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The Newsletter for Retired Conservation Service Employees

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The **ARCSE Newsletter** is published bi-monthly by the  
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Website: [www.arcse.org](http://www.arcse.org)

**FROM THE PRESIDENT****Julie MacSwain, ARCSE President**

On behalf of the ARCSE Board I wish to thank you for your continued support of our organization. Staying connected in retirement after a career can be a challenge. **Dana Dukes York** and **Cheryl Simmons**, former ARCSE President, encouraged me to join ARCSE. I was told that joining ARCSE would be a great way to not only reconnect with ARCSE members, but also to connect with new people.

**ARCSE is turning 50 in 2024.** If you have some stories that you would like to share from back in the day when you worked with SCS and/or NRCS, please go ahead and share some of those memories. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Please join me in welcoming **Becky Fletcher** to the ARCSE President-Elect position. Ms. Fletcher will be replacing **Mary Podoll** who has stepped down for family and business reasons. Thank you, Mary for the time that you served ARCSE. Becky will do a great job in carrying on in the President-Elect position. Please be prepared to lend a helping hand if she reaches out.

Please join me in welcoming **Chris Tippe** as the new Midwest Regional Vice President. He will be replacing Becky Fletcher. Thank you, Chris for stepping up to lead in this position and thank you Becky for the time you have served the Midwest.

**On May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, from 10:30am–12:00pm a training session will be held for our ARCSE State Representatives.** Please be on the lookout for an email from Jerry Bernard, ARCSE Newsletter Editor. He will be sending out an email that will contain the Zoom meeting information and a brief agenda for the meeting. This will be a great opportunity for ARCSE State Reps who have served for a long time or for our new Reps to learn more about what your roles and responsibilities are for ARCSE.

**Our upcoming Annual Meeting for ARCSE in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. On Monday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, 1:30–5:00pm**

**ARCSE Annual Business Meeting, 1:30–2:45pm.** Our opening segment is for association members and others interested in learning more about ARCSE goals and activities. Leadership from NRCS, SWCS, ARCSE, and other organizations will speak on topics involving conservation policy and program direction, cross-generation engagement, and other priority ARCSE interests.

**Historical Review of Conservation in the Piedmont and Coastal Regions of the Carolinas, 3:00–4:00pm.** This segment for ARCSE members, guest retirees, and interested SWCS registrants kicks off with the presentation of awards for community service and exceptional contribution to the ARCSE. As we initiated last year at the Iowa meeting, we feature a historical review of conservation in the region surrounding the conference venue, this year the Piedmont and Coastal regions of the Carolinas from the perspective of long-time and current conservation employees in the area from the early beginnings to today. Thanks much to acting STC **Jamie Keith** and staff for helping put this together.

**The Basics of Mentoring, 4:00–5:00pm.** This segment is open to all retirees and SWCS conference attendees and covers basic mentoring approaches and techniques, for those interested in becoming an ARCSE member or want a refresher. The recent NRCS/ARCSE Memorandum of Understanding gives emphasis to tapping into the reservoir of experience and knowledge of retired conservationists. Many mentors with this experience are needed for the new hires coming on board to provide technical assistance and program support to climate-smart initiatives and the new farm bill.

Retirees participating in any these ARCSE sessions, but not registered for the SWCS conference, have the option of purchasing a discounted ticket to the Exhibit and Poster Reception immediately following for further networking with fellow conservationists.

**ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES**

If you are interested in attending these sessions, please visit the SWCS website at <https://www.swcs.org/events/conferences/2024-annual-conference/> to learn more.

Thank you! –Julie



Zoom Board meeting of April 12. (Top): Jack Carlson, Bill Ward, Chris Tippie, Jerry Bernard. (Middle): Paul Benedict, Melvin Womack, Craig Derickson, Arnold King. (Bottom): Julie MacSwain, Becky Fletcher.

## ARCSE State Representatives Zoom Meeting

Attention State Reps – Important Meeting Scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mark your calendars for our first ever national Zoom meeting for **ARCSE state representatives**. The meeting is on Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 10:30 am (CDST), and it will last about an hour. With a new strategic plan and new opportunities with partners such as NRCS, SWCS and ACES we want to be sure you are up to date and knowledgeable about your role. We will have a brief discussion about communications, roles and responsibilities, establishing and maintaining a relationship with the state conservationists, and more, followed by time for questions and answers. This is a great opportunity to put names with faces.

The Zoom weblink and phone numbers will be provided in a separate email in early May. You **do not** have to download Zoom on your computer. There is an option to join in your browser. You can also dial in without computer access.

If you have any questions about the upcoming Zoom meeting, please contact your regional vice president.

### Scam Email Alert

We have received reports that some of you have received scam emails claiming to be from Julie MacSwain. Thank you for letting us know. Fortunately, Julie MacSwain **has not been hacked**. These scam emails are not from her email account. Julie's email is [juliemacswain@gmail.com](mailto:juliemacswain@gmail.com). If you receive an email that claims to be from Julie MacSwain, but is not from this account, please disregard the content and mark it as spam. **Julie MacSwain, ARCSE President, will never send an email asking you for gift cards or money.** Unfortunately, email scams are a reality of modern life. To learn more about spam emails, check out the Federal Trade Commission's advice on how to recognize and avoid phishing scam at:

<https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-recognize-and-avoid-phishing-scams>.

### Put your experience to work with the ACES PROGRAM!



Participating in the Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services (ACES) Program for Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is a chance for experienced workers like you, age 55+, to share your knowledge and skills. You don't have to be an NRCS or USDA retiree to participate!

**Who is Eligible?** Applicants must be age 55 and over and be able to provide services and skills required for the jobs advertised on the web sites of the three non-profits with which NRCS has a national cooperative agreement with National Experienced Workforce Solutions, Inc.

National and state budget priorities determine which NRCS offices participate in the ACES program. A few listings are shown below.

