Dr. June Spooner**, wife of retired Assistant State Conservation Engineer **Joe Spooner**. June had a remarkable career as an educator. June taught school in Georgia before moving to Auburn with Joe in 1967. Besides being an elementary school principal in the City of Auburn, she served as a member and officer of many organizations – local, state, and national – and was inducted into the Alabama Educational Leadership Hall of Fame 1991.

**Perry Oakes** and **Earl Norton** attended the International Erosion Control Association Annual Conference at Kansas City on February 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>. Although **John Peterson** was not at the meeting and was missed by many friends, they had several looks at him on the screen during a video celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IECA. John is a two-time past president of IECA, and he was recognized very prominently in the video.

#### ARCSE MEMBERSHIP DUES Due by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 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*

## ARIZONA

**Kenneth Cookson, ARCSE Representative**

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

**Wade Biddix** successfully defended the Pebble Creek Men's Golf Association Club Championship on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> in Goodyear, AZ. In a three-day tournament played on three different courses, Wade defended his title won in 2022. A total of 151 players competed in eleven separate flights.



*Wade Biddix with golf trophy*

## CALIFORNIA

**Bill Ward, ARCSE Representative**

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

Greetings to Retirees across the Nation from California!

California retirees continue to enjoy our monthly Zoom meetings. We had the group of nine shown below join us on February 1<sup>st</sup>.



**Top: Mark Cocke, Bill Ward, Sidney Davis**  
**Middle: Ron Harben, Bill Gradle, Harold Honeyfield**  
**Bottom: Ed Schmidt, Walt Sykes, Jerry Reieux**

Everybody took a turn sharing their own updates and generally good news for all of us. Here is one unique item I will share about this Zoom meeting.

**Ron Harben** joined us while sailing on board his latest boat delivery project from Turtle Bay, Baja CA to La Paz Mexico. Ron's "Craft" was a Valiant 40 cutter-rigged sloop. Ron even gave us a "boat tour," taking us around the boat showing us the different features and areas on their boat. Thanks Ron, that was a unique first for one of our retiree zoom sessions!

Ron sent me a follow-up message later that evening sharing that over the last year he had done some 12,000 miles on boat delivery trips with a very wide and diverse range of locations on both ends. Very impressive, Thanks Ron.

When we were wrapping up, I shared with the group about the trip **Dana** and I took to Fort Bragg to celebrate our 45<sup>th</sup> Wedding anniversary. Great photography opportunities abound on the North Coast there, and here are just a few pictures that I shared with the group.



**Fort Bragg Coast, very chilly, Dana dressed very appropriately**



***Point Cabrillo Lighthouse, Mendocino CA, Constructed in 1908.***



***Ocean view from the lighthouse area***



***A Farewell photo as we get ready to leave.***



To further celebrate our wedding Anniversary, I took the opportunity to prepare a YouTube video to mark this occasion of 45 great years together:

<https://youtu.be/wj7wRO3qSIY>. Happy 45<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary, Dana

My good friend and fellow retired NRCS Engineer **John Tiedeman** recently returned to his home in Redding California from a unique work experience in Guyana South America. John's detail there was to provide technical expertise for design of a drip Irrigation system for the "Timehri Prison Farm" in Georgetown, Guyana. John Tiedeman provides Drip Irrigation Assistance in Guyana, South America

This work opportunity was possible through a unique "Farmer-to-Farmer Program" which utilizes funding from the USDA farm bill. This program was initially authorized by Congress in the 1985 Farm Bill and funded through Title V of Public Law 480. In-country staff of the "Farmer to Farmer" program identify projects, expertise, and volunteers needed for the projects. Here is a link to more about the program and how it works: <https://farmer-to-farmer.org/>.

The detail was two weeks in Guyana working with field officers, prison officials, and inmates. The sandy soil and limited water supply on the prison farm made it an ideal candidate for drip irrigation. The design was similar to those John developed for his orchard and the community farm in Redding. Here are photos from Guyana.



**Timehri prison farm entrance**



**Georgetown, Guyana Street Market**

John's reflections: "Many in NRCS have worked outside the U.S. and understand the rewards and challenges. The lessons in culture and communication are always rewarding and enlightening. In the end, I believe we found exactly the right solution for increasing food production on the Timehri prison farm in Georgetown. That said, developing countries like Guyana have their own set of challenges, including availability of materials, and commitment on the part of prison and government officials. I take satisfaction knowing I gave them solid work in planning and engineering design (true to NRCS form).

The Farmer-to-Farmer program is seeking diverse talents and experience. All travel, lodging, and per diem costs are covered, but no salary. My first detail was in the Dominican Republic. A second language is an asset but not required. More basic to success is hands-on experience and a flexible attitude."

Note: John informed me that he would be happy to share more about his experience and how the "Farmer to Farmer" Program works with anybody interested. If interested let me know and I will help you connect with John.

Well that is about all from California this time folks. Until next time, be safe and wishing you all the best – Bill Ward, CA ARCSE State Rep, ARCSE West Region VP.

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## COLORADO

**Jack Carlson, ARCSE Representative**

**Email:** [pspicata@gmail.com](mailto:pspicata@gmail.com)

The Fort Collins breakfast club convened as usual the first Tuesday of January and holding the fort in February were **Stu Keil, Chuck Hart, Terry Buettgenbach, Frank Geter, and Jack Carlson**.

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## IOWA

**Mark Jensen, ARCSE Representative**

**Email:** [amjens1@gmail.com](mailto:amjens1@gmail.com)

**Norman Friedrich** had a busy summer and fall working on family projects, including camper repair, deck rebuilding, and cleaning out sheds at the Friedrich family farm, preparing for a consignment auction.



***Norman had help getting the family's old Farmall 560 running again***

In early January, Norman joined his wife **Susan**, who is a Lutheran pastor, for her Lutheran study trip to the Holy Land with Wartburg Theological Seminary. They stayed multiple nights in Bethlehem, Palestine, at the Sea of Galilee in northern Israel, and in Jerusalem, Israel. "Every day is Christmas" in Bethlehem, and they appreciated attending a Sunday worship service at the Arabic speaking Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church. While in Jerusalem, they squeezed up the 178 steps to the top of bell tower at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer for a great view of the old city of Jerusalem. Later they attended an English-speaking worship service there. They visited many sites considered holy to the Christian, Muslim, and Jewish faiths.

The topography of the area was appreciated by Norman when traveling by bus from Bethlehem through the wilderness to the Dead Sea. That took them from elevation 2,500 ft. down to 1,400 ft. below sea level. Floating in the Dead Sea was easy to do.

Norman said that some of the other meaningful/powerful parts of the trip included: walking through a Palestinian refugee camp; visiting a hillside and cave near Bethlehem where shepherds might have been 2,000 years ago; stopping at checkpoints and experiencing the concrete separation barrier; visiting the Holocaust Memorial; seeing Israeli settlements in Palestine; the western wall of the Temple Mount; a Christmas parade in Bethlehem that included lots of bagpipes; and a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee – although no walking on water occurred that day! Norman and Susan appreciated meeting with people in Israel and Palestine who have been working for peace.





*Old city of Jerusalem from the bell tower at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer*



*Norman and Susan at the Caesarea Maritima hippodrome (After wading in the Mediterranean Sea.)*

Thanks to **Marty Adkins** for updating us on his activities and telling how he was recruited to work for SCS. "It seems like the holidays were long ago, and I'm starting to hanker for some road trips to see the kids and grandkids. I'm currently working on a middle school children's theatre project, which has been both fun and challenging. They will be performing for an auditorium full of elementary students, which should be interesting. If I don't respond to future emails, you'll know I didn't survive that! We have also just cast a spring play (Little Women) which **Carol** and I are producing and for which I will be serving as stage manager. We have a really solid cast and invite you all to come. Bring your tissues.

As for my recruitment - blame **Larry Beeler**. There was once a large table and booth bench in the Agronomy Building at Iowa State University where students would hang out between classes – including lots of future SCSers. One day Larry was telling a group of us about his SCS student trainee experience, and about how trainees were often offered jobs after graduation. That piqued my interest, and I checked it out. I interviewed

for the summer of 1978 but was too picky about where I would go and didn't get an offer. I was more flexible in 1979 and was offered a trainee position in Malvern. I had a great experience there and ended up accepting a career-conditional soil conservationist job in Davenport after graduation. I ended up getting recruited a second time after leaving the agency to work for a farm management company. **Eldon Weber** opened the door for me to return to SCS at a continuing education seminar in 1988. I was ready to come back and never regretted that decision."

Thank you to **Ted Oswald** for telling the story of how he became an SCS/NRCS employee. "After graduating from high school in 1970, I enrolled (along with my twin brother **Tom**) at Des Moines Area Community College in architectural drafting when calculators and computers were still being invented. The instructor informed the group that a District Conservationist called and requested names of folks interested in becoming a State Aide for the Kossuth County SCD, whatever any of that meant. I threw my name in, expecting nothing. I then got a job working for a manufactured home company in Boone, IA. I stayed in the old Boone Hotel in a room renting for \$15 per week. The room had a wrought iron bed, oak dresser, and straight-back chair. The window was half full of dead flies and only one bathroom per floor, which was right next to my room. I was 19 years old, and everyone else were WW2 and Korean War veterans who smoked 3-4 packs per day. If you're familiar with heavy smokers, their morning activities to clear their lungs were rather unpleasant to hear with the next-door bathroom!

Anyway, I had received a message one night after work to call a **Lyle Redinger** in Algona for a possible job interview, which I happily did, since I wasn't enjoying factory work. I met with him in the hotel lobby, full of mismatched, hand-me-down overstuffed chairs and a black-and-white TV. SCS, DSC, KCSCD and a lot more acronyms were thrown out by Lyle, confusing me completely. But, Lyle offered \$2.65 per hour for the State Aide position, and I took it and started a week later; then retired in 2014 as a CET in Williamsburg (absolutely the best time to be a CET in Iowa as a person who enjoyed the opportunity of the freedoms available at that time, as long as you followed the Standards and Specifications!)"

Thanks to **Eldon Weber** for the following, telling about how he got interested in conservation work and a few memories from his career. "My interest in conservation began at an early age as I experienced the gully erosion and flooding on our farm in in the Lum Hollow Watershed in Woodbury County in western Iowa. After graduating from Iowa State University in 1957 and receiving my ROTC commission, I had eight months before I was to report to officer's basic training in El Paso, TX. During that time, I was fortunate to begin my career in SCS as a soil conservationist in LeMars under Work Unit Conservationist, **Lavern Fuesner**. Following my two years as Operations Officer for the Army Nike Anti-Aircraft Group at Selfridge Air Force Base in Michigan, I was placed on the Area SCS staff in Sioux City. After serving on this Area Staff and as District Conservationist at Sioux City, State Conservationist **Wilson Moon** asked me if I would prefer an Area Conservationist position at Shenandoah or Mason City. I said "Shenandoah, as I know that soil resource area." He said, "You are going to Mason City. You need to gain experience in drainage country!" **Ernie Aust** went to Shenandoah.

As the Area Conservationist at Mason City, one of my early experiences was in accompanying Wilson Moon to a public meeting in the Chickasaw SWCD in New Hampton to promote a soil survey. Some landowners attending told us they didn't want government employees on their land. As we left the meeting, we were met in the parking lot by a farmer with a gun, threatening us if we came on his land. We got in our cars and left without delay! Our soil survey staff did pursue mapping the county with little problem. A few farms were mapped from across the fence! As Area Conservationist in Mason City and Fairfield, some of my most memorable experiences were organizing three RC&Ds: Upper Explorer Land, Pathfinders, and Geode."

In January we were saddened by the passing of **Timothy Doran**. Tim was a Soil Conservationist in south central Iowa prior to his retirement.

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## KANSAS

**Deanne Lull, ARCSE Representative**

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

The Christmas holiday at the **Lull house** was very different this year since the host (me) was barely able to get out of her recliner. It was shortly after Thanksgiving that I began to feel very weak and wanted to sleep the day away. One day I spent three hours laying on my doctor's examination table while tests were run, and we waited for results. I left his office very disappointed. The good news was all my vitals were good, but the bad news was that no diagnosis could be made for the cause of my extreme weakness. As planned, the entire family did arrive for the holiday, and I was starting to feel a little better on Christmas



Eve. The family took over the meals, and we found that Salina has some restaurants with very good carry-out! It turned out that my extreme weakness resulted from a reaction to a new prescribed medication that I started taking just after Thanksgiving. It was the end of January before I finally regained most of my strength and began to feel like myself.

I have learned of six retirements. Five retired on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

- **Daniel J. Carroll**, Soil Conservation Technician, in the Abilene Field Office in the Abilene Management Unit.
- **E. Dean Millsap**, District Conservationist, in the Meade Field Office in the Hutchinson Management Unit.
- **Christine E. Ronsse**, Soil Conservation Technician, in the Topeka Field Office in the Lawrence Management Unit.
- **Kent K. Scott**, Soil Conservation Technician in the Ottawa Field Office in the Lawrence Management Unit.
- **Stephen M. Sprick**, Supervisory District Conservationist, in the Osborne Field Office in the Osborne Management Unit.
- **Robert L. Allen** retired on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, as a Soil Conservation Technician in the Paola Field Office in the Lawrence Management Unit.

Two retirees have passed away. **John K. "Jack" Kirkland** died on December 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022. John retired in 1990 as a District Conservationist in the Washington, Kansas, Field Office with 34 years of service. His spouse, **Sammy (Samilee)**, survives. **Daniel R. Denneler** passed away on February 2, 2023. Dan retired in 1988 as Civil Engineer on the Engineering Staff in the Kansas State Office in Salina, Kansas. He had 34 years of service serving nine counties in western Kansas. He is survived by his wife, **Margaret**.

**Karen D. Seyfert** died on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022. She was hired in 1966 as a Clerk Stenographer in the Kansas State Office in Salina, Kansas. In 1973 she transferred to the Four River RC&D Office in Minneapolis, Kansas and served there until the RC&D Office closed on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1980. Her husband **Ron** survives.

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## MAINE

**John Simon, ARCSE Representative**

**Email: [jjhorseshoe39@icloud.com](mailto:jjhorseshoe39@icloud.com)**

2023 January Dysarts breakfast was attended by 11 lively retirees. Included were: **Karen and Bruce Champeon, Kay and Ray Voyer, Art Taylor, Mary Thompson, Dan Baumert, Dave Mussulman, Brian Stuart, John Simon, and Bob Lagassey**. Too many conversations were going at one time for me to take many any notes, but we had a great time and good food! We are having a very warm winter. My figures show we are about 16% warmer than the 30-year average! Great for those heating their homes with oil.