**How to Apply?** Applicants should check the web site of the nonprofit partners for available positions: National Experienced Workforce Solutions, [www.newsolutions.org](http://www.newsolutions.org). Link to all Job Openings: <https://newsolutions.org/jobs/>

Position Title	Location	Option to work remotely	Advertised Wage Range/hr	Authorized Hours (per pay period)
Appeals Review Specialists (Urgent)	Nationally	yes	\$30-\$40	open
Easement Realty Specialists	Remote	yes	\$50.00	30
Resource Conservationist (IRA)	Dover, DE		\$25.00	48
Urban Agriculture Specialist	St. Louis, MO		\$25.00	32
Economist (ESC)	Casper, WY	yes	\$31.50	40

## Early History of the Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services (ACES) Program.

*Note: Last fall, ARCSE President Julie "JMac" MacSwain asked Ron Marlow to describe his role and that of other key NRCS staff in the early years of ACES. The following is Ron's account of that history, using as his primary reference the "Report on the ACES Demonstration Project, December 2008."*

Since ACES is modeled after the EPA Senior Environmental Employment Program (SEEP), beginning with a one paragraph history of SEEP seems appropriate. In the mid-1980s, legislation was signed into law authorizing the EPA to establish and manage a senior environmental employment program to serve senior citizens. It was designed to provide training and employment opportunities to older Americans and was administered by AARP until 1997 when the National Older Workers Career Center (NOWCC) was established. By 2004 SEEP had grown to over 1,500 participants.

In late summer of 2003, NRCS retiree and NACD employee **Rich Duesterhaus** learned of SEEP and arranged for the National Older Workers Career Center (NOWCC) to brief NRCS program managers **Tom Christensen**, Director of Conservation Operations, and **Ron Marlow**, Director of the Conservation Engineering Division, on SEEP. The Technical Service Provider (TSP) team had been assigned to Ron earlier in 2003, and this team's role was critical as ACES evolved.

After the SEEP briefing, NRCS took no action on SEEP until late fall of 2004 when, as Associate Deputy Chief for Science and Technology, Ron mentioned SEEP in a luncheon meeting with NRCS Chief **Bruce Knight**. Chief Knight showed much interest, and Ron provided a follow-up detailed briefing. In January 2005, Ron briefed NRCS State Conservationists on SEEP at the NRCS National Leadership Team meeting. With the leadership team on board, Chief Knight supported the establishment of a "SEEP like program" in NRCS.

In February, NRCS TSP Team member **Renna Young-Owens**, TSP Team Leader **Angel Figueroa**, and **Ron Marlow** met with EPA SEEP staff to discuss EPA's management of the SEEP, review NRCS plans, determine the best fit for SEEP within NRCS, and identify expectations from NRCS.

In a follow-up March meeting, Renna Young-Owens met with SEEP staff and one of the SEEP grantee organizations to discuss setting up a SEEP like program in NRCS via an interagency agreement; however, USDA Office of General Counsel (OGC) later advised that the SEEP authority covers only EPA programs and that an interagency agreement would not be appropriate. OGC did agree that a demonstration project could be done under NRCS's existing authority. In April, NRCS called NOWCC requesting assistance in setting up an older worker employment program for NRCS, modeled after the SEEP but tailored to meet NRCS state level needs.

On June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2005, the ACES Demonstration Project grant was signed by NRCS and NOWCC for a three-year pilot starting with 24 positions in a half dozen states. The program was established as a pilot since no legislative authority existed for a permanent program in USDA. EPA had operated in a similar manner for several years prior to passage of its legislative authority for SEEP in the mid-1980s.

In the fall of 2005 and spring of 2006, Ron Marlow coordinated with the NRCS legislative staff, USDA OGC and USDA Office of Budget and Program Analysis to draft language providing USDA legislative authorization for the ACES program. The language was reviewed by OMB and other Departments. Secretary of Agriculture **Mike Johanns** sent an April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006 letter to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House with draft language providing USDA legislative authorization for the ACES program.

In February 2007, the NRCS-NOWCC ACES Working Group was formed to explore recommendations to the management and administration of the ACES project, should it become a permanent program. The Group was headed by NRCS TSP Team Leader Angel Figueroa and included ACES State Coordinators **Pat Bragg, Bart Hubert, and Judy Martinson** and NOWCC project staff. Six recommendations regarding policy, program management and administration, and systems support were offered and accepted by NRCS in the fall of 2007.

On December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007, the U.S. Senate passed its version of the Farm Bill. The bill included language authorizing USDA to operate the Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services (ACES) program. **On May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008, a permanent ACES Program for USDA was authorized with Congressional passage of the Farm Bill.** NRCS extended the demonstration project for three months, to run through September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008 to provide continuity of the program while the agency finalized its plan for implementation of a permanent program under the legislative authorization provided in the Farm Bill.

After issuing a request of proposals in July for grantees to administer the permanent ACES Program, on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008 four non-profit organizations were selected to be eligible to receive grants under an umbrella cooperative agreement for the ACES program. Later that month, all 163 Enrollees were separated from the ACES Demonstration Project. Twenty-five States participated in the launch of the permanent ACES program, with 83 Enrollees being migrated from the Demonstration to the permanent program.

In addition to the individuals mentioned herein, support of many others was critical in seeing the ACES demonstration project up and running in three months with a permanent ACES program in place three years later. Ron, Angel, and the NOWCC staff always agreed that there was one key NRCS person that was consistently tenacious in ensuring that the day-to-day needs of NOWCC staff and the NRCS state and field staff were addressed during this time period. That person was TSP team member **Renna Young-Owens**.

In closing, even though ACES was modeled after EPA's SEEP, many different NRCS needs evolved as ACES was being implemented. If of interest, some of those that became evident early on could be addressed in a future article.

## NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

—Craig Derickson, retired USDA-NRCS

### **Congress Passes \$1.2 Trillion Appropriations Package**

The Associated Press (AP) reported that on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, the Senate passed a \$1.2 trillion appropriation package with a vote of 74-24. The House passed the bill a day earlier with a vote of 286-134, narrowly meeting the two-thirds majority needed for approval. Passage of this legislation was a long overdue action by Congress that had lingered for nearly six months this fiscal year. With funding now in place for the remainder of the budget year, the threat of a government shutdown is removed until the fall.

Two weeks earlier on March 8<sup>th</sup>, Congress approved money for Veterans Affairs, Interior, Agriculture, and other agencies. The March 23<sup>rd</sup> budget bill is much larger and provides funding for the Defense, Homeland Security and State departments and other aspects of government. More than 70% of the money will go to defense spending.

Passage of these budget bills in separate actions is a result of House speaker **Mike Johnson**, breaking up the fiscal spending bills, rather than continuing the recent tradition of asking members to vote for one massive, complex bill called an omnibus, with little time to review it or face a shutdown.

Tallying up both appropriation packages, discretionary spending for the 2024 budget year will come to about \$1.66 trillion. That amount does not include programs such as Social Security and Medicare or financing the country's rising debt.

The spending package closely aligns with a deal that former Speaker **Kevin McCarthy** worked out with the White House in May 2023. That arrangement restricted federal spending for two years and suspended the debt ceiling into January 2025, so the federal government could continue paying its bills. **Shalanda Young**, director of the White House Office of Management and Budget, reported that last year's spending agreement, which became the Fiscal Responsibility Act, will save the federal government about \$1 trillion over the coming decade. See more at: <https://apnews.com/article/congress-shutdown-budget-speaker-johnson-85dc1e93f6c49c154c02a166d0e8e784> .

### **Foreign Aid to Ukraine, Israel, Taiwan and TikTok**

On Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024, the Association Press (AP) reported that the House approved a \$95 billion package to provide foreign aid for Ukraine, Israel, and other US allies in a rare weekend Congressional session. After months of discord and resistance, Democrats and Republicans came together to offer financial American support to help Ukraine resist Russia's invasion.

The AP story reported: "With an overwhelming vote Saturday, the \$61 billion in aid for Ukraine passed in a matter of minutes, a strong showing as American lawmakers race to deliver a fresh round of US support to the war-torn ally. Many Democrats cheered on the House floor and waved blue-and-yellow flags of Ukraine."

Support for aid to Israel and the other allies also won easy approval in the House, as did a provision that places constraints on further use of the popular social media platform called **TikTok**. The legislation will go to the Senate, which could pass it as soon as Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. **President Joe Biden** has promised to sign the bill when it reaches his desk.

However, these actions are likely to create some push back for Speaker **Mike Johnson** from hard-right Republican members. Johnson was quoted as saying that he had decided "to be on the right side of history" to secure aid for Ukraine, rather than worry about the safety of his job.

President **Volodymyr Zelenskyy** of Ukraine expressed his gratitude to both parties in the House and "personally Speaker Mike Johnson for the decision that keeps history on the right track," he said on X, formerly Twitter, "Thank you, America!" For more see: <https://apnews.com/article/ukraine-aid-israel-tiktok-congress-a8910452e623413bf1da1e491d1d94ba#> .

On Tuesday evening, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, the Senate passed the same \$95B foreign aid package, with 31 Republicans joining 48 Democrats to pass the legislation. The legislation is comprised of four separate bills that were approved by the House over the weekend with bipartisan support. **President Biden** had promised to sign the bill as soon as it reaches his desk.

ABC news reported "the package provides roughly \$26 billion for Israel, currently at war with Hamas in Gaza; as well as \$61 billion for Ukraine and \$8 billion for allies in the Indo-Pacific. A fourth bill would force a US ban of TikTok if its Chinese parent company doesn't sell it; impose sanctions on Russia, China, and Iran; and seize Russian assets to help Ukraine rebuild from the war's damage."

In a prepared statement **President Biden** said, "Congress has passed my legislation to strengthen our national security and send a message to the world about the power of American leadership: we stand resolutely for democracy and freedom, and against tyranny and oppression." For more information on the foreign aid package see:

<https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/senate-returns-95b-foreign-aid-package-ukraine-israel/story?id=109506150> .

### **Expiration of the 2018 Farm Bill and Extension in 2024**

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) describes the Farm Bill as an omnibus, multi-year law that governs a wide array of agricultural and food programs. The bill provides an opportunity for policymakers to address a broad range of agricultural and food issues about every five years.

On November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Congress passed a one-year extension of the current farm bill (the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018). The 2018 farm bill actually expired on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and with the 2023 crop year (crops harvested in 2023). The Congressional extension continues to authorize Farm Bill programs and provisions until September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

In 2023, no markups or legislative action occurred to reauthorize the farm bill other than the extension passed by Congress in November 2023. The 2024 year is nearly half over, and time is ticking away for Congress to either pass a bill to reauthorize new Farm Bill legislation, or possibly pass another extension before the end of the year. For more see: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF12047#> .

### **Congressional Budget Office's Baseline for USDA Farm and Nutrition Programs**

On February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released a report with budget baseline amounts for USDA Mandatory Farm Programs and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The CBO report showed projected budget outlays for farm bill-related programs at \$1.46 trillion over the 10-year window from fiscal years 2025 to 2034, which is down 3.5% from the previous 10-year baseline of \$1.5 trillion.

The CBO's baseline numbers released nearly a year ago in May 2023 remain the farm bill scoring baseline until directed otherwise by the budget committees. In addition to the February 2024 baseline, CBO will release a new spring baseline following the release of the President's budget request for fiscal year 2025. It is possible, at the direction of the Congressional budget committees and in consultation with the agriculture committees, that proposed farm bill modifications could be scored against a baseline other than the May 2023 baseline.

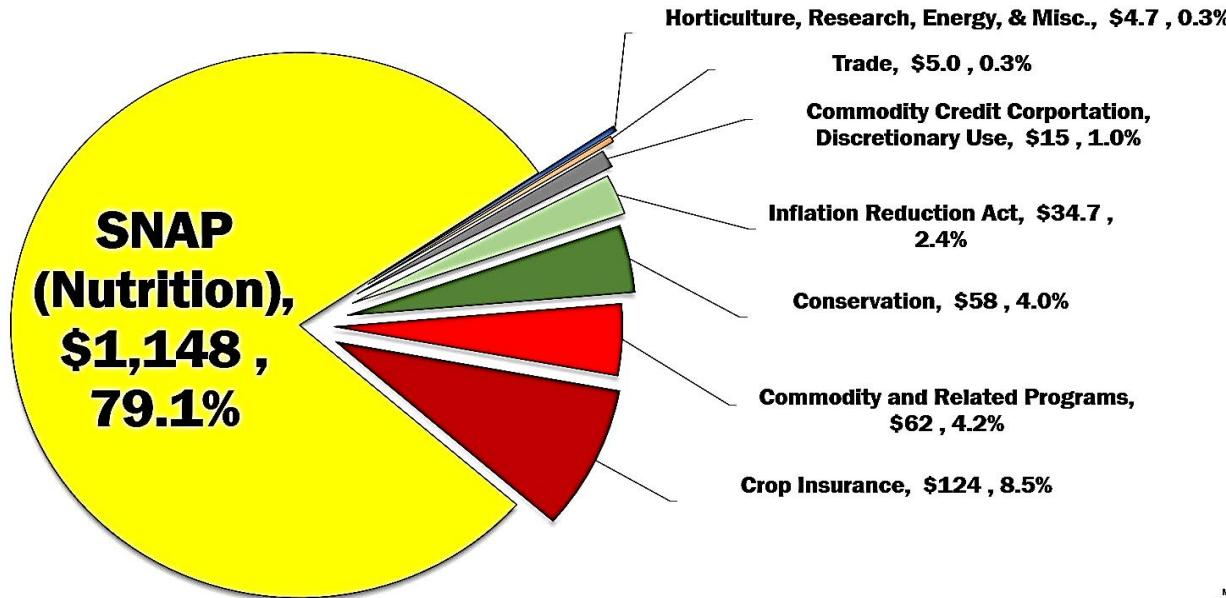
The following information is quoted directly from the February 2024 CBO baseline reports at:

<https://www.agriculture.senate.gov/newsroom/minority-blog/reviewing-the-february-2024-baseline-for-usda-farm-and-nutrition-programs>

### **Farm Bill Programs**

While the May 2023 Congressional Budget Office (CBO) baselines for USDA Mandatory Farm Programs and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) currently remain the farm bill scoring baseline, CBO recently released February 2024 baselines for farm programs and SNAP to provide updated spending projections through fiscal year 2034. Combined, mandatory farm programs and SNAP are projected to total \$1.46 trillion over the 10-year window from fiscal years 2025 to 2034, down 3.9% or \$59 billion from CBO's May 2023 10-year baseline of \$1.51 trillion during fiscal years 2024 to 2033.

### **\$1.5 Trillion for Farm Bill Programs, Fiscal Years 2024 to 2034, Billion Dollars**



Source: Senate Ag GOP Analysis, Congressional Budget Office February 2024 Baseline For USDA Mandatory Farm Programs and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program



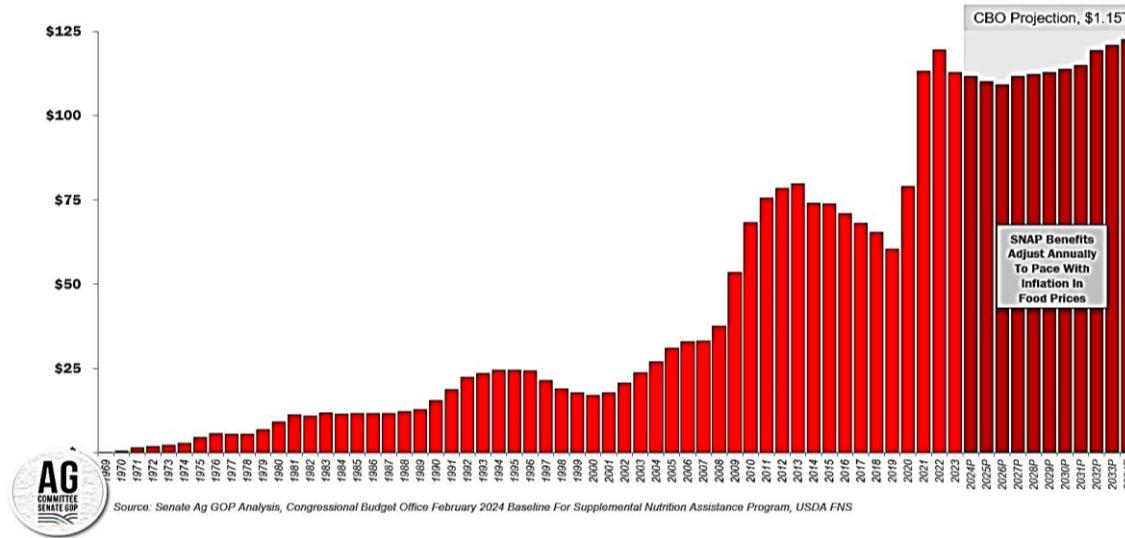
### **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**

**At nearly 80% of total farm bill program spending**, CBO now projects 10-year SNAP outlays at \$1.15 trillion, a \$77 billion decrease from the May projection of \$1.2 trillion (when including changes made to SNAP in the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023). The decline in projected SNAP outlays is due to lower participation estimates – a decline of approximately one million participants per year – and a decrease in the estimated benefits per person of approximately \$12 per month. Importantly, reflecting trends in overall food price inflation and other factors, projected SNAP benefits per person continue to

increase in the baseline, rising from \$206 per person in 2025 to nearly \$260 per participant in 2035 – an increase of 26%.