2023 February Dysarts breakfast was a fun time. In attendance were seven lively souls: **Richard Hunter, Norman Kalloch, Brian Stuart, Robert Lagassey, Art Taylor, John Simon, and David Mussulman**.

This was the first breakfast for **Dick Hunter** since he retired, so we all welcomed him aboard. Dick was looking well. Dick was the computer specialist at the state office for many years. We talked a little about computers and the fantastic advancements they have made. I discussed how I had my 13-yr-old MacBook laptop upgraded with the latest operating system, anti-virus program, and a new SSD (solid state hard drive) with no moving parts, similar to the hard drives in our smart phones. My computer is like new, said my computer doctor!

**Norm Kalloch** attended and was his usual enjoyable self! He is just finishing a new book he will be publishing soon! Wow! I told him about our June picnic, and he said if he is not at West Carry Pond he will attend.

**David Mussulman** said he is only a mile from the golf course in Hermon. He loves playing the course. He said he often plays golf with **Tim McCluskey**. I said that Tim is my wife's oldest nephew by her older sister **Beverly**. Small world. Tim has come down with cancer and is struggling through the painful protocols. Please pray for him.

**Art Taylor** is keeping busy researching more and more health maintenance alternatives. Art is a good researcher and is discovering lots of neat stuff!

I was telling Art Taylor how my 20-year car that failed inspection because of rust in the rocker panel. Do you think I can find someone to fix it! No way. Most don't do rust work, and the others are booked for months. I am contemplating just driving it uninspected 'till I can find someone or fix it myself. I only have until the end of the month before I am a law breaker!

**Bob Legassey** is enjoying his new Nissan Rogue auto. I may have to join him with a new car.

**Brian Stuart** is still working for NRCS part time after retiring. He Loves it. He keeps contact with **Candi Gilpatric**, Engineer out of the Lewiston field office. Candi is not far from retiring.

The latest on **Bruce Champeon** is that he came home on Monday February 6<sup>th</sup> and is in recovery from all his surgeries for his heart attack. Bruce is in our thoughts and prayers.

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## MISSOURI

**Dave Rastorfer, ARCSE Representative**

Email: [daverastorfer@aol.com](mailto:daverastorfer@aol.com), [moarscse@aol.com](mailto:moarscse@aol.com)

The Columbia area retirees met for breakfast recently.

On November 9<sup>th</sup>: Attendees were **Dennis Hoffman, Odie Swanegan, John McCarthy and his daughter Kathy Baily, Jerry Edwards, Frank and Kay Miller, Ed and Judy Smith, Richard and Marjorie Koenig, Hugh Curry, Jean Herman and Dave Rastorfer.**

On February 9<sup>th</sup>: Attendees were **Bob Ball, Odie Swanegan, Jean Herman, Jack and Carol Cronhardt, John McCarthy and his daughter Kathy Baily, Jerry Edwards, and Dave Rastorfer.**

The next Columbia area breakfast will be Wednesday May 10<sup>th</sup>. This is not just for retirees in Columbia – all retirees are welcome.

**Jim Rickman:** I am still fairly healthy. Jere and I are going on an expedition to the Antarctica this Saturday. Will hike on the snow and ice some. The scariest part of the trip is the Covid test. If we fail it, we come back home at our own expense from Argentina. My son retired this year, and he is leaving for the Appalachian trail hike, which takes about six months to complete. Hard for me understand the desire to hike for months or climb mountains, or sky dive, etc. Hope everyone is doing great.

**Alton Taylor:** Now we leave on the 22<sup>nd</sup> for a house on the coast for a week, then latter part May we leave Galveston for a week cruise, then mid-July three weeks to drive to Alaska and back. Now tell me I've nothing to do.

**John Turner:** GOLF! The only place where being "sub-par" is a good thing! Game must have been invented by a "sub-par" person.

**Craig King:** Greetings from Northeast Missouri.

**Weston**, our son had Labrum Surgery on December 29<sup>th</sup>. He hurt it on the last play of his last game this past season. Surgery went well, and he is already out of the sling doing therapy. There won't be any spring ball for him, but he'll help coach and still work on weights. If everything goes well, he'll be ready for the season this fall. Tomorrow night we go to the Marion/Lewis Cattlemen's Banquet as he is one of the scholarship recipients. He is also going to work as a coop student this spring/summer in the Warrensburg NRCS Office. **Candra** finished her regular season basketball tonight, 02/17/23. They ended up with a 20-6 record. They start District play next week. She sat out a couple of games but has played four games with a broken left big toe, averaging about 20 per game. Just not a lot of time to heal when you're a multi-sport athlete, and oh yes, makes straight A's. Didn't know they allowed that. We started having lambs on January 5<sup>th</sup>. We only have one left, thankfully. Besides a few days, we've had pretty good weather which allowed a good lambing percentage. **Andrea** had a routine colonoscopy the first of February since she made it to that age. It revealed a cancerous area on her colon, fortunately in a good area. She had surgery yesterday, 02/16/23 and it went well. They took out that section and sewed it back together.

A Pet Scan she took on 02/14/23 showed a spot on the abdominal lining which the surgeon was able to get a biopsy of that. She will get a port in 7-10 days and have some follow-up Chemo. I'm still hauling grain for the neighbor and taking care of sheep, but taking care of mama first. Hope everyone is doing well.

From **Greg Jarboe**: We lost another fine SCS-er, **Ken Morgan**, who was my supervisor in the Cape Girardeau, Missouri Area Office during 1977 – 1979 where Ken was the Area Engineer and I was in my 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> years of my SCS engineering career. **Ken** passed away on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022. As you know, **Ken** was held in high regard by everyone in the agency who knew him.

<https://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Kenneth-Morgan-23/#!/TributeWall>

From **Dan Philbrick**: **Robert Ryder** of Brookline, Missouri passed away on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023. I do not know where all Robert worked, but I think some in north Missouri and I believe he was the DC in Marshfield before taking a medical retirement, probably in the early 1980s. Robert had three Purple Hearts and other awards from his service in Vietnam. He was shot up pretty badly and suffered the effects of Agent Orange throughout the rest of his life. Robert was a good friend and great person. Here is a link to his obituary: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/robert-ryder-obituary?id=39017017>

We are also saddened to report the passing of **Tommy Deberry**. Tommy “Tom” Joe Deberry, 78, of Memphis, Missouri, passed away Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at Landmark Hospital in Columbia, MO. You may view his obituary at:

<https://www.memphisfuneralhome-mo.com/obituary/tom-deberry>

**Clif Baumer**: **Michele** and I have experienced the full spectrum of weather in our travels this winter. Our older son, **Josh**, and DIL, **Kate**, invited us to join them in Montana for Christmas. They booked lodging for us at White Sulphur Springs, about 30 minutes from Showdown Montana, the state’s oldest ski area. We skied during the day and soaked our weary bodies in the hot springs afterward. It was unusually cold, even for Montana, but we didn’t let that stop us from having fun.



*We didn't waste much time walking from our rooms to the hot spring.*



*Due to an air inversion, it was warmer on the mountain than in town.*



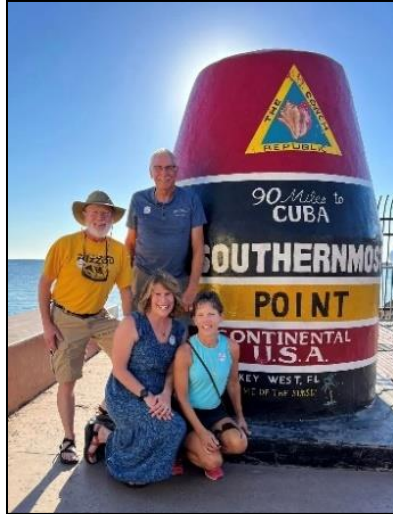


*The hot springs felt pretty good after a day of skiing (that is not a gnome with Michele).*

After New Year's, we enjoyed a week on Big Pine Key with **Steve and Shirley Bruckerhoff**. Michele raced her fastest 5k since ACL surgery in the 25<sup>th</sup> Key West Half-Marathon and 5k. We even caught a nice meal of gulf fish.







**Steve and Shirley were excellent hosts.**



**Post-race on the Key West waterfront.**



**Michele with a grouper she caught.**

**Pat Hufford:** All good here, wishing you all the best. (Photos attached.)



*Starting plants in preparation for spring.*



*Raising an orphan lamb, she loves our old hound dog.*



*Crazy new cat, playing under the porch.*

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## **MONTANA**

**Lori Valadez, ARCSE Representative [NEW]**

**Email:** [valadez226@gmail.com](mailto:valadez226@gmail.com)

Gooby Ranch Report (from Dick Gooby):

We had a blizzard that totally drifted us in. It was the worst blizzard we've had since we moved here on the ranch. We have a dog yard that's five feet high. The snow drifted over the fence, and the dogs can walk right over the fence. We now have free ranging dogs.

The weather was so cold that **Mary Ann** couldn't start the tractor to clean out the road. She spent days shoveling us out. Our blizzard wind always come out of the north. When Mary Ann shovels the snow, she always piles it on the south side of the road.

A couple weeks later it snowed about six inches, and the wind came blasting out of the south. We had a raging blizzard for a couple days. The snow drifted as high as Mary Ann had piled the snow from the last blizzard. We have some drifts ten feet high. I don't think Mary Ann will be able to shovel out the road. There is no place to stack the snow.

I finally came up with an idea of how to get rid of the snow. I got the metal sled out and put some kindling in it and started a fire. Then I put some wood in the fire, and Mary Ann got four buckets and filled them with snow and put the buckets by the fire. When the snow melted, she would dump the water in the stock water trough. After Mary Ann melted snow all day, she had cleared nearly a foot of the road. Since she has a mile of road to clean, we decided melting the snow wasn't such a good idea. At least Mary Ann didn't make me take a bath in the water trough.

It will be months before the snow melts so we can get out of our place. In the meantime, Mary Ann takes her cross-county skies and pulls a toboggan sled to go to town to get groceries, so I will have plenty to eat. I would really like to help Mary Ann, but I have so many TV programs to watch, I just don't have time to help.

There is a herd of about 300 elk in the Ruby Mountains not far from our ranch. Most of the time they stay in the mountains, but when we get a storm like last week, they come down to eat either on the hayfields, or better yet, the hay stacks. Mary Ann's job is to keep them off our place.

Yesterday, after our latest storm, they were gathered in the hayfield of our nearest neighbor. Since it was only a matter of time until they moved over into our place, Mary Ann decided it was time to take her drum and go scare the elk. She waded through knee-high snowdrifts for half a mile to the back corner of our place. She beat the drum every step of the way and the elk perked up. The closer she got, the more interested they got.

Pretty soon they had all jumped the fence and were circling her doing their "Eat Your Hay Stack" dance. Some cows were dancing on their hind legs, and the bulls were rattling their antlers together. It looked like they were dancing the two-step waltz.

It was an amazing sight. The moral of the story is, if you want to scare elk, don't take your drum.

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## NEBRASKA

**Norm Kempf, Jim Culver, ARCSE Representatives**

**Emails: [nkempf@neb.rr.com](mailto:nkempf@neb.rr.com), [j4culver@aol.com](mailto:j4culver@aol.com)**

The January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting was called to order by Chairperson **Jim Culver**. Attending were: **Doug Christensen, Jim Culver, Bob Engel, Steve Stover, Norm Helzer, Craig Derickson, Steve Scheinost, Norm Helzer, Harold Klaege, Paul Bartlett, Norm Kempf, Mike Kucera, and Gary Muckel**. Mike Kucera attended his first retirees meeting today.

The February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting was called to order by President **Craig Derickson**. Introductions were made for guests attending: **Angie Thompson, Gerald Montgomery, Mike Kucera, and Renee Gross**. **Members attending were Jim Culver, Craig Derickson, Louie Buller, David Camper, Gary Muckel, Norm Helzer, Harold Klaege, Gus Dornbusch, Paul Bartlett, Scott Willet, Dana Snyder, Norman Kempf, JoAnne Thiele, and Donna Dornbusch**.

**Jim Culver** opened the meeting and mentioned that this would be his final meeting as the Chairman. Chairman Culver commented that the meeting would get started right away this morning due to the impending snowstorm heading toward Lincoln. Jim made a special point to thank the callers who take time and effort to remind other members of the upcoming retiree meeting, including **Steve Scheinost, Norm Helzer, JoAnne Thiele, Dave Camper, and Jim Culver**.

**Chairman Culver** also gave thanks to **Donna Dornbusch** as our Secretary and for always doing a great job of preparing the meeting minutes and getting them sent out to members. Donna was unable to attend today's meeting as she recently contracted COVID. Jim mentioned that Donna had sent out the latest member directory to all members in an email on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**Jim** also offered thanks to **JoAnne Thiele** for her years of service to the retirees' group as Treasurer and also thanked **Steve Scheinost** for being willing to take on the Treasurer position. Jim also thanked **Harold Klaege** for hosting Zoom meetings during the year of COVID in 2021 and for his service as Nebraska President of the NARFE group. **Norm Kempf** was recognized for his service to the Lincoln Retirees by preparing regular reports to send to the National ARCSE group.

**Chairman Culver** also mentioned his thanks to those individuals who helped with the effort to digitize the old paper records and archives of the retirees group. Many of the old records date back to the beginning of the organization in 1971. The archived records represent more than 1,100 pages of records and are now stored on electronic media such as CDs and flash drives.

After these opening comments **Chairman Culver** passed the gavel to **Craig Derickson** as incoming Chairperson. Jim noted that Craig would be Chairperson for 2023, and **Doug Christensen** would be Vice Chair, and that Doug would assume Chair position in 2024. Craig thanked Jim Culver for his service to the retiree's group and encouraged a round of applause.

**Chairman Derickson** made a few announcements to the group, including news of the Nebraska SWCS Legislative breakfast on January 31<sup>st</sup> at the Denney Federal Bldg. Craig also mentioned that the Nebraska SWCS Board of Directors would be holding a Zoom call on January 19<sup>th</sup> at 3pm, and all SWCS members are invited to call in. Craig passed a mail flyer around to attendees about upcoming University of Nebraska meetings to present information and results from the UNL On-Farm Research Network, with several meetings to be held around the state in February and March. The Research Network meetings can also be viewed on Zoom and contain lots of useful information about the latest findings on soil health, crop yields, and updates on production agriculture.

**Craig** informed the group of the 2023 SWCS Annual Conference to be held in Ankeny Iowa on August 6-9, 2023. Craig also informed the group of plans for ARCSE members to get together for a social meeting during the SWCS conference on Monday afternoon of August 7<sup>th</sup>, tentatively planned for 3-5pm before the poster session. **Norm Kempf** encouraged Lincoln retiree members to consider attending the SWCS meeting in Ankeny and the opportunity to meet up with other retired NRCS and ARCSE members.

**Harold Klaege**, President of the NARFE Nebraska Chapter, provided an update on an effort he has been spearheading to have Federal Annuity payments be exempt from Nebraska State Income Tax. Harold noted that LB-38 has been introduced by **State Senator Carol Blood** from Omaha. Other Nebraska State Senators have indicated their support for the bill, but more action and contacts are needed by Lincoln Retirees to request support from members of the Legislature and our Congressional contacts. Harold suggested it may be a month or more before the bill is introduced on the floor and encouraged members to contact their State Senator and request them to support the bill.

Harold also provided information on the national scale where HR-82 has been introduced by both a Republican and Democratic representative to eliminate WEP – the Windfall Elimination Provision. The bill would eliminate the windfall provision, which in some instances reduces Social Security benefits for individuals who also receive a pension or disability benefit from an employer that did not withhold Social Security taxes.

**Craig** announced that the ARCSE (Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees) was working with the NRCS staff on a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) to allow retirees to be trainers and mentors for new employees.

The SWCS (Soil and Water Conservation Society) meeting is scheduled for August 6<sup>th</sup>, through 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at Ankeny, Iowa. There are tentative plans for some type of observance of NRCS retirees.

**Jim Culver** had copies of the 2023 soils calendar developed by those within the soil science part of the NRCS. He said the calendar was quite well done and invited the group to take one.

**Jim Culver** announced that he had scanned all the SCS/NRCS minutes since 1971 on electronic media. All are available to anyone who wants to see them.

**Norm Kempf and Jim Culver** were acknowledged by Craig for the great job they have done for their input about our retirees' group for the SWCS newsletter.

**Donna Dornbusch** has recently tested positive for COVID and is doing well.

**Bob Nielsen** had ankle replacement surgery this fall. This was followed by hip replacement. He was doing well and was ready to toss his cane when he noticed weakness in his lower legs. This resulted in a trip to doctor and more surgery to remove a benign growth on his T4 vertebrae. All went well, and he is home doing his rehabilitation exercises and planning a return to action this spring.

**Bob Maclauchlan's** son sent a note to Donna Dornbusch saying that his dad had fallen and broken four vertebrae in his lower spine. In addition, he had gone blind in one eye and could no longer read. Bob is currently residing at Tabita Nursing Care.

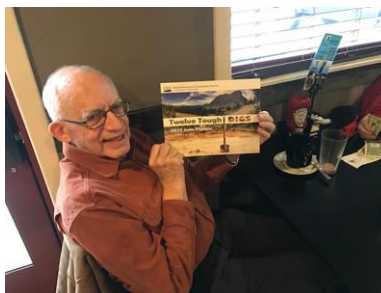


Donna also said that she had seen retirees **Ken Hladek** and his wife **Joy** at a funeral here in Lincoln. They were both doing well and still living in Omaha.

**Ella Gibson**, spouse of **Gerald (Hoot) Gibson** passed away on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the age of 91 years. Hoot was a long time NRCS employee.

Due to the weather forecast for January 18<sup>th</sup> and sleet beginning to fall, **Chairman Derickson** used the gavel to bring the meeting to an end. Craig encouraged everyone to drive carefully and get home before the storm settles in on Lincoln. Meeting adjourned by 8:45.

**Norm Helzer** showing the 2023 edition of the NRCS-USDA planner – “Twelve Tough Digs” one of the better planners in recent years. **Roger Hammer**, retired Soil Scientist in our club is noted as one of the contributors.



Left – **Dana Snyder** and right – **Angie Thompson**. Angie retired from the Nebraska state office several years ago and is a potential new member.



Left – **Donna Dornbusch** and right **Renee Gross** a quest and retired Nebraska Assistant State soil Scientist now living in Gretna.



**Dana Snyder** left and **Gerald Montgomery** right. Gerald, a new member retired from the MWNTC in Lincoln as a biologist for the Midwest several years ago.



**Testifying at a Nebraska Legislative Revenue Committee for no Nebraska state income tax on federal annuities. Left to right Dennis Schroeder, Craig Derickson, Jim Culver, Harold Klaege and Danna Neese who was in attendance.**



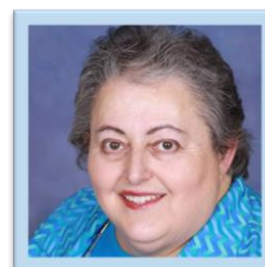
## NEW JERSEY

**Nancy Paolini, ARCSE Representative**

**Email: [npaolini@comcast.net](mailto:npaolini@comcast.net)**

Thank you to **Tom Drewes**, past NJ ARCSE Representative, for his many years of faithful service. **Nancy Paolini** has volunteered to take on the position.

Nancy retired in July, 2023 after 41 years with SCS/NRCS. After more than 20 years as a Soil Conservationist, Nancy joined the NJ State Office staff as a Resource Conservationist, taking on various responsibilities, including support for FOCS, Toolkit, Conservation Desktop, Technical Service Providers, and of course addressing "other duties as assigned." Nancy lives in the Trenton, NJ, area with her cats, continues as a church music director and cantor, and sings with local Community Choirs.



**Top: Nancy Paolini, Barbara Phillips, Christine Hall (not retired), playing penny whistle, Ronnie Lee Taylor.**

**Middle: Christopher Smith, Carl DuPoldt, Janice Reid, Fran Deficchio (not retired)**

**Bottom: Gary Casabona, Laura Coover, Greg Westfall, Mona Peterson (not retired)**

As Covid continued to loom in Jersey, Nancy's retirement was celebrated virtually via Zoom in August 2023. Two scheduled "events" were well-attended by NRCS employees, partners, and retirees, and a good time was had by all. As ARCSE Rep, Nancy will be hosting a Spring 2023 virtual meeting so that retirees, no matter where they live, can enjoy reconnecting. In addition, pandemic permitting, she hopes to coordinate an in-person meeting or picnic on toward the fall of this year.

Many NJ retirees have moved to other states, but Nancy can find them! After 41 years, she has many contacts and will be working on recruitment for NJ ARCSE. In fact, she has already started recruiting. Please welcome these new ARCSE members from among recent NJ NRCS retirees:

**Kent Hardmeyer**, Regional Planner

**Barbara Phillips**, Public Affairs Specialist

**ShayMaria Silvestri**, NRI and Cultural Resources Coordinator

Tips for tax planning, Submitted by **Kent Hardmeyer**, retired NRCS NJ.

If you are cashing in US Savings Bonds, you can avoid Income Taxes by using them for higher education. Most of us know this, but did you know you can use them for higher education for your children or grandchildren? A win-win. If the person receiving the money is not your beneficiary, there are some hoops to jump through, and there is an income limit, but these could be well worth it if you have a lot of matured bonds that need to be cashed.

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## NORTH CAROLINA

**James Canterbury**, ARCSE Representative

Email: [jhcanter@bellsouth.net](mailto:jhcanter@bellsouth.net)

Twelve retirees from the Raleigh area met at the Farmers Market Restaurant for breakfast on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Attending were **Jim Canterbury**, **Frank Evans**, **Coy Garrett**, **Dick Fowler**, **Dick Gallo**, **Hubert Hawkins**, **Ed Helme**y, **John Kelly**, **Roger Montague**, **Cecil Settle**, **Horace Smith**, and **Phil Tant**.



*North Carolina Retirees breakfast*

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## OREGON

**Don Stettler**, ARCSE Representative

Email: [don.stettler@comcast.net](mailto:don.stettler@comcast.net)

**Stumptown Fil(bert)**, Oregon's Punxsutawney Phil, got it right on Ground Hog's Day, another six weeks of winter. A snowstorm threatened to ruin the Oregon Retiree's lunch on February 22<sup>nd</sup> but fortunately, it didn't. An eighty-year record-breaking storm did develop later in the day, eventually bringing ten inches of snow to some parts of the Portland area.



*Stumptown Fil in his home at the Oregon Zoo*

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There was a nice turnout for the lunch at the Stir Crazy Chinese Restaurant in Aloha. It was our first experience there. Everyone agreed it was a nice place to meet. We will now work on a place to meet on the eastside.

Attending were **Louise Davis, Lowell Kenedy, Tom Fujii, Eldena VanderZanden, Leland Saele, Ralph Wadleigh, Gail Voge, Bobbie Hart, Gary Formanek, Kay Denfeld, Don Huffman, Rose Loehr, Thor Thorson, Dick Sylvester, Kathy Sylvester, Bruce Newton, Jim Marron,** and yours truly, **Don Stettler.**

**Jim Marron** has been enjoying learning to drive his Tesla. He hasn't bought gasoline for two months. **Eldena VanderZanden** has been entertaining a nephew who is visiting from Arkansas. **Tom Fujii** told us that he will soon be celebrating his 94<sup>th</sup> birthday. **Lowell Kenedy** passed along the sad news that his wife, **Marian**, had passed away in January. **Dick and Kathy Sylvester** are working hard at yard work and cooking. **Leland Saele** and his wife **Margo** celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with a trip to Mexico. **Ralph Wadleigh** recently made a trip to Palo Alto, California to visit his older brother. **Bruce Newton** is kept busy volunteering for Habitat for Humanity. He also continues to enjoy being involved in sail boating and most recently seeing his new granddaughter. **Rose Loehr** is looking forward to participating in a jigsaw puzzle contest in Sherwood and fishing for salmon in Alaska.





**Bobbie Hart** told us that she enjoys spending time at her and **Larry's** beach house. They also frequently checkout the casinos. **Kay Denfeld's** ukelele group are getting back together more often. She is also working hard to stabilize her Rose-of-Sharon tree that doesn't have a root system to maintain it upright. **Gale Voge** took a trip to New Mexico where she got to see the annual balloon festival, a sight to see. **Thor Thorson** told us of his effort in getting a book on The Soils of Oregon published. The 4.14-pound tome is the only comprehensive summary of natural resources of Oregon and adds to the World Soil Book Series state-level collection. Thor recently took an overdue trip to Victoria, BC to spread ashes of family members. **Louise Davis** tells us that she and her husband are still busy moving. Involved was packing her huge collection of salt and pepper shakers. **Don Huffman** remains busy in retirement. Recently he has been incorporating his parents' things with his, along with helping others with electrical wiring and other projects. Of late he enjoys keeping up with a granddaughter's work with robotics, the kind that do meaningful things. **Don Stettler** related that following a year of travels seeing his sisters, one in Southern California and the other in Georgia, and then a trip to northern Germany, he is ready to stay home with **Barney**, his seven-month-old Springer Spaniel puppy.

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## PENNSYLVANIA

*From Tim Murphy*

*Email: [vindemurph@verizon.net](mailto:vindemurph@verizon.net)*

**Gary Smith:** Welcome to the new year, 2023. **Anne** and I look forward to the annual Farm Show to brighten up the cold winter days in January and this year was no exception. Yes, we took advantage of the Friday free parking food-only day, and we returned on Monday to see the butter sculpture, livestock, produce and to eat once again.

Congratulations to all recent retirees. Those we know of include **Susan Marquart**, who retired in July, 2022, and **Scott Heckman**, who retired in August, 2022. If anyone has email or phone contact information for either of them, please let **Tim Murphy** know so we can invite them into our retiree group.

Please mark your calendar for our annual fall get together to be held on the evening of Sunday, September 17th and Monday, September 18th. The event will be held this year in the Bloomsburg area and **Mark Groshek** is the local coordinator. As always, **Rose Marie Updegraff** will be making the arrangements for our Sunday dinner, and a meeting room and lunch for Monday. On Monday afternoon, we will be visiting Bill's Old Bike Barn in Bloomsburg.

**Harvey Pinkerton:** I remember back when we were doing 216 (EWP) work and we would have a team of three and walk streams for several miles, come back to the hotel or wherever we were meeting, draw up the design and have the contracts ready to go by the next morning. In the recent past, we had a storm take out about a 50-foot section of our streambank in back of our house along with a section of gas line, (the gas company had no knowledge that it was there or why). It required three visits for the responsible individuals gathered the appropriate information so they could complete the design. How times have changed.

In November, **Alan and Judy Wood** did another Covid-delayed trip, this one to the Middle East. They started in the West Bank (Palestine), then on to coastal Israel. From there, they took a small ship south thru the Suez Canal. They then drove into Giza to visit the pyramids, etc. Then they flew on to the Valley of Kings to see several of the great Egyptian royal tombs. Next was Jordan, mainly to visit Petra (with camel rides) and the Dead Sea. Then back into Israel to see the Golan Heights and Jerusalem.

**Tim Murphy** has reclaimed the chairmanship of his township's Shade Tree Commission after a four-year hiatus. He recently ran a workshop on calculations in winemaking for the Susquehanna Winemakers' Guild (SWiG), of which he is a founding member. (Powerpoint and number crunching). He is about to start his 16<sup>th</sup> tax season with AARP TaxAide. (More number crunching!). Sign up for free income tax return preparation at one of our 143 PA locations at [https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp\\_taxaide/locations.html](https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/locations.html).

In October, **Gary and Anne Smith** visited the national parks in Utah including Zion, Bryce Canyon, Arches, Canyon Land, Capitol Reef, and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. In Moab, Utah we boarded the Rocky Mountaineer for a two-day scenic train ride to Denver with an overnight stop in Glenwood Springs, Colorado where we visited Anne's nephew and family.

**John Zaginaylo** compiled the following list of terms from our working days. Some may make you shake your head, frown or smile. Use them as food for thought, maybe to remind you of a story you will want to share in the next PA Bugle. Or maybe you want to expand the list! I already added one at the bottom.

**Remembering Lost Terms and Bad Memories:**

Survey Crew Size (4, instrument man, note keeper, two chainmen)	Dumpy Level
Bubbles	Size of first transit boxes (military Surplus?)
Vernier (Which way is it read again?)	Stadia Board
Wave the rod	Raise for red
Hold your thumb	Using a Hatchet as a Turning Point
Abney	Plane Table
Alidade	Parallax
Throw a chain	Extra Foot
Frost Pin	Hub
Guard stake	Hand Signals
Coffin (The big box on the back of the old trucks to hold equipment)	Drafting Table
Leroy Set	Mylar
H, 2H, 4H pencils	Blue Line machines
Machete to cut line of sight	

**TEXAS NORTH****Mike Bogard, ARCSE Representative****Email: [bogard61@centurylink.net](mailto:bogard61@centurylink.net)**

The Planning Committee met on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023. It was decided to have our 2023 Annual Retirees' meeting at Schlitterbahn in New Braunfels on April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.