While SNAP spending is projected to decline from the May 2023 baseline, SNAP spending has increased by \$484 billion, or 73%, since the 2018 Farm Bill's enactment, driven in large part by a 21% increase in SNAP benefits as part of the 2021 Thrifty Food Plan reevaluation, food price inflation, and increased program participation.

## SNAP Actual and Estimated Outlays for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, 1969 to 2034, Billion Dollars



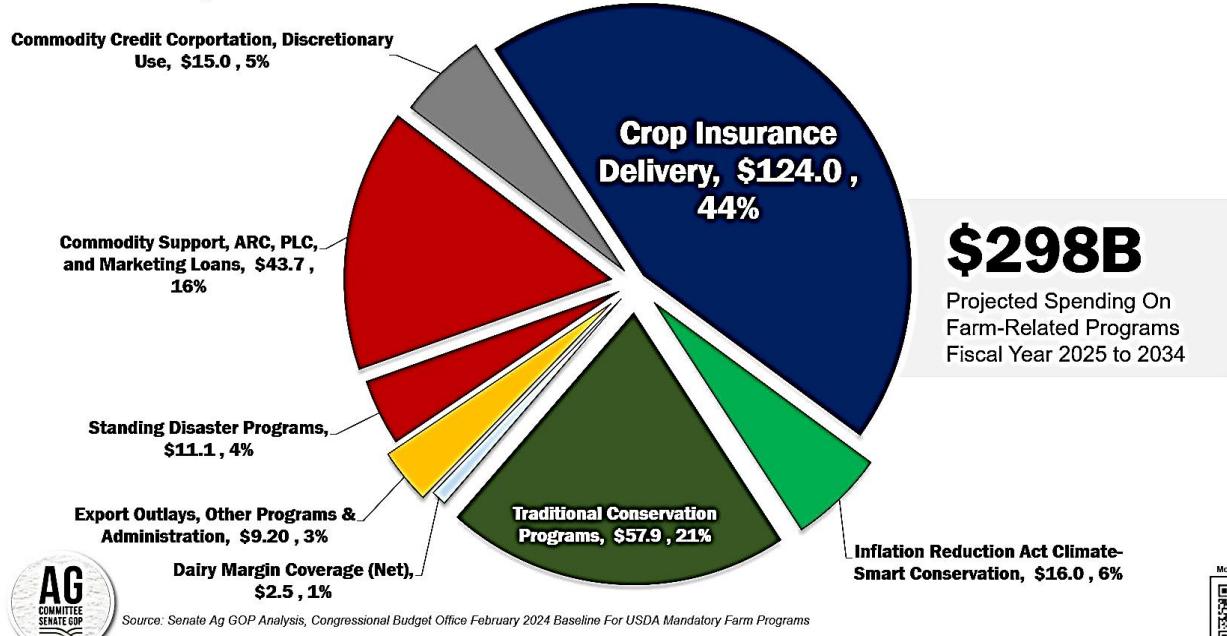
### Crop Insurance, Commodity Programs, and the Commodity Credit Corporation

The remaining 20% of spending falls into farmer-related programs such as crop insurance, commodity support programs such as Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC), and voluntary incentive-based conservation programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program or the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Total outlays for crop insurance are now projected at \$124 billion – a \$23 billion, or 22%, increase from the May 2023 projection of \$101 billion. The increase in projected crop insurance outlays is driven by higher expected crop prices and an additional 30 million acres projected to be insured each year – driven by an increase in pasture, rangeland, and forest utilization. The impact of livestock-based crop insurance policies such as Dairy Revenue Protection or Livestock Risk Protection for cattle and swine are also captured in the CBO baseline for federal crop insurance.

Commodity income support and related programs such as ARC, PLC, Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC), and livestock disaster programs, among others, are now projected to cost \$57 billion over the 2025 to 2034 fiscal years (not including export outlays, other miscellaneous programs, and administration). The \$7.5 billion decrease in commodity support payments is driven mainly by reduced outlays for ARC, down \$2.9 billion to \$15.3 billion, and PLC, down \$4.8 billion to \$28 billion over fiscal years 2025 to 2034.

### Commodity and Conservation Spending, Fiscal Years 2025 to 2034, Billion Dollars



In recent years USDA has used the discretionary authority of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to provide new financial resources for efforts such as the Trade Mitigation Programs, Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities, and the Regional Agricultural Promotion Program, among others. Historically, CBO accounted for this discretionary use of the CCC at \$1 billion per year, or \$10 billion over 10 years. This figure had remained unchanged since the May 2022 baseline. Now, to reflect the increased use of the CCC for discretionary purposes, CBO increased their projections for CCC spending from fiscal year 2025 to 2034 to \$15 billion, an increase of \$5 billion from the May 2023 baseline (Note: CBO also increased fiscal year 2024 CCC spending by \$2 billion).

## **Conservation and Inflation Reduction Act Spending**

Spending for voluntary incentive-based conservation programs such as CRP, EQIP, or the Conservation Stewardship Program, among others, are now projected at \$58 billion – \$2 billion lower than the May 2023 projection of \$60 billion due to lower CRP-related outlays. The reduction in CRP outlays is attributable to increased enrollment in CRP grasslands and the lower per-acre rental payments associated with these acres.

While not currently a part of the farm bill baseline, a line item many conservation stakeholders likely followed was Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) climate-smart program outlays. In the February baseline, CBO increased and shifted the pace of projected outlays for climate-smart spending authorized as part of the IRA by approximately \$110 million. For the most part, CBO projected a slower pace of outlays in nearby years, with higher outlays in fiscal years 2029 to 2031. At the same time, CBO reduced projected outlays for conservation technical assistance by \$101 million – leaving total IRA-related outlays \$9 million higher than the score for the IRA upon enactment.