The committee decided to have a raffle. Please notify **Rhett Johnson** at [r\\_johnson2004@charter.net](mailto:r_johnson2004@charter.net) if you plan to donate an item or items. Tickets will sell for \$5.00 or 5 tickets for \$20.00. Proceeds will go to the Scholarship Fund.

For those of you who do Facebook, we have set up a Facebook group under Texas SCS/NRCS Retirees. Please request to join the group and we will put updates there.

**Room Information:**

Call 855-673-6476 to make reservations. Refer to "SCS/NRCS" group. The cut-off date for accepting reservations is March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023. East Side of the Park near the Warnecke Pavillion (Riverbend Cabins). None of these rooms are ADA-compliant as they all have a few steps to the front door.

Rates: Studios and One-Bedroom Units – \$99 per night, plus tax. Two-Bedroom Units – \$119 per night, plus tax.

Note: If you will need handicap facilities, this is the area you will need to stay in: West Side of the Park near the Resort Office.

**Golf Tournament Info:**

The Tee Time is scheduled for Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm at Bandit Golf Course. **Mike Black** asked that golfers arrive by 12:00 pm to make up teams and set rules.

**Schedule of Events:**

Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 PM – Golf Tournament, Bandit Golf Course. Evening – Dinner on Your Own.

Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, Breakfast is On Your Own. 8:00 AM - Coffee and Pastries will be available – Warnecke Pavillion

9:00 AM – Registration. 10:00 AM – Memorial Service, Visitation – Warnecke Pavillion

12:00 PM – Lunch. 1:00 – Raffle

The following have been reported deceased this past year:

Employees: **Henry Fred Allison, Jr., O'Gene W. Barkemeyer, Randel Scott Berndt, Pam Crow, Ernesto L. DeLeon, Pat Dorsey, Raymond Lee, Blake E. Lovelace, Jr., Isaac "Saki" Contreras Martinez, Reuben B. "Mac" McDonald, Jr. Beade O. Northcut, Barbara Perritte, Charlie Thompson, Alfred Vanderstucken.**

Spouses: **Amelia Bogard (Wife of Mike Bogard), Dorothy Caraway Rucker (Wife of Harry S. Rucker, Jr.).**

**Ed Schuille** wrote:

January brought about one doc visit after another. The PET scan showed the cancer cells in the lungs had decreased in size, but the lymph nodes behind the lungs had not. Also, a touch of pneumonia with heavy doses of antibiotic resulted in antibiotic poisoning and 4½ days in the hospital.

Back to the house to start 2022 tax return info gathering but have been cutting cedar limbs to be placed around and under our pier. We are getting some drizzling rain but hoping for more. Rescheduling two root canals All in-all, I feel pretty good healthwise: blood normal, BP's normal, but still not allowed to drive. **Ruth** is doing a yeoman's job, and I am thankful for her.

Many thanks to you all for the support, prayers and help as needed. Will see you later when there is more positive info.

**John Mueller** reports, "The year has started off so strangely in the Hill Country. We are still in a drought, and it's supposed to hit 80 degrees today, but it was quite different in early February. The area was hit by a nasty ice storm that left us without power for about eight hours in the midst of a winter wonderland. The roads weren't bad for too long because the ground was fairly warm, but the ice was a different story for trees. It built up, and when combined with a bit of wind early in the morning, it was just too much for some of the branches.

Luckily, our HOA has a nice, open park, and they set up an area for residents to take the fallen debris for a supervised burn. We were able to get everything in our yard (and neighbors) cleaned up in about 3½ days with a lot of chain saw work and about a dozen truckloads to the HOA burn area. We also added a good amount to our wood pile.

I've attached a picture that shows the side of our house with the most damage after the ice on the sidewalk became manageable. While it really doesn't do it justice because much of the ice had started to melt, my first attempt to walk out early that morning resulted in a bit too much sliding. (The trees don't extend over the house so that wasn't an issue, but we did end up with one large branch on the yard fence)."



***Ice storm damage at John Mueller's house.***



## WEST VIRGINIA

**Peg Reese, ARCSE Representative**

**Email: [pegreesevw@gmail.com](mailto:pegreesevw@gmail.com)**

I am saddened to report two deaths so far this year: **Dave Darnell** and **Helen Swank**. Dave Darnell, retired District Conservationist at the Beckley Field Office, died on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023.

**Helen Swank**, beloved wife of retired State Conservationist **Rollin Swank**, passed away peacefully on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at J. W. Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown. Read more about their lives in the "In Memoriam" section of this newsletter.

Few people had heard about East Palestine, Ohio before the Norfolk Southern train derailment on February 3<sup>rd</sup> spewed multiple toxins into the air and water. Since the derailment, my sister-in-law and niece have been on regional and national media including Fox and Friends, the Today Show, and CNN news. My niece, **Erin Reese Norton** lives in East Palestine with her husband and four children. She had to evacuate her family as well as the patients at Christian House Assisted Living where she is the Director of Nursing.

My brother **Jeff Reese** and his wife **Cathy** live in Negley, Ohio. Shortly after the Norfolk Southern did a "controlled burn" to prevent their train cars from exploding, fish and other aquatic life started dying in the stream that borders their property. The dead fish have flowed downstream, but vinyl chloride and other toxins have settled on the stream bed. Scrape the streambed with a stick and an oily sheen rises to the surface. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources estimate more than 43,000 animals have died within a five-mile span of the impact area.

Jeff and Cathy are drinking bottled water as they are concerned that their well, which is located a few hundred feet from Leslie Run, might be polluted. They have not been able to get their water tested yet, as the testing agencies are focusing all their resources in East Palestine. Even if their water is currently safe, the toxins could pollute their water later. Experts say that it could take decades for this area to recover from this tragic event.

**Alan and Gretchen Staddon** had a wonderful time on a Mexican Riviera Cruise to celebrate their 54<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and Gretchen's (XX ) Birthday. According to Alan, "We flew to Los Angeles, California on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and arrived at the Port of Los Angeles on Sunday morning for an afternoon departure on the Norwegian Joy Cruise Ship. We were at sea that evening and all of Monday.

On Tuesday morning, we arrived at Cabo San Lucas, a resort city on the southern tip of Mexico's Baja California peninsula. We decided to take a two-hour Catamaran excursion down the coast. Along the way we spotted Humpback Whales breaching the ocean surface and showing us their tails (flukes) as they traveled to their breeding grounds. We passed several beaches before arriving at Chileno Bay where we had the opportunity to snorkel among the colorful coral and tropical fish.

At noon Wednesday we arrived at Puerto Vallarta. Gretchen and I enjoyed a countryside horseback ride crossing a creek and a river before we reached our rest area. We had time for a short soak in the natural hot springs and then headed back to the stables.

On Thursday, we had an early arrival at Mazatlan, known as the "Pearl of the Pacific." After an hour bus ride to the outskirts of the city, Gretchen and I had a great time with the staff of Huana Coa Canopy Adventure. After we strapped on our harnesses and climbed 107 concrete steps to the first Zip-Line platform, it was "fun for all" among the treetops.



**Alan and Gretchen Staddon zip-lining in Mazatlan.**

After 12 exciting zip-lines that crossed the valleys from one hill to the next, we were thrilled with the 1,100-foot-long zip-line that ended on the final platform of the day. We repelled to the ground and walked through the green agave fields to the starting station and where we were treated to genuine homemade tacos. Our bus then traveled a short distance to a Tequila distillery for a tour and rest stop before returning to the ship.

Friday was another day at sea. On the sun deck we enjoyed our virgin Pina Coladas, and I joined other adventure seeking individuals on the spiraling waterslide. Ensenada was our port on Saturday. We took a leisurely walk through the city where we were able to purchase some "real" vanilla, take in the Malecon promenade, and listen to the local music that filled the air.

Sunday, we disembarked the ship and boarded a tour bus that took us through Los Angeles to view the "HOLLYWOOD" sign from the Grauman's Chinese Theatre, which is on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The bus toured Sunset Strip, Rodeo Drive, and Beverly Hills before taking us to the airport."



**Alan and Gretchen Staddon at sea.**

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## WISCONSIN

**Deb Legear, ARCSE Representative**

**Email: [deb.legear@gmail.com](mailto:deb.legear@gmail.com)**

**Mary King**, from Eleva, WI, retired Area Engineer from the Altoona Area Office wrote:

Happy Engineers Week! (February 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> this year)

I have just celebrated my second year working for the National Experienced Workforce Solutions (NEWS) in partnership with NRCS through the Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services (ACES) program. Even though I retired from NRCS at the end of 2020, I still cannot get away from acronyms! See **Julie MacSwain's** writeup on the program.

The ACES program helps address the issue of “brain-drain” as experienced workers retire, and provides opportunities for newer, less experienced civil servants to learn from more experienced workers. ACES enrollees are generally part-time and supply technical assistance to the NRCS. This was very helpful to the new area engineer during his first year.

As a retired engineer, my work is assigned by the NRCS Area Engineer and he also approves my timecard. Since I am receiving the social security bridge until I reach age 62, I need to be careful not to earn more than the social security income limit. So that has determined my maximum hours of 12 hours per week. Generally, I work three 4-hour days from home, but that is flexible if I need to plan a full field day. That is just the right amount of work to keep up my engineering skills and license. I have been assisting with the PL-566 dam inspections and report writing. I also have fun creating fillable PDF forms and streamlining documentation for other staff. Recently I have been learning to use Adobe Life Cycle to create more dynamic PDF forms. This will require a little research, but I enjoy the challenge. The next goal is to create a grazing plan that can expand and contract based on the site-specific needs and allow the planner to start with standard verbiage yet still allow it to be customized for a particular operation.

In my “off duty” time I am a wife, chicken keeper, beginning gardener, and grandma to four grandchildren, ages two to ten.





**Tim Meyer**, Soil Survey Party Leader, Altoona Area Office, wrote:

Since my wife, **Carol**, and I have been retired, we have been spending one to three months most winters in the Southwest, camping with our German Short-hair Pointer, Hattie. We like the State Parks campgrounds and we have stayed in every Arizona State Park that is open in the winter. Carol and I like to hike and prefer three to five mile hikes every other day. We don't pick easy hikes, and we like to get away from the crowds. Because of that, we routinely "discover" alternate trails – or end up bushwhacking through the desert hills to get back to our intended trail. My training with GPS and maps doesn't always assure that we won't get lost, but definitely helps to find our way back to the vehicle.

Some pictures of our camping and hiking are below:



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## 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

#### Ronald C. Page

Senior Conservationist **Ronald C. Page** was born November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1939, in Paterson, NJ, graduated from the Peddie School in Hightstown, NJ, received a BA in geology from Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA, and an MS in geology from West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV. In 1961 he married his college sweetheart **Lois Mecum**.

Ron's began his career as a geologist in Harrisburg, PA, on the Susquehanna River Basin staff in 1963. Moving to Syracuse, NY, he continued his career in geology on the Watershed Planning staff and then to Somerset, New Jersey. From there he became the Watershed/River Basin staff leader in Lansing, MI, an Assistant State Conservationist for Watersheds in Athens, GA.

In 1980 he accepted a position on the Watershed Planning Staff at Headquarters where he remained until his retirement in 2001. Primary responsibilities included the keeping the watershed planning manual up-to-date, Coordinator of the RC&D program and finally as the EWP coordinator.

As a graduate student at WVU, Ron held a part-time lab assistant position with the WVU Geological Survey while compiling a geologic map of the Martinsburg, WV quadrangle which was published in 1965. He was also known for establishing a combined Watershed Plan and Environmental Impact Statement into one document in 1972.

Since retiring, Ron and Lois have remained in the Northern Virginia area where they are active in their church as choir members and elders. Otherwise, they can be found on the golf course, traveling, and volunteering. The family has increased to include three daughters, seven grandchildren, and one great granddaughter.

—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](mailto: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 <a href="http://www.arcse.org">www.arcse.org</a> )
Allison	2022	<b>Henry Fred Allison, Jr.</b> (79) of Twitty, Texas, passed away December 17, 2022, in McLean, Texas. Fred was born October 27, 1943 in Abilene, Texas to <b>Henry Fred Allison, Sr.</b> and <b>Bonnie Roena Jefferies Allison</b> . He married <b>Sandra Kaye Snider</b> on September 13, 1986, in Paden, Oklahoma. He had been a longtime resident of Twitty and worked as a soil conservationist for USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service for 46 years prior to his retirement. Fred was an avid coon hunter and won several awards from the hunts that he did. He also enjoyed piddling, welding, going to auctions, and tractors. He loved buying and working on all different types of tractors. He loved all his critters (his cows and dogs). Most of all, Fred loved spending time with his friends and family. He was preceded in death by his wife <b>Sandy</b> in 2012. Survivors include his daughter, <b>Julie Allison</b> and <b>Larissa Halford</b> of Big Spring, Texas; his grandchildren, <b>Dalton Owens</b> , <b>Alyssa Moran (Isaac)</b> , <b>Destrie Kinnaman</b> , and <b>Denim Kinnaman</b> ; his great grandchildren, and <b>Nolan</b> and <b>Mercy</b> .
Barkemeyer	2022	<b>O'Gene Walter Barkemeyer</b> (84) of Temple, Texas passed away April 1, 2022, after a brief battle with cancer. O'Gene was born in the middle of a cotton field in Falls County off a rural road near the community of Wilson, Texas, January 6, 1938, to <b>George W.</b> and <b>Esther Becker Barkemeyer</b> . He graduated from Texas A&M in 1960 with a Civil Engineering degree. He served in the US Air Force, then began his exemplary 42-year career with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in in Liberty, Texas. He soon earned his Texas Professional Engineers License and advanced his career with a move to Temple followed by Fort Worth, Texas and then to Nashville, Tennessee. He returned to his roots in 1983 and moved his family back to Temple finishing his career as Assistant State Engineer with the Soil Conservation Service. O'Gene was a devout Christian and long-time (39 year) member of the First United Methodist Church in Temple. O'Gene, was humble, generous, and proud family man. He loved the land and was a country boy through and through who enjoyed his time on the farm, spending time with his herd and sharing a story with whoever would listen. As a Former Aggie, Class of 1960, O'Gene bled maroon! He is survived by his wife of 59 years, <b>Annette Baxter Barkemeyer</b> ; son, <b>George Gregory Barkemeyer (Marcy)</b> , daughter, <b>Pamela Barkemeyer Dove (Michael)</b> ; and grandchildren, <b>Blake Walter Barkemeyer (Kristin)</b> , <b>Allison Tollie-Adell Barkemeyer</b> (fiancé <b>Sean P. Walsh</b> ), <b>Kyle Michael Dove</b> and <b>Connor Austin Dove</b> .
Beck	2023	Former ARCSE Member <b>Leonard Richard Beck</b> (86) of Newtown Square, Pennsylvania, formerly of Havertown, Pennsylvania, passed away on January 21, 2023. He was the son of the late <b>Leonard K.</b> and <b>Ethel V. (nee Obold) Beck</b> . Leonard was a graduate of Drexel University. He started at the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS) as a Drexel civil engineering cooperative student, advancing to the role of Section Chief during many years of employment. Leonard met his future wife Mary Frances Lotz, when she too worked at SCS as a Drexel engineering cooperative student; they were married for over 61 years. He retired in 1996. While employed at SCS and later at private engineering firms, Leonard's work took him throughout the northeastern areas of the country where he met many professionals who became life-long friends, many sharing his interests in railroads and Temple University sports. In early retirement Leonard worked as a sexton at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church in Havertown, the church he and his wife attended for 40 years until it closed. Later they attended St. James United Church of Christ in Havertown where Mr. Beck helped with the foodbank. Leonard volunteered for many years, starting with track work and locomotive repair, at the Wilmington & Western Railroad, and later received certification as a trainman. During retirement he and Mary made frequent trips, often by train, visiting relatives in Chicago, Houston, California, and Europe. He is survived by his wife: <b>Mary Frances Beck</b> ; his sons <b>Richard A. (Robert B. Sher) Beck</b> , <b>James M. Beck</b> , and <b>Robert D. Beck</b> ; grandchildren: <b>Megan C. Beck</b> , <b>Emma C. Beck</b> , <b>Connor R. Beck</b> , and <b>Wyatt O. Beck</b> .
Berndt	2022	<b>Randel (Randy) Scott Berndt</b> (65) of Temple, Texas, passed away September 1, 2022. Randy was born to <b>Harold Douglas Berndt</b> and <b>Doris Irene Berndt</b> on December 22, 1956, in Grand Junction, Colorado. He lived most of his life in Temple, Texas, and graduated from Temple College in 1986. He was employed by the USDA-National Resource Conservation Service (NRSC) shortly thereafter where he remained a dedicated employee for over twenty years. Honored for his work, he was awarded "Outstanding Handicap Employee of the Year in Texas" and attended a ceremony at the U.S. White House in Washington, D.C. in 1988. He impacted many people with his generosity. As any Bum's waitress will attest to, he was the best tipper in town. He enjoyed telling elaborate corny jokes and supported many local musicians and bands. Roger Duncan's Band's version of "These Boots are Made for Walking" was his all-time favorite. He was an avid pool player, traveling to Las Vegas for APA National team tournaments and competing in the wheelchair competitions there as well. He rescued and fostered many cats over the years giving them better lives along the way. Gardening was a passion and he enjoyed tending and sharing his bounty. Randy was a fantastic cook and spent hours in the kitchen preparing dinners for his family and friends. He is survived by his beloved family, including his many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.
Bluhm	2022	<b>Patricia (Patty) J. Bluhm</b> (77) of Longview, Washington, passed away October 20, 2022, in Longview. Patty was the wife of <b>George C. Bluhm</b> , former Director of the West National Technology Center for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service in Portland, Oregon. Patty was born on February 9, 1945, in Spokane, Washington. She lived life to the fullest. Although she battled many health issues, that didn't stop her from doing the things she delighted in. George and Patty took many trips around the world. Patty was treasurer and secretary to Polar Farm Incorporated and enjoyed



		harvesting and selling the produce she grew. She was a wonderful baker and loved to cook. Patty is survived by her husband, George, of 37 years, her daughter, <b>Diane</b> and Granddaughter, <b>Amanda</b> , her stepdaughters, <b>Jennifer</b> and <b>Tanya</b> , and step grandchildren, <b>Andrew</b> , <b>Katherine</b> , <b>Jaclyn</b> , <b>Karen-Ann</b> and <b>Craig</b> .
<b>Bogard</b>	2022	<b>Amelia Bogard</b> (83) of Gatesville, Texas, passed away on December 18, 2022, at her home. Amelia was the wife of <b>Michael Henry Bogard</b> , our ARCSE Texas State Representative. <b>Amelia Juanita Forrest</b> was born on July 15, 1939, to the late <b>J.O.</b> and <b>Ethel Lucille Wilhelm Forrest</b> in Gatesville. She received an Associate of Science degree from Tarleton State College in 1959 and a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education degree from Texas Technological College in August 1961. Amelia began her teaching career teaching high school English. Amelia married Michael Henry Bogard on December 27, 1961, at Jonesboro Methodist Church by Mike's uncle, <b>Pastor Plez Todd</b> . The Bogards moved to College Station, Texas in 1965 and Michael got his Bachelor of Science degree from Texas A&M University in 1967. Amelia worked in the Plant Sciences department of Texas A&M during that time, processing soil samples and counting microscopic nematodes. Following graduation, Michael went to work for the USDA, Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in Vernon, Texas and Amelia went back to teaching sixth grade reading at Vernon Junior High. Michael's career with the SCS moved them to Memphis, Texas in 1968, Lamesa, Texas in 1970, and Groesbeck, Texas in 1974. Amelia was a dedicated public-school teacher and was a positive influence on the lives of many students in Crosbyton, Vernon, Lamesa, and Groesbeck. She taught English at Groesbeck High School from 1975 until her retirement in 1994. After retirement, Amelia began serious research on family history. She completed her application with over sixty pages of documentation and was accepted into the Daughters of the American Revolution, Mexia, Texas Jonathan Hardin Chapter in 1995. After her husband's retirement in 2003, they moved to Gatesville. Amelia's survivors include her husband, Michael, son, <b>Aubrey Wayne Bogard (Susan)</b> , and grandson, <b>Noah William Bogard</b> .
<b>Coulter</b>	2022	<b>David S. Coulter</b> (63) of Dayton, Ohio, passed away December 26, 2022, at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Shadyside Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. David was born September 28, 1959, to <b>H. Scott</b> and <b>Jean Elizabeth (Leister) Coulter</b> . He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy and Crop Science in 1981 from Pennsylvania State University. David worked as a Soil Conservationist for USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. He had recently retired as the District Conservationist in Indiana, Pennsylvania. David is survived by his loving wife, <b>Carla (Pitzerell) Coulter</b> , whom he wed December 28, 1991; son <b>Robert Boyer</b> , of Shelocta, Pennsylvania; daughter <b>Hannah Coulter</b> , of Dayton; and a chosen son, <b>Jason Nimal</b> . A celebration of life will be held at a later date at David's beloved farm.
<b>Crow</b>	2022	<b>Pam Crow</b> (74) of Rogers, Texas passed away December 22, 2022, in a Temple, Texas Hospital. Pam was born February 26, 1948, in San Saba, Texas to <b>H.R. Gotcher</b> and <b>Maude Parker Gotcher</b> . She lived in Rogers all her life and was a member of Mt. Olive Baptist Church. She married <b>Billy Ray Crow</b> October 2, 1966. She worked for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service as a travel and payroll clerk. She was also a seamstress. Survivors include her husband <b>Billy Ray Crow</b> of Rogers; one son <b>Ricky Crow</b> (Alyson) of Rogers; one daughter <b>Tonnia Crow</b> of Temple; four grandchildren <b>Alex Crow</b> of New Orleans, Louisiana, <b>Patrick Crow</b> of Temple; <b>Paysee Crow</b> of Florida and <b>Olivia Crow</b> of College Station, Texas, and her dog Prissy.
<b>Darnell</b>	2023	<b>David Allen Darnell</b> (70) of Beckley, West Virginia, passed away on January 2, 2023. He was born December 14, 1952, to the late <b>Herbert Allen</b> and <b>Margaret Kelley Gainer Darnell</b> in Vienna, West Virginia. He was an avid West Virginia University fan and a proud graduate with a bachelor's degree in Agriculture. David worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. He was the District Conservationist in the Beckley field Office when he retired after 38 years. He enjoyed the outdoors where he spent time hunting, fishing, and exploring on his side-by-side. David also enjoyed spending time on his farm, and he loved being surrounded by his family and many friends, especially his daughter and granddaughter who were the light of his life. Those who are left to cherish his memory include his daughter <b>Elizabeth Kelley Darnell</b> and her husband <b>Eric Arrington</b> , his granddaughter <b>Nicole Johnson</b> , his stepsisters; <b>Sue Jackson</b> and her husband <b>Mike</b> , and <b>Cheri Bush</b> , his stepbrother <b>Jeff Foster</b> and his wife <b>Kristi</b> .
<b>De Leon</b>	2022	<b>Ernesto L. De Leon</b> (86) of Brownsville, Texas, passed away on June 2, 2022 at Rio Grande Regional Hospital in McAllen, Texas. Ernesto was born in Brownsville, Texas, son of the late <b>Amelia Vera</b> and <b>Ramon De Leon</b> . He was a descendant of Brownsville's Pioneer Family. His origins trace back approximately 241 years when <b>Salvador de la Garza</b> settled the Spanish Land Grants in Northern Mexico and what is now South Texas in 1781. Ernesto graduated from Texas A&M in 1957. He married <b>Sylvia Gomez</b> on September 1, 1963, in San Benito, Texas. Ernesto worked for the USDA- Soil Conservation Service and Texas the Department of Agriculture. Significantly, he was elected as a Brownsville City Commissioner for two terms from 2001 and 2003. Preceding Ernesto in death was his son, <b>Donald Ramon De Leon</b> . Ernesto is survived by his wife of fifty-nine years, <b>Sylvia Gomez</b> ; his two sons, <b>Ernest R. De Leon (Victoria Chazco) De Leon</b> and <b>Gustavo M. De Leon (Cristina Garza) De Leon</b> ; his two daughters, <b>Sylvia A. De Leon, PhD. (Ricardo) Solis EdD.</b> and <b>Sandra M. De Leon</b> ; and by his four grandchildren: <b>Alicia S. Shears-Ellul</b> , <b>Austin Ramon Barnard</b> , <b>Donald Ernesto De Leon</b> , and <b>Victoria De Leon</b> .
<b>Deberry</b>	2023	<b>Tommy "Tom" Joe Deberry</b> (78) of Memphis, Missouri, passed away January 17, 2023, at Landmark Hospital in Columbia, Missouri. Tom was born on March 21, 1944, in Springfield, Missouri, the son of <b>William Frances</b> and <b>Cleo Irene Laquay Deberry</b> . He graduated from Southwest Missouri State College in Springfield, Missouri. He later moved to Memphis, Missouri and began working for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (later called Natural Resources Conservation Service) in cooperation with the. Scotland County Soil and Water Conservation. He served as District Conservationist and later was the Resource Conservation and Development Coordinator. On August 6, 1983, Tom married <b>Sherry Casady</b> . Tom loved to hunt. Tom served on the board of several local clubs including Scotland County Rec Plex, Community Bank Board, Scotland County Nursing Home, and Scotland County Tiger Trail, and he was also a member of