When including the IRA-related outlays for conservation programs, conservation- and climate-related outlays total \$74 billion during fiscal years 2025 to 2034, making conservation- and climate-related financial and technical assistance larger than that of commodity support programs and approximately 27% of all spending on farm-related programs in the farm bill.

## **Impact On the Farm Bill Scoring Baseline**

The question likely on the minds of many farm and nutrition policy stakeholders is: “Is this the new farm bill baseline?” The answer is not definitive.

Currently, the May 2023 CBO baseline is the scoring baseline for the next farm bill, meaning any proposed policy modifications to farm and nutrition programs in the farm bill and their impact on the US deficit are being measured against the May 2023 baseline. That can change. In addition to this February 2024 baseline, CBO will issue another baseline in 2024 after the release of the President’s fiscal year 2025 budget request to Congress.

The potential for either of the 2024 baselines to replace the May 2023 baseline as the farm bill scoring baseline will be determined by the budget committees, in consultation with the agriculture committees. So, while the February 2024 baseline is not currently the farm bill baseline, it does provide an important perspective on projected farm and nutrition program spending for the next baseline – one that could supplant the May 2023 baseline as the scoring baseline for the farm bill.

For more on Congressional Budget Office budget scoring of agriculture, conservation, farm bill policy, and food assistance programs, see:

<https://www.agriculture.senate.gov/newsroom/minority-blog/reviewing-the-february-2024-baseline-for-usda-farm-and-nutrition-programs>.



Save the date for the Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees (ARCSE) Annual Business Meeting and Partner Event on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 from 1:30 PM–5:00 PM at the Sheraton, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

This event is in conjunction with the 79<sup>th</sup> SWCS International Annual Conference. The ARCSE Annual Business Meeting and Partner Event is for ARCSE members, local conservation retirees, and other non-retiree SWCS registrants interested in our activities, NRCS program direction, and agricultural conservation history in the environs around the conference venue.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

*Paul Benedict, Membership Chair*

### New Life Member

Chad L. McGrath – Tigard, Oregon

### New Members

Jamey Wood – Edmond, Oklahoma  
 Duncan C. McGregor – Cary, North Carolina  
 Jon Fripp – Arlington, Texas  
 Dana C. Holland – Marshalltown, Iowa  
 Carolyn Christian – Ankeny, Iowa  
 Greg Townley – Prairie City, Iowa  
 Renae Anderson – Oakfield, Wisconsin

### New Affiliate Member

Stuart Ashby Lee – Smithfield, North Carolina

Please take time to review the Directory that accompanies this newsletter. If you are aware of a member or senior conservationist who has moved or passed away, please let us know so that we can update our records. Also take note of the changes in the NRCS leadership section. There are many new state conservationists and other leaders. In addition, the agency has added several associate deputy chief positions.

On a personal note, I am scheduled for some major surgery on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, that will likely put me out of service for a few weeks as Membership Chair. Continue to send updates and obituaries during this time, and I will catch up with them as I can. It's possible I may miss something, so if you don't hear back from me before the July-August newsletter cutoff date, please send me another email to remind me.

## ALABAMA

*Earl Norton, ARCSE Representative*

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

**Ambers Hanson**, was recognized by the Alabama State House of Representatives on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 for his dedication to his country, community, and family. House Resolution 84 praised Hanson for his remarkable personal and professional achievements throughout his lifetime.

Hanson's journey of service began in 1942 when he left high school to serve as a radio operator on B-17 and B-24 aircraft during World War II. During this tour, he survived a plane crash and participated in 25 bombing missions over Europe. He returned and enrolled at Auburn University, and before graduating he was recalled to active duty for service in Korea. He returned to Auburn University and completed his education, earning a degree in agricultural economics.

Hanson worked with the Soil Conservation Service in Alabama, New Mexico, and Alabama a second time and retired after 35 years of service. Then he turned his attention to developing his farm to provide pastures and trails for horses and opportunities for countless students and adults to maintain and ride their horses locally.

Reflecting on his experiences, Hanson emphasized the importance of education in fostering understanding, cooperation, and care for others and our country. "Education helps us to understand and to cooperate and care for each other as we care for our country," he said. As Hanson approaches his 101<sup>st</sup> birthday in July, he shares his advice for a fulfilling life: "Have respect and love for each other."



*Pictured are Ambers and Jean Hanson Auburn, AL following recognition of Ambers by the Alabama State House of Representatives on March 7, 2024. The Hansons have been married 71 years.*

**DEADLINE FOR THE JULY/AUGUST 2024 NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS IS JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2024.**

## 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 shown below take part in our April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. We always enjoy the opportunity to visit and share what is new in our lives.



**Chester Bush, Bill Ward, Walt Sykes  
 Mark Cocke, Carlos Velasquez**

### California NRCS Engineer Retiree John Tiedeman's Volunteer Two-Week Engineering Assistance in the Dominican Republic

My good friend and fellow retired NRCS Engineer, **John Tiedemann**, has always enjoyed and taken great pride in providing newer NRCS Engineers and other NRCS staff outstanding training that will benefit them throughout their careers. John recently shared with me a very unique example of his sharing his experience, expertise and skills. with a much different group and in a much different setting – the Dominican Republic. In John's own words:

"I spent two weeks last month in the Dominican Republic working with small farmer groups on drip irrigation projects (planning–design–installation, plus maintenance on a greenhouse system)."

With the information John provided me I learned there is a "USAID Farmer to Farmer Program" that made this possible. Following is a link to a site which explains a lot about the program and how it works. For any of you interested, the link also includes information about volunteer opportunities.