		the Scotland County Rotary Club. Tom is survived by his wife, Sherry Deberry of Memphis, Missouri; mother-in-law and father-in-law <b>Maxine</b> and <b>Phil Struble</b> of Memphis, Missouri and many other cousins, nephews, and nieces.
<b>Denneler</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Daniel Ross Denneler</b> (97) of Colby, Kansas, passed away peacefully on February 2, 2023. Dan was born on July 27, 1925, in Winchester, Kansas, to <b>Carmelita Virginia Barnes Denneler</b> and <b>Alexander Hamilton Denneler</b> . He graduated from Jefferson County High School and received a farm deferment for World War II so that he was not entered into the draft. Dan went to Kansas State University majoring in Civil Engineering. While in college, he joined the Army ROTC program in 1952. Once Dan graduated from Kansas State, he attended Advanced ROTC training at Fort Bliss, Texas in Anti-Aircraft Artillery. Dan was sent to Korea, making several brief stops for the aircraft to refuel – one memorable place was Anchorage, Alaska. Once Dan was in Korea, he lived in a dugout and was on the front lines, shooting from one hill to the other, not being able to see the enemy. Dan shared a story about how lucky he was to be alive. At the end of his tour of duty, Dan's replacement took the same route, but the replacement and Jeep driver were hit by artillery shells and both were killed. Dan was discharged in 1958 as a 1st Lieutenant. Dan began his federal career with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in eastern Kansas, working for 34 years for that agency and serving nine counties in western Kansas as a civil engineer. He was on Engineering Staff in the Kansas State Office in Salina, Kansas when he retired in 1988. Dan met the love of his life <b>Margaret Ellen Suther</b> in 1960 at a Catholic Valentine's dance in Topeka, Kansas. They were married in Frankfort, Kansas on November 26, 1960. Dan volunteered at Sacred Heart Catholic Church as caretaker of the cemetery, in the Knights of Columbus, and as an usher. <b>Dan</b> is survived by his wife <b>Margaret</b> ; daughters, <b>Anne Pettit (Terry)</b> of Fort Collins, Colorado and <b>Brenda Drei (Andrew)</b> of Dallas, Texas; sons, <b>Charles Denneler (Laura)</b> of Lawrence, Kansas, <b>David Denneler (Jaton)</b> of Colby, Kansas and <b>Eric Denneler (Sandra)</b> of Wichita, Kansas; 12 grandchildren: <b>Ashley, Casey, Alyssa, Girard, Mason, Katherine, Emma, Sean, Ryan, Sammy, Gus, and Bea</b> ; and six great grandchildren.
<b>Doran</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Timothy Charles Doran</b> (74) of Winterset, Iowa passed January 26, 2023, at MercyOne Hospital in Des Moines, Iowa with his wife and two daughters by his side. Tim was born on April 19, 1948, to <b>Justin</b> and <b>Patricia (Scheerer) Doran</b> . He grew up in Beaver, Iowa on his parents' farm. He obtained his Bachelor of Science degree from Iowa State University. On May 28, 1971 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Estherville, Iowa, Tim wed his love, <b>Susan Linster</b> . Tim was self-employed as a farmer in Mt. Ayr, Iowa prior to working as a Soil Conservationist for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Tim worked in this capacity in Winterset, Greenfield and Osceola, Iowa, retiring in 2008. Tim was disciplined, hardworking, and quick to help others. He was involved with the Madison County Conservation Board and was a member of the Winterset Jaycees. Tim loved road trips around the Midwest with his wife, collecting antiques along the way. He was an avid fisherman and enjoyed time spent outdoors, especially his fishing trips. He grew two gardens every year and gave most of his bounty away to others. Tim is survived by his wife of 51 years, <b>Susan</b> ; two daughters, <b>Elizabeth (Edward) Disbrow</b> and <b>Rebecca (Jacob) Mullinax</b> ; and four grandchildren, <b>Isla, Aden, Ava</b> and <b>Mabel</b> .
<b>Dorsey</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>Pat Dorsey</b> (97) of Lubbock, Texas, passed away September 7, 2021, in Gunnison, Colorado. Pat was born October 29, 1923, to <b>Oma</b> and <b>Harry Thorpe</b> in Cleveland, Ohio. She was raised by her grandparents in Ohio. She met her husband-to-be, <b>Dixon Bowman (Doc) Dorsey</b> during World War II, and they married on April 1, 1943. After the war, they moved to Lubbock where Pat was welcomed into Doc's large family. There were three girls born to this union, <b>Sherry Henley, Carrol Reese, and Linda Chambliss</b> . Pat retired from the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. She and Doc were active charter members and youth sponsors of St. Luke's Methodist Church. She was a Campfire Girls leader, and she volunteered at Covenant Hospital. Pat was a good friend and neighbor, and she had a wonderful sense of humor. She was an artist and a ceramist, loved to crochet, needlepoint, and find cool rocks. Pat was predeceased by her husband and two sons-in-law, <b>Larry Henley</b> , and <b>Pete Reese</b> . She is survived by her three girls, <b>Sherry</b> of Battleground, Washington, <b>Carrol</b> of Bonham, Texas, and <b>Linda (Bill)</b> of Gunnison, Colorado, 10 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.
<b>Flournoy</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Silas Flournoy</b> (86) of Crosbyton, Texas, passed away February 21, 2023. He grew up on a farm near Fluvanna, Texas and graduated from Texas Tech. Silas was the District Conservationist for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in the Crosbyton Field Office from 1969 through 1994. Before that, Silas served at Dell City, Stanton and Plainview field offices in Texas. In 2017 the Crosbyton Chamber of Commerce honored Silas for that year's "Citizen Through the Years" award for his work in making Crosbyton a better community. Silas is survived by his wife, <b>Frances</b> ; his two children, <b>Stacy (Tom) Mann</b> of Wolfforth, Texas, and <b>Stephen Flournoy</b> of Fort Worth, Texas; four grandchildren: <b>Justin Parrish, Emily (Kevin) Guerra, Destiny (Robert) English, and Mandy (Kristin) Neff</b> ; and three great-grandchildren.
<b>Gaster</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Dennis Leland Gaster</b> (78) of Arlington, Texas, passed away on January 22, 2023. He was born in Medford, Oregon on February 28, 1944. He graduated from Oregon State University in 1966 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resources. He was married to <b>Kathleen Gaster</b> on June 14, 1969, a marriage spanning 53 years. Dennis worked as a cartographer for the USDA-National Resources Conservation Service for nearly 40 years. He was a member of Boy Scout Troop 68, the National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE), and Saint Matthew United Methodist Church, and had a passion for working with the Boy Scout Troop 68 for over 30 years, all things motorsports, and never missing one of his grandchildren's sporting events. He is survived by his wife Kathleen, son <b>Donald (Kellie)</b> , grandson <b>Jake</b> , and granddaughters <b>Alexandria, Samantha, and Liberty</b> .
<b>Gibson</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Ellen Gibson</b> (91) of Lincoln, Nebraska, passed away January 10, 2023. Ellen was the wife of <b>Gerald (Hoot) Gibson</b> , long time engineer for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, who passed away in 2021. Ellen was born on May 15, 1931, in Storm Lake, Iowa to <b>Everett</b> and <b>Phyllis (McGill) Martin</b> . She grew up in Grand Island. She married <b>Gerald Gibson</b> and they moved to Lincoln where she worked as a dental assistant to <b>Dr James Weesner</b> for many years. Ellen is survived

		by her daughter <b>Leah (Joe) Schenck</b> and grandson <b>Tim (Cody Anne) Schenck</b> and great-grandchildren <b>Quinnley and Harley</b> . She is preceded in death by her parents, husband <b>Gerald</b> and seven brothers and sisters.
<b>Greene</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>Joseph William Greene, Sr.</b> (81) of Flemington, New Jersey, passed away February 7, 2018, at Hunterdon Care Center in Flemington. Joseph was born in Newark, New Jersey, son of the late <b>Warren V. and Stella (Delikat) Greene</b> . Joseph grew up in Ringoes, New Jersey and once married, resided in Three Bridges, New Jersey for over fifty years. Joseph faithfully served his country in the United States National Guard. After thirty-five years of dedicated employment as a civil engineer technician with the USDA- Soil Conservation Service, he retired in 1992. After retirement, Joseph utilized the passion he had for landscaping to own and operate his own landscaping company. He was a parishioner of St. Magdalen de Pazzi Roman Catholic Church in Flemington. Joseph was predeceased by two sons, <b>Joseph W. Greene, Jr.</b> , and <b>Robert W. Greene</b> . Joseph is survived by his beloved wife of sixty years, <b>Frances J. (Patrick) Greene</b> and daughter, <b>Susan (Martin) Burjan</b> of Neshanic Station, New Jersey.
<b>Guthrie</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Richard Lafayette Guthrie</b> (81) of Auburn, Alabama, passed away January 23, 2023. He died in his sleep after a brief illness, surrounded by family and friends. Richard was born May 29, 1941, to <b>Nellie Rebecca Beecham and John Wesley Guthrie, Jr.</b> , in Union Springs, Alabama, and grew up on a dairy farm in Bullock County. After graduating from high school, Richard went on to play football and run track for Auburn University and graduated from Auburn with a bachelor's degree in agronomy and soils in 1962. While an undergraduate, Richard was initiated into Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity. In 1965, he earned a master's degree at Auburn and moved his new family to Ithaca, New York, where he received a Ph.D. from Cornell University. Following that, Richard worked as a soil scientist for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service for 20 years, concluding this first career in 1983 as National Leader for Soil Taxonomy in Washington, D.C. In 1983, Richard returned to his alma mater to serve as the head of Auburn University's department of agronomy and soils. He later served as acting dean of Auburn's College of Agriculture, associate dean of the international agricultural program, and, finally, as Dean of the College of Agriculture and Director of the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station from 2005 to 2010. Among his many honors and awards are the Alabama Farmers Federation's Service to Agriculture Award, induction into the Southeast Region of the National Association of Conservation Districts' Hall of Fame, and the 1996 Walter Gilbert Award, which is given annually to an individual who was a student athlete at Auburn and who has distinguished himself or herself through career and life achievements post-graduation. After retirement, Richard remained active in the agricultural and forestry community, serving on the Alabama Forestry County and the Alabama Natural Resources County and, for more than 10 years, as Chairman of the Bullock County Soil and Water Conservation District. He was a member of the Auburn United Methodist Church, serving in numerous capacities. He was also a member of the Auburn Lettermen's Club and the Lee County Alabama Sunrise Rotary Club and served as genealogist and registrar for the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR). Among his survivors are his wife of 60 years, <b>Kay Couvrette Guthrie</b> ; three children, <b>Kathy Guthrie Padgett, Ann Rebecca Guthrie, and Luci Guthrie Davis (Rob)</b> ; and three grandchildren, <b>Anna Kathryn Padgett, William "Will" Richard Davis, and Reese James Davis</b> .
<b>Harrell</b>	<b>2023</b>	Senior Conservationist <b>Thomas Stanton Harrell</b> (85) of Yeopim Road, Edenton, North Carolina, passed away February 6, 2023, in Carolina-East Medical Center, New Bern, North Carolina. Thomas was born in Chowan County North Carolina on April 8, 1937, the son of the late <b>Thomas O. and Thelma Stanton Harrell</b> . Thomas worked as a Conservation Technician with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, retiring in 1994. He will also be remembered for his Draftsman work in rendering house plans for many in the area. He was a member of Yeopim Baptist Church. Thomas was preceded in death by his wife, <b>Faye Twiddy Harrell</b> , and by his daughter, <b>Teresa Harrell Ward</b> . Surviving are his children, <b>Amby Harrell Parrish (Frankie) and Ben Harrell (Nancy)</b> ; and his sister, <b>Carolyn H. Winslow</b> , all of Edenton. Also surviving is his loving companion of 23 years, <b>Elaine Bridgman</b> of New Bern; four grandchildren, five step-grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.
<b>Hoag</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Rosa Valdez Hoag</b> (78) of Troy, Texas, passed away on February 2, 2023, at a Temple, Texas hospital surrounded by her family. Rosa was born on August 26, 1944, in Ben Arnold, Texas to <b>Jesse and Dolores (Aranda) Valdez</b> . She worked for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service in the Texas State Office Temple for 27 years. She was a member of Saint Luke Catholic Church. She married <b>Eric P. Hoag</b> on January 8, 1993, in Temple, Texas. She is preceded in death by an infant great-grandson <b>John Marcus Vargas</b> . She is survived by her husband, <b>Eric Hoag</b> ; 8 children, <b>George Vargas (Denise)</b> of Temple, Texas; <b>Ricky Vargas (Josie)</b> of Lockhart, Texas; <b>Victor Vargas</b> (Imelda) of Austin, Texas; <b>Delores Vargas</b> of Killeen, Texas; <b>John Vargas</b> (and partner <b>Michael</b> ) of Houston, Texas; <b>Steven Vargas (Nate)</b> of Madison, Wisconsin; <b>Joey Lujan (Cassie)</b> of Loraine, Texas; <b>Stephanie Vargas (Ray)</b> of West Point, Mississippi; Stepdaughter <b>Danielle Liscomb (Blake)</b> of Hoxie, Arkansas; 23 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great-grandchild.
<b>Howell</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Paul S. Howell</b> (90) of Salvisa, Kentucky, passed away peacefully at his home February 22, 2023. Paul was born November 6, 1932. He was a direct descendant of longhunter <b>Henry Skaggs</b> who accompanied <b>Daniel Boone</b> on expeditions into the Cumberland in 1764. Paul was a graduate of St. Joseph's Prep in Bardstown, Kentucky, and Berea College. He did graduate studies at the University of Kentucky and completed his military service at Fort Sam Houston in Texas. A longtime resident of Lexington, where he raised his children, he worked for several decades with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service as the State Geologist in Kentucky. Passionate about his work, he loved his coworkers as a second family and refused to retire until the age of 85. With unmatched energy, Paul continued to be consulted about his knowledge in the field until the time of his death. He was a lifelong gardener, fisherman, hiker, and outdoor enthusiast. He craved adventure and rarely sat still. He is survived by his college sweetheart, <b>Vida Lee (née Green)</b> , his children, <b>Samuel M. Howell (Carlos)</b> of Manhattan, New York, <b>Joseph Whitney Howell (Kathy Marie)</b> of Lexington, and <b>Sidney L. Newsom (Rob)</b> of Richland, Washington; grandchildren <b>Elijah Sublett (Sarah), Levi and Naomi Howell, Sadie and Zachary Newsom</b> , and great-grandchildren <b>Jacob, Izzy, and Auggie</b> .



<b>Kirkland</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>John Kenneth "Jack" Kirkland, Jr.</b> (87) of Marysville, Kansas, passed away December 22, 2022, at Country Place Senior Living in Marysville. Jack was born April 6, 1935, in a dust storm at Minneapolis, Kansas, son of <b>John Kenneth</b> and <b>Ethel P. (Coyle) Kirkland, Sr.</b> In 1958 he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy from Kansas State University. On January 19, 1957, he married <b>Samileen "Sammy" Alice Hamilton</b> . Jack worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, retiring as the District Conservationist in Washington, Kansas in 1990. They lived in Ottawa, Phillipsburg and Sharon Springs, Kansas until 1967, when they moved to Marysville and Jack worked in the Marshall County office. In 1982, Jack and Sammy moved near Hanover, and he worked in the Washington County office until retiring in 1992, after 34 years of service. He enjoyed reading, gardening, collecting and fixing pottery, watching Kansas State University and Kansas City Royals, and Saturday nights family pizza. Jack was a leader, mentor and very influential in restructuring people's lives in Marshall and surrounding counties. Survivors include his wife, <b>Sammy</b> ; four children, <b>Kevin (Janet) Kirkland</b> , of Marysville, <b>Mike Kirkland</b> of Winfield, Kansas, <b>John T. "Tom" (Dana) Kirkland</b> , of Marysville, and <b>Mikala (Patrick) Gansemer</b> of Bellevue, Nebraska; seven grandchildren, <b>Jennifer (Brock) Centlivre</b> , <b>Jacob (Tristan) Kirkland</b> , <b>Nathan (Elizabeth) Kirkland</b> , <b>Shelby Gansemer</b> , <b>Caleb Gansemer</b> , <b>Megan Kirkland</b> and <b>Benjamin Kirkland</b> ; and five great-grandchildren, <b>Harper</b> and <b>Hudson Centlivre</b> , <b>Brooklyn</b> and <b>Colt Kirkland</b> , and <b>Jaxson Kirkland</b> .
<b>Krider</b>	<b>2022</b>	ARCSE Member <b>James Norman Krider, Sr.</b> (86) of Clemson, South Carolina, passed away early in the morning on December 11, 2022. Jim, who was born in Sanford, Florida on August 26, 1936, was the son of the late <b>John S. Krider Sr.</b> and <b>Sarah E. Krider</b> . He served honorably for 2 years in the United States Army. He began college at Stetson University on a football/baseball scholarship and transferred to the University of Florida where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. Over the span of his 40-year career with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS), he worked on many civil and environmental engineering projects, traveling the United States and abroad. He retired from the SCS as the National Environmental Engineer in 1994. He then worked for a private company on a project in Cairo, Egypt. After finishing his work in Cairo in 1998, Jim and moved his family to Clemson, South Carolina where he made many close friends, and enjoyed increasing involvement in the community. Jim volunteered in the local schools, was a small group leader for Oconee Bible Study, and was active in children's, men's, missions, and Adopt-a-Student ministries of Clemson Presbyterian Church. Survivors include his bride of 40 years, <b>Carol F. Krider</b> , and 3 children: <b>James N. Krider Jr. (Anna)</b> of Pennsylvania, <b>Elizabeth M. Deneka (Tom)</b> of New Jersey and <b>Matthew J. Krider (Alexis)</b> of South Carolina, 5 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. A Celebration of Life Service for Jim was held at Clemson Presbyterian Church on December 15, 2022.
<b>Lee</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Raymond Alvin Lee</b> (87) of Davis, Oklahoma passed away August 26, 2022, in Shawnee, Oklahoma. Raymond was born August 23, 1935, in Davis, to the late <b>Henry David</b> and <b>Vernie (Knight) Lee</b> . Following high school, Raymond earned a scholarship to play football at Arkansas Polytechnical College. It was while in Arkansas that he left college and married <b>Shirley Ann Williams</b> . From this marriage were born four children, <b>Sherry</b> , <b>Terry</b> , <b>Mark</b> , and <b>Tony</b> . He later married the former <b>Ms. Mary Russell</b> , and then the former <b>Ms. Delores Ann (Durham) Ashford</b> , who preceded him in death on May 10, 2022. Raymond spent many years working for USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service in both Oklahoma and Texas. He began his career in surveying and retired in 2007 as a Construction Inspector. In addition to the USDA, Raymond also worked for Bob Bruce Trucking, Sooner Rock and Sand, M&E Construction, and Tipton Construction. Raymond was an accomplished fiddle and harmonica player. He spent over 20 years as a member of the Country High Band. Survivors include two daughters, <b>Sherry Yvonne Brown (Terry)</b> , and <b>Terry Dawn Heskett</b> , both of Sulphur, Oklahoma; one son, <b>Tony Ray Lee (Karen)</b> of Lone Wolf, Oklahoma; three stepdaughters, <b>Debbie Earsom (Arthur)</b> of Dougherty, Oklahoma, <b>Cherita Green (Bryant)</b> of Little Elm, Texas, and <b>Paulette Pankrantz</b> of Colorado; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
<b>Lindgren</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Larry G. Lindgren</b> (69) of Ewing, New Jersey, passed away August 2, 2009, after a lengthy illness at the Hunterdon Medical Center, in Flemington, New Jersey. Larry was born November 12, 1939 in Minneapolis, Minnesota to <b>Lawrence F.</b> and <b>Evelyn M. Nagel Lindgren</b> . He served in the Army Reserve for 13 years. He moved to New Jersey in 1961. Larry was an engineer technician/CADD user with USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service for 22 years before his retirement in 2002. He was the assistant scout master of Incarnation Troop 26, Boy Scouts of America, and a member of the Incarnation Church Senior Club. Larry loved the outdoors. He enjoyed fishing, camping, and boating. He is survived by his wife of 41 years, <b>Dianne Spranza Lindgren</b> of Ewing, and members of the Spranza family.
<b>Martinez</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>Isaac "Saki" Contreras Martinez</b> (63) of Pecos, Texas, passed away June 26, 2021, with family by his side. Saki grew up in the Saragosa/Balmorhea (Texas) area. As a young man, he developed a love for working on the family farm where he gained skills and experiences that went on to help him in his career that would expand 37 years as a Civil Engineer Technician with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. He recently retired to focus on his battle against cancer. Saki was loved by everybody who came into contact with him, especially his children and grandchildren. A former field supervisor was quoted saying Isaac was a person who wanted to work and wanted other people's land to work, he showed this through his professionalism and by helping farmers in Pecos, Ft. Stockton, and throughout Reeves County, Texas. His efforts helped farmers now and well into the future. Saki will be remembered by his easy-going personality, his service to others, and his ability to see the good in most everyone. Isaac married <b>Donna Brijalba</b> on August 5, 1978, they were married 41 years and together had 3 children and 9 grandchildren which Saki adored. Saki was preceded in death by his daughter <b>Johanna Martinez</b> . He is survived by his wife, <b>Donna Martinez</b> , his son <b>Chris Martinez (Elvira)</b> ; his daughter <b>Michelle Martinez</b> ; 9 grandchildren, <b>Haylee Martinez</b> , <b>Kendra Martinez</b> , <b>Kory Martinez</b> , <b>Avery Martinez</b> , <b>Eduardo Martinez</b> , <b>Logan Martinez</b> , <b>Jayvon Thompson</b> , <b>Paisley Martinez</b> and <b>Case Martinez</b> .
<b>McDonald</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Reuben B. "Mac" McDonald, Jr.</b> (93) of Bryon, Texas (formerly of Liberty, Texas) passed away March 31, 2022, at Crestview Retirement Center in Bryan. R.B. was born in Mart, Texas, on December 15, 1928. He was the youngest of

		three children born to <b>Velma</b> and <b>Reuben B. McDonald, Sr.</b> His parents instilled a strong faith in God in their children as they worshiped regularly in the Methodist churches wherever they lived. He enrolled in Texas A&M University, Class of '51, but left for a time to work the farm when his father became ill. He graduated from A&M in 1953 and accepted his first career job as a Soil Conservationist with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in Cameron, Texas. Soon he met a beautiful young high-school English teacher, <b>Mary Jo Boyd</b> , at a Halloween party and married her on June 28, 1955. They made their homes primarily in San Marcos, New Braunfels, and Liberty, Texas, and worshipped at their local Methodist Church with their four children, <b>Jon</b> , <b>Carol</b> , <b>Monika</b> , and <b>Doris</b> . In 2010, Mac was named Liberty Citizen of the Year by the Liberty-Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce, primarily for his service to the Liberty Lions but also for being a long-time volunteer with the Spirit of Sharing, Hunger Busters, LifeShare Blood Center, Boy Scouts of America, and Hightower Prison Visitor Center. After retiring from the USDA-SCS in 1988, Mac worked for dear friend <b>John Hebert</b> , who owned Hebert Distributing—a job that kept him busy until Mary Jo's retirement as a high-school librarian. He also operated "Shade Tree Farms" on 60 acres in Moss Hill, Texas, specializing in live oaks, pin oaks, and crepe myrtles. He was an avid gardener and took pride in the fruits of his labor. Survivors include his wife of 66 years, Mary Jo, and children, <b>Jon McDonald</b> (Debra) of Lake Jackson, Texas, <b>Carol Jones</b> of Bryan, <b>Monika McDonald</b> of The Woodlands, Texas and <b>Doris Light (Tim)</b> of Bryan; five grandchildren <b>Jessica Dent (Ryan)</b> , <b>Jason McDonald (Connie)</b> , <b>Krista Donatoni (Matthew)</b> , <b>Timothy Light (Virginia)</b> , and <b>Taylor Light</b> ; and five great-grandchildren.
<b>Nolte</b>	<b>2023</b>	Senior Conservationist and ARCSE Life Member <b>Byron H. Nolte</b> (88) of Upper Arlington, OH, passed away February 12, 2023. Byron was born December 8, 1934, in Higginsville, Missouri, the son of <b>August</b> and <b>Esther (Knollenberg) Nolte</b> . He was the 7 <sup>th</sup> of 11 children. An agricultural engineer, he received his Bachelor of Science degree, a commission in the United States Air Force (1956), and a Master of Science degree (1993) at the University of Missouri. He received his PhD from The Ohio State University. He served as an officer and pilot in the Air Force. He was an engineer for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. He moved his family to Ohio in 1966 to join the faculty of The Ohio State University where he served as professor and extension agricultural engineer for 22 years. In retirement he loved to ride his bike and volunteered for the American Cancer Society, I Know I Can, and Upper Arlington Libraries. Byron was preceded in death by his beloved wife <b>Ardith</b> in 2020. He is survived by his children <b>Ann (Mark) Albers</b> of The Villages, Florida, and <b>Jan (Pete) Ruma</b> of Maumee, Ohio; and grandchildren <b>Chris (Michelle)</b> and <b>Nick (Jenna) Albers</b> , and <b>Nick</b> and <b>Monica Ruma</b> . In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in his memory to the Nolte Scholarship Fund (645215), OSU Foundation PO Box 710811, Columbus, OH 43210.
<b>Noss</b>	<b>2023</b>	NRCS employee <b>William "Bill" Mark Noss</b> (59) of Myerstown, Pennsylvania, passed away unexpectedly February 6, 2023. Bill was born on February 5, 1964, to <b>Thomas Abraham Noss Sr</b> and <b>Betty Marie Noss</b> nee <b>Stitt</b> . Bill had worked as a soil conservation technician with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service for over 34 years. Bill was a lover of all things outdoors, hunting, fishing, trapping, and, most of all, quiet time in nature spent with his camera. Being surrounded by the woods of Juniata County was his favorite place to be when not surrounded by family. Bill is preceded in death by his loving first wife of 30 years, <b>Tracie Lynn Noss</b> nee <b>Zombro</b> . He will be deeply missed by his second wife and best friend, <b>Audrey</b> , his daughter, <b>Jackie</b> , and his son, <b>Eric</b> , his stepdaughter, <b>Stephanie</b> , and stepson, <b>Rick</b> , his grandchildren, <b>Hailee</b> , <b>Aryn</b> , <b>Jakhi</b> , <b>Jamarcus</b> , <b>Maia</b> , <b>Emilio</b> , and <b>Milo</b>
<b>Parker</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>James Sherrell Parker</b> (94), of Auburn, Alabama passed away on December 27, 2022. Sherrell was born on a farm in New Hope, Alabama on May 21, 1928. He studied Agriculture at Auburn University. With one quarter until graduation, he was drafted into the Army and sent to Korea for a 2-year hitch in the United States Army. Upon his return to the States, he met and married <b>Ann Nolen</b> from Roanoke, Alabama and they moved to Auburn, for a short time, so that he could finish his degree from Auburn University. Upon graduating, he taught High School vocational agriculture until he went to work for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS). Sherrell worked for SCS as a soil conservationist, district conservationist, and area conservationist prior to moving to the SCS State Office in Auburn in 1974. He served as the Assistant State Conservation for Programs for Alabama until retirement in 1982. He led the implementation of the Rural Abandoned Mined Land Program in Alabama and was an outstanding leader of the Resources Conservation and Development program. After his retirement from SCS he stayed busy helping his son in the construction business and tending to his cows and trees at his home place in New Hope. Sherrell and Ann were active members of Auburn United Methodist Church for close to 50 years. Ann preceded him in death in 2016. He is survived by his children: <b>Sherry Parker Henderson (Dwight)</b> ; <b>James (Jim) Nolen Parker (Lisalyn)</b> ; <b>JoAnn Parker Penovi (Don)</b> ; grandchildren: <b>Jake Parker (Erica)</b> , <b>Caroline Matthes (Ben)</b> , <b>Alexandra Alonso (Gonzalo)</b> ; and 5 great grandchildren.
<b>Quilliam</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Maxine H. Quilliam</b> (91) of Newark, Ohio (formerly of Lakeport, Florida), passed away on February 16, 2023, at SharonBrooke Assisted Living in Newark. Maxine was the wife of Senior Conservationist <b>Robert E. Quilliam</b> , who served as State Conservationist for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in both West Virginia and Ohio, retiring in 1979. Maxine was born on June 1, 1931, in Washington, Indiana to the late <b>Herbert</b> and <b>Viola Hunter</b> . She was a retired librarian for Pickerington (Ohio) School District. A resident of Lakeport, she was a member of Lakeport Christian Church and attended Millersport United Methodist Church. She enjoyed reading, puzzles, solitaire, and theater productions. Maxine also enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and great grandchildren. Maxine is survived by her daughter, <b>Karen Taylor</b> of Newark; son, <b>Randy (Tanya)</b> of Millersport, Ohio; two grandsons, <b>Josh (Maria) Quilliam</b> and <b>Jeff (Kayla) Quilliam</b> ; five great grandchildren, <b>Hunter</b> , <b>Noah</b> , <b>Tripp</b> , <b>Faithann</b> and <b>Kaylyn</b> ; four step grandchildren, <b>Andy Hite</b> , <b>Heather Evans</b> , <b>Ami Boch</b> and <b>Dodi Brinkman</b> ; and several step-great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband of 67 years, <b>Robert E. Quilliam</b> in 2015.
<b>Redmond</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Charles Edward "Ed" "Doc" Redmond</b> (90) of Fredericktown, Ohio passed away on December 29, 2022, at the Knox Community Hospital in Mount Vernon, Ohio. Ed was born on January 13, 1932, in Oxford, New York to the late <b>Charles</b> and <b>Mary (Ardrion) Redmond</b> . He earned his undergraduate degree from Cornell University, his Master's degree from