**Cleaning plugged emitters  
 with muriatic acid**



**Eggplant on gravity fed drip**



**1 acre drip tape demonstration.****Assembling and flow testing for uniformity**

#### **Detailed description of John's work during his Two-week assignment in the Dominican Republic**

- Completed design, installation, startup, and testing of a 0.4-hectare (1 acre) drip system near Centro C. Vistamar in the region of Azua of the south coast, Dominican Republic (to be planted to cassava/ yuca this season).
- Demonstrated and completed maintenance for chemical precipitate cleaning of a plugged greenhouse drip system for the women's cooperative in "La China," north of Centro C. Vistamar. (Ready to plant tomatoes).
- Prepared a drip irrigation planning and design guide for farmers and technicians.
- Toured a remote region of the upper watershed to observe water supply, drip irrigation, and soil conservation Practices in steep topography (avocado, eggplant, tomato crops).

"An experience like this can be very rewarding as long as the volunteer is flexible and prepared to meet the challenges. Food and accommodations can be very different from home. Working collaboratively with farmers from other cultures can be gratifying for both what we teach and what we learn. A guiding principle I like to follow: "it's people, not projects." The solutions may look different from ours at home, but that's the beauty of working together. I would decline an invitation for a volunteer detail if I didn't think my hands-on experience was a good fit for the landowner expectations. In January 2023 I worked with the F to F program on prison farms in Guyana, South America – very different from the Dominican Republic.

Farmers around the world face the same challenges: produce a crop and find markets.

With my five-acre orchard I face the same challenges. Having worked with NRCS in Mexico for three years, I favor projects in Latin America. I speak Spanish at home with my wife, so enjoy the language and culture. A second language is beneficial for cultural engagement, but not required. The host country team will provide bilingual staff to interpret where needed.

True to NRCS style, my final product was a Spanish language "Drip irrigation planning and design guide for farmers and technicians." NRCS taught us to communicate with terminology and graphics that will be understandable and useful for our target user group." John -T

Thanks, John for sharing your story. That was a fascinating story along with some very good advice for anyone considering this kind of volunteer work. If anyone would like to contact John for additional details, let me know and I will provide you with John's contact information so you can communicate directly with him.

Well, that is about all from California this time folks. Until next time, best Wishes to all!

–Bill Ward, CA ARCSE State Rep., ARCSE West Region VP

## **COLORADO**

**Jack Carlson, ARCSE Representative**

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

The Fort Collins retirees breakfast club convened in March and April as scheduled: **Phil Smith, Dave Butler, Stu Keil, Frank Geter, Ken Harward, Wendall Oaks, Terry Buettgenbach, Chuck Hart, Owen Unangst, and Jack Carlson** at either or both.

From **Steve Park**, retired Colorado State Soil Scientist: "The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Golfing for a Cure golf tournament hosted by yours truly and the PAP Foundation will be held Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at Raccoon Creek Golf Course in Littleton, Colorado. Thanks to many of you, last year was our biggest and most profitable tournament yet. Thank You! I hope to break 100 players this year. You may register online at: <https://www.eventstlc.com/papfoundationgolf.html#/>."

In late March, **Jack and Vicki Carlson** with son and grandkids trekked to London for spring break: Big Ben and other downtown attractions, Harry Potter, English Premier and Championship league football stadium tours and matches.



***The Carlson clan in London: Ryah, Christopher, Zane, Vicki, Lana, and Jack Carlson.***

I am working with South Carolina contacts on the history segment of the ARCSE at SWCS event, and we'll flesh out this part of the program in the coming weeks, which we can highlight in the July/August Newsletter to be sent to members around July 1<sup>st</sup>, a few weeks ahead of the SWCS Conference.

## **CONNECTICUT, RHODE ISLAND, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**Carl DuPolt, ARCSE Representative**

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

Conservation Events in May and June, 2024 - CT, NH, and RI>

CT - DEEP

<https://www.depdata.ct.gov/calendar/listevs.asp?selecttype=all>

CT - Audubon

<https://bentoftheriver.audubon.org/events/private-safari-gator-tours-spring-and-summer-2024-20>



***Connecticut vineyard***

DT River Conservancy

<https://www.ctriver.org/event/>

NH Audubon

<https://www.nhaudubon.org/events/month/2024-06/>

NH - Preservation Alliance

<https://www.nhpreservation.org/events-calendar>

NH - Conservation Events

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=NH+conservation+events+for+May+and+June+2024&qpvt=NH+conservation+events+for+May+and+June+2024&FORM=VDRE>

NH - Audubon

<https://www.nhaudubon.org/venue/broadview-farm-conservation-area/>

RI - Conservation in Eastern RI

<https://www.easternriconservation.org/>

RI - Audubon

<https://asri.org/>

RI - Nature Conservancy

<https://www.bing.com/search?q=Ri+conservation+events&PC=I145&FORM=I145DF>

RI - Land Conservation

<https://dem.ri.gov/natural-resources-bureau/planning-development/land-conservation>

*Editor's Note: As we went to press, we heard from Carl that **Ray Brown, Jr.** had passed away. His obituary will be in the next newsletter. (<https://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/obituaries/pbur0755636>)*

## IDAHO

**James Cornwell, ARCSE Representative**

Email: [jacornwell08@gmail.com](mailto:jacornwell08@gmail.com)



3/13/24 ARCSE participants meeting with NARFE. (L-R): Scott Billing, Ret. BLM/FS; Rick Brigham, Ret. BLM; Bob Tribelhorn, Ret. NRCS; Dan Pierce, Ret. NRCS; Jaime Jovanovich-Walker, Palouse Land Trust, Moscow, ID; Cheryl Simmons, Ret. NRCS; Dan Schuettpelz, Ret. IRS; Susan Roberts, FS Spouse.