		North Dakota State University, and his Doctorate from Michigan State University. Ed was a Soil Scientist for over 50 years for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. If you asked his family, they would say his loves were his grandchildren, soil, and food. He was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed tending to his garden. He is survived by his daughters, <b>Katherine (Robert) Shepherd, Brenda (Mark) Redmond, Janet (Joey) Dohn</b> ; his grandchildren, <b>Sara Shepherd, Emma Shepherd, Claire Shepherd, Levi Zolman, Luke (Hannah) Zolman, Jagger Dohn</b> ; and his great grandchild <b>Rhett Zolman</b> . Ed was preceded in death by his wife Jane Redmond.
<b>Rehmsmeyer</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>James M. Rehmsmeyer</b> (76) of Palmyra, Missouri (formerly of Higginsville, Missouri) passed away December 16, 2022. Jim was born September 26, 1946, in Higginsville to <b>Melvin</b> and <b>Mary (Arth) Rehmsmeyer</b> . He married <b>Kathy Fanning</b> on July 19, 1969, in Lee's Summit, Missouri. Jim worked for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service for 30 years. The family moved to Richmond, Missouri in 1986, to Higginsville in 1994, to Hannibal, Missouri in 2015 and to Palmyra in 2021. Jim was a veteran of the United States Army, a member of the American Legion, the Knights of Columbus, and St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Palmyra. He was an avid Kansas City Chiefs fan and 35-plus year ticket holder. Jim is survived by his wife <b>Kathy</b> , his mother <b>Mary Rehmsmeyer</b> of Dover, Missouri; daughters <b>Jill O'Hara (Ryan)</b> of St. Paul, Minnesota, <b>Christie Mahsman (Luke)</b> of Palmyra, <b>Kendra Wells</b> of Pleasant Hill, Missouri, and <b>Shawna Goring (Johathon)</b> of Higginsville, and 17 grandchildren.
<b>Riddell</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Robert Michael (Mike) Riddell</b> (77) of Lexington, Kentucky passed away on February 23, 2023, after a courageous battle with cancer. He was a lifetime Lexingtonian. Mike grew up on a dairy and tobacco farm in Fayette County as the oldest of 11 children. He graduated from the University of Kentucky with a civil engineering degree. After graduation, he went on to work for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service and was a well-respected design engineer and was on the Lexington state office watershed staff when he retired. He was also a realtor specializing in Horse Farms. Mike used his extensive knowledge of Kentucky soils to become the first to identify and color code the optimum horse soils in Central Kentucky, decades before it would become a real estate industry standard. This research was instrumental in the development of the most successful thoroughbred and standardbred farms in Central Kentucky. Mike married his wife <b>Fran</b> in 1987. Mike is survived by his loving wife <b>Fran</b> and his three children <b>Tyler Radin, Justin Riddell, Nataly (Tyler) Gomez</b> and 5 grandchildren, <b>Hadlee Radin, Sutton Radin, Evelyn Gomez, Sebastian Gomez</b> and <b>Melody Gomez</b> ; his 10 siblings: <b>Pat (Donna) Riddell, Joe Riddell, Tim Riddell, Dan (Martha) Riddell, David (Ada) Riddell, Julie (Bill) Hostetler, Charles (Marsha) Riddell, Susan (Greg) Mason, Mary (Dave) Tyler, Anne (Keller) Norton</b> ; 60 nieces and nephews, and 42 great nieces and nephews.
<b>Ryder</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Robert Ernest Ryder</b> (73) of Brookline, Missouri, passed away January 26, 2023. He was born April 26, 1949, to <b>William</b> and <b>Betty Ryder</b> in Santa Cruz, California. Robert had 3 Purple Hearts and other awards from his service in the Vietnam War. He was shot up and suffered the effects of Agent Orange throughout the rest of his life. He worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, including time as District Conservationist in Marshfield, Missouri. He took an early medical retirement, in the 1980's. After retiring, Robert was an officer of The American Clan Lockhart Society, a non-profit organization for people with interest in Scottish history and culture. Among his survivors is his wife, <b>Catherine</b> . Services will be held at the Missouri Veterans Cemetery in April 2023.
<b>Seyfert</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Karen Diane Seyfert</b> (75) of Ada, Kansas, passed away December 22, 2022, at the Hays Regional Medical Center. Karen was born April 18, 1947, on the family farm in Fountain Township, Ottawa County, Kansas to <b>Frank</b> and <b>Carol Ziegler</b> . On August 28, 1971, she was married to <b>Ron Seyfert</b> at the Antioch Baptist Church in Ada. Karen was a lifelong resident of Ottawa County. After graduating from Minneapolis High School where she was the valedictorian of the class of 1965, she attended and graduated from Brown Mackie Business College in Salina, Kansas. She worked for the Kansas State University Extension Service in Manhattan; USDA-Soil Conservation Service first as a Clerk Stenographer in the Salina State Office and then with the Four Rivers Resource Conservation and Development office in Minneapolis, Kansas. After marrying Ron, they purchased her grandparents' farm northwest of Ada where they raised their boys and lived until her passing. Karen was a life-long member of the Antioch Baptist Church in Ada and the Bohemian Lodge #203. Survivors include her husband of 51 years, <b>Ron Seyfert</b> ; son <b>Mike (Christy)</b> of Alexandria, Virginia, son <b>Mark (Teresa)</b> of Lewisville, Texas; and grandchildren <b>Sydney, Madison, Lila</b> and <b>Cora</b> .
<b>Spencer</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Richard S. Spencer</b> (71) of Cottonwood, Idaho, passed away February 17, 2023. Rich was born July 21, 1951, in Cleveland, Ohio, and grew up in the nearby suburb of Parma. He attended Cuyahoga Community College and Kent State University. After moving west, he worked as a seasonal firefighter in Idaho at Fenn, Dixie, and Riggins and fell in love with the area. In the meantime, he completed his studies at Humboldt State University in Northern California. Soon after he joined the Peace Corps in Nepal, where he surveyed soils in the foothills of the Himalayas. There he met his wife <b>Mary</b> , another soil scientist who joined the same program. They later married in Kathmandu, and shortly after, returned to the US looking for a place to settle. Landing a job in Boise, they moved to Idaho, spending the first 10 years in various towns in Southern Idaho. They then moved to Cottonwood, where Rich worked as the District Conservationist for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service in nearby Grangeville, Idaho for many years. He led a strong Catholic life and always set the example for his children to do the same. A rosary was recited on February 24, 2023 at St. Mary's Catholic Church, in Cottonwood followed by Mass of Christian burial at Cottonwood Catholic Cemetery. Rich was preceded in death by son <b>David</b> . He is survived by his wife <b>Mary</b> of 39 years and five surviving children: <b>Stephen (Tabitha), Rachel (Huzail), Laura (Matt), Peter (Natalie), and Sean</b> ; daughter-in-law <b>Danielle</b> ; and grandchildren: <b>Lucy, Matthew, Amelia, Gemma, Audra, Brooklynn, Decklan, Gabriel, Gatlin, Grace, Owen, Zion, Fiona, and David</b> .
<b>Spooner</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Dr. June Taylor Spooner</b> (85) of Auburn, Alabama, passed away on February 9, 2023, at East Alabama Medical Center following an extended illness. June was the wife of retired Assistant State Conservation Engineer <b>Joe L. Spooner</b> who worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. June had a remarkable career as an educator. June taught school in



		Georgia before moving to Auburn with Joe in 1967. Besides being an elementary school principal in the City of Auburn, she served as a member and officer of many organizations – local, state, and national – and was inducted into the Alabama Educational Leadership Hall of Fame 1991. She is survived by her husband, <b>Joe Spooner</b> of Auburn; daughter and son-in-law, <b>Victoria (Frank) Jordan</b> of Atlanta, Georgia; son-in-law, <b>Joe Hanks</b> of Birmingham, Alabama; and five grandchildren, <b>Gabe (Deborah) Hanks</b> , <b>Taylor Jordan</b> , <b>Eben Jordan</b> , <b>Mallie Hanks</b> , and <b>Audrey Jordan</b> .
<b>Stucken</b>	<b>2022</b>	Senior Conservationist and ARCSE Member <b>Alfred Vander Stucken</b> (90) of Victoria, Texas, passed away on September 27 in Victoria. Alfred was born in San Antonio on January 24, 1932. He was raised on Rio Vista Farms, one of Texas' largest self-sustaining dairy farms at the time. He graduated from Texas A&M University in 1953. In the Corps of Cadets, Alfred was in D Squadron and a member of the university color guard, proudly carrying the Texas Flag. After graduation, Alfred was commissioned as an officer in the United States Air Force and served at Lackland Air Force Base, March Air Force Base, FE Warren Air Force Base, and Langley Air Force Base during the Korean conflict. He was honorably discharged in 1961. He married his bride, <b>Marian</b> , in 1955 at First Baptist Church in Bryan, Texas. Alfred's career as a soil conservationist with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service began in Huntsville, Texas, in 1954. A certified professional agronomist, erosion and sediment control specialist, and area conservationist, Alfred served 19 Texas counties and was honored in Washington D.C with the USDA Superior Service Award before his retirement in 1989. After retirement, Alfred managed the family farm and ranch, raising Registered Beefmaster Cattle in DeWitt County near Thomaston, Texas. Alfred was active in the Lions Club International and American Legion Post of Victoria. Alfred was a member of First Baptist Church of Victoria. He also served as chairman of the South Texas Farm and Ranch Show. Alfred enjoyed a lifetime of hunting, fishing, and camping adventures with his family. Easter weekends, summer family vacations, Thanksgiving dinners, and Christmas mornings were among his most favorite memories. He is survived by his wife, <b>Marian</b> ; two daughters, <b>Alisa Vander Stucken</b> , <b>Frances Bolen</b> ; son, <b>Edgar Vander Stucken (Melissa)</b> ; 7 grandchildren; and 9 great-grandchildren.
<b>Sturtevant</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Eugene "Gene" Ervin Sturtevant</b> (94) of Hillsboro, Oregon, passed away on December 20, 2022. Gene was born on June 28, 1928, to <b>George</b> and <b>Margaret Sturtevant</b> in Pollock, South Dakota. After high school in 1946, Gene worked in the Pollock Grain Elevator. In 1948, Gene married <b>Joy Belle Sturtevant (Peterson)</b> , also of Pollock, South Dakota. He enlisted in the United States Air Force serving from 1951 to 1955, where he reached the rank of Staff Sergeant, serving in the Strategic Air Command. After Gene's military service, he majored in Agriculture at South Dakota State University. After graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1962, he was employed by the USDA-Soil Conservation Service for 25-years, serving as the District Conservationist in Pendleton, Oregon, Hillsboro, Oregon, and Corvallis, Oregon. He was also a Resource Conservation and Development Coordinator for part of his career. After his retirement in 1987, Gene and Joy spent their time in service to their family and to the churches where they attended, Cedar Mill Bible Church in Beaverton, Oregon, and the Pendleton Free Methodist Church. Gene is survived by his wife, <b>Joy</b> ; his children: <b>Jeanine Rice</b> , <b>Daniel Sturtevant</b> , <b>Dawn Nelson</b> , and <b>Mark Sturtevant</b> ; and by 19 grandchildren, and 31 great grandchildren. Gene was laid to rest at Fir Lawn Memorial Park in Hillsboro, Oregon.
<b>Swank</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Helen June (Arner) Swank</b> (88) of Graysville, Pennsylvania, passed away peacefully on February 4, 2023, at J. W. Ruby Memorial Hospital. Helen was the wife of ARCSE Life Member and Senior Conservationist <b>Rollin N. Swank</b> , who retired as State Conservationist of West Virginia. Helen met her husband, Rollin, at a 4-H Leadership Conference at Penn State. Last August, they celebrated 67 years of marriage. Helen earned a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, with highest honors from Olivet Nazarene University. She spent her career shaping the hearts and minds of her students. She loved teaching in Illinois, Iowa, and finally at Cheat Lake Elementary School in Morgantown, West Virginia. In addition to her husband Rollin, she is survived by daughter <b>Cynthia Swank</b> of Baltimore, Maryland and son <b>Joseph (Amy) Swank</b> of Davidsonville, Maryland, grandchildren <b>Victoria Grace</b> , <b>Sarah Yulin</b> and <b>Joseph Colton</b> , and her two sisters, <b>Dorothy (William) Slusser</b> of Sun City, Arizona and <b>Winifred Wood</b> of Magnolia, Delaware.
<b>Thompson</b>	<b>2022</b>	Senior Conservationist and Honorary ARCSE Member <b>Charles (Charlie) Milburn Thompson</b> (95) of Temple, Texas, passed away on July 10, 2022, with his wife, <b>Martha (Marty)</b> by his side. Charlie was born in Cisco, Texas on August 5, 1926, to <b>Effie Pearl Turner</b> and <b>Milburn Thompson</b> . At 17, he enrolled in John Tarleton Agricultural College (now Tarleton State University) with a course study of General Agriculture. He registered for the draft on his 18th birthday and in February 1945 he went off to the military and was stationed at Camp Hood (now Fort Hood) Texas. He was assigned to a battalion that was designated as infantry anti-tank training. He was later stationed in Cebu City, Philippines and then Guam. He returned home in October 1946. In 1948, he enrolled in Texas Technological College (now Texas Tech University) and graduated in 1950 with a degree in Agronomy and Soils. His first job was in Seguin Texas as a soil conservationist with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. In February 1953 he was selected to fill a vacancy as a soil scientist in the Lower Rio Grande Valley in Donna, Texas. He met his first wife, <b>Jo Anne Pittman</b> at First Baptist Church, Donna. While in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, they were blessed with four children. In 1965, Charlie was transferred to Nacogdoches, TX as a Field Specialists-Soils and in January of 1975 he was appointed as the State Soil Scientist for Texas and transferred to Temple, Texas. He served in this capacity until his retirement in 1986. After his retirement he did consulting work for Brown Collins and Associates as well as Morrison Knudson Company. Most of his consulting work focused on surface mine reclamation and returning the land to productive use. Charlie is preceded in death by his first wife, <b>JoAnne Pittman Thompson</b> and his son in law, <b>Ben Gillam</b> . He is survived by his wife <b>Martha</b> of Temple; children <b>Dee Ann Gillam Duncan (Randy)</b> of Mineola, Texas; <b>Charles Lee Thompson (Cher)</b> of Granbury, Texas; <b>Margaret Lane (Steve)</b> of Belton, Texas; <b>Paul Thompson (Bob)</b> of The Woodlands, Texas; <b>Jennifer Kelly (Pat)</b> of Ogden, Utah; and <b>Glenn Mangel</b> of Ogden, Utah; grandchildren <b>Christine Thompson Rhodes (Josh)</b> , <b>Matthew Lane (Lindsey)</b> , <b>Candace Gillam (Jason Henry)</b> , <b>Chelsea Thompson Fletcher (Michael)</b> , <b>Carman Thompson</b> , <b>Cari Lane</b>

		<b>Hollingsworth (Cody), Will Gillam, Shawn Kelly, Jamie Kelly, Katie Kelly, Harley Mangel, and Manny Mangel;</b> and 4 great-grandchildren.
<b>Wallace</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Dorothy Fay Wallace</b> (101) of Dixon, California passed away peacefully at home on November 22, 2022. She was born November 11, 1921, to <b>Fay</b> and <b>John Dawson</b> , and she grew up on the family chicken ranch at a time when roads to town were unpaved and trains still stopped in Dixon. After graduating from Dixon High School Dorothy left Dixon to attend business college and work for an attorney in Placerville, California. She met and married a handsome butcher named <b>George Wallace</b> . They returned to the chicken ranch to help during the worker shortage of World War II. Together they were ranchers and farmers on the family farm just a mile outside of Dixon. In the early 1960's she began a twenty-year career with the USDA- Soil Conservation Service in Dixon, during an era of expansion of the irrigation and drainage canals in the Berryessa watershed. Her first job was as a secretary in the Dixon Field Office. Later she worked on the Personnel Staff in the California State Office in nearby Davis, California. Although George predeceased her in 1983, they shared 42 years of marriage and many memories. Over the last 15 to 20 years, a major source of joy and entertainment for Dorothy was playing bridge with dear friends almost every week. Dorothy's survivors include her daughter <b>Bobbi</b> , devoted son-in-law <b>Jerry</b> , grandchildren <b>Steve Hulbert (Julie)</b> , <b>Katherine Weldon (Ed)</b> , and <b>Elizabeth Brazelton (Hutson)</b> and great-grandchildren <b>Michael, Madison, Ward, Noah, Ben, Fay, Ruby, and Nora</b> . In 1998 the Dixon Public Library created an Oral History interview with Dorothy available here: <a href="https://californiarevealed.org/islandora/object/cavpp%3A21897">https://californiarevealed.org/islandora/object/cavpp%3A21897</a> .



*Skyline Drive, Shenandoahs, Virginia.*