## IOWA

**Mark Jensen, ARCSE Representative**

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

Three months after retiring in April 2022, **Norman Friedrich** signed up through the ACES program to work with national NRCS engineering staff in Fort Worth, TX. He had previously worked with the same staff on national CADD training, support, and software testing in his Iowa NRCS engineering position. This made the transition from NRCS to ACES minimal.



**Norman Friedrich at the 2023 Autodesk Conference in Las Vegas**

Norman works remotely from his home except when providing in-person training. He has averaged about 30 hours per pay period in the ACES program. But vacations, family priorities, and volunteer work fit in well with the flexible ACES work. In addition to being able to provide CADD training around Iowa this year, he is also presenting some of the content for the New Professional Engineers, Geologists, and Landscape Architects training with many other ACES staff. Norman appreciates being able to keep current with the CADD technology and being able to enable new leaders to step into roles that he led previously.

While on the topic of ACES, Jody Christiansen sent the following: "I started working through ACES in August 2017 for the South Dakota NRCS public affairs staff; after retiring and moving back to Des Moines, IA. My primary duties are webmaster and

developing/updating fact sheets, brochures, and banners. In August of 2023, I added Nebraska to my ACES work with public affairs as webmaster. I also assist the new State Public Affairs Specialist with updating fact sheets and creating the weekly internal newsletter. Together, I work on average about 3-4 hours a day. This leaves me time to actually be retired and enjoy my walks, volunteering, and attending the Iowa Cubs afternoon baseball games. It is nice to stay in contact with former co-workers as well."

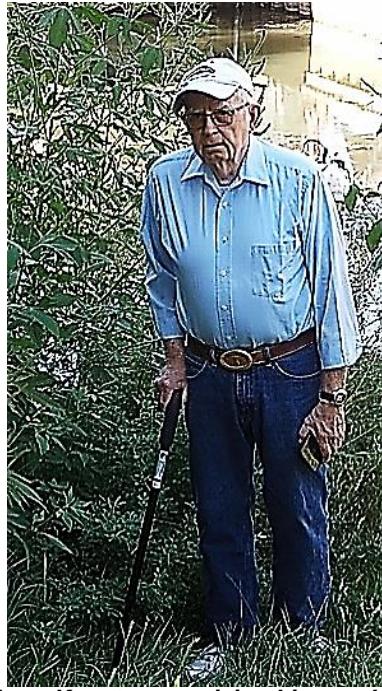
**Lee White** sent the following about his contract work: "I have been working on contract since shortly after I retired in 2013. I have worked for three different RC&D agencies and presently work with the Golden Hills RC&D in Oakland. My work has mainly been on the DamWatch program, which focuses on the real-time effects of major storm events on our watershed projects throughout Iowa. Another major component of DamWatch is its digital storage features. We are attempting to feed all of our paper records into the program. This includes everything from As-Built Drawings, O&M Agreements, to O&M Inspections and descriptive pictures – all available to watershed sponsors with a few keystrokes. The work continues to be very interesting to me."

Thanks to **LuAnn Rolling** for providing the following interesting summary of her post retirement work and other activities: "I started teaching as an adjunct professor at Northeast Iowa Community College, NICC, in Calmar two years ago. I am currently teaching an on-line soils class and have two in-person classes. One is a soil health lab, and the other is forage and crop production. I integrate NRCS often and have had the area grazing specialist (**Jacob Hawes**), area soil health specialist (**Alisha Sedelmeyer**), and area soil scientist (**Neil Sass**) all do guest lectures. I use the NRCS soil health bucket and run these tests with both in-person classes. This has turned into a wonderful way for me to share what 40 years at NRCS taught me, plus force me to "keep up" with new technology and what is going on in agriculture. The kids I work with are terrific. I am having a blast! I only teach spring semester so still have some time to be "retired."

In my retired time **Nick** and I are still farming, and he is making the switch to soil health in a big way. We are not raising much corn or beans anymore and have gone to lots of small grains. He bought a grain cleaner and has it on a trailer so he can take it to farms to do custom cleaning. He also is raising some rye and oats for our own seed and for sale. Once you understand soil health, there is no way to go back to conventional farming. He is steadily reducing commercial fertilizer and pesticides. His switch to longer rotations has allowed that. What a thrilling adventure. Wish we weren't so old so we could see more of the wonderful changes to our soil!

Two years ago we started an experiment to see how much of our own food we could raise and at the same time quit eating anything with a label (unless there is only one ingredient that we can identify, like oatmeal). We are raising our own wheat and grinding it for flour. I have a huge garden and do lots of canning. We raise our own meat and eggs, so we are confident of what is being fed. Bottom line is we feel sooooo much better. We rarely even get colds anymore and feel like we have a lot more energy. We need energy to keep up with our nine grandbabies (and one more on the way)!"

I had a good visit with **Norm Koester** the other day. He said that he had both knees replaced last year – and he is happy to report that both wheels are rolling in the same direction, but they still wobble from side to side. I trust that is an improvement! He claims the cane in the picture is not for stability, but rather for breaking up dog fights when he takes his pup for a walk.



*Norm Koester exercising his new knees*

When Marty isn't working on the theater productions, he says the other routine activities are continuing. One of the activities Marty enjoys with his son Drew is baking at their church on most Wednesday mornings. Marty said, "We take cookies or muffins to elderly folks, other members of our church, or just random places in the community. It's a good activity for Drew and fun for me. It's especially fun when we drop off some treats at some place where they're not expecting it. Here's a picture of Drew making some chocolate chip muffins (his favorite)."



**Drew Adkins mixing up some muffins**

On April 19, 20, and 21<sup>st</sup>, the Knoxville Area Community Theater performed their production of "Blithe Spirit," a classic farce by **Noel Coward**. It is as funny today as it was when it opened on London's West End in 1941. **Marty Adkins** was the Director for the production and also worked on the backstage crew and the props. **Carol Adkins** was the show's producer, was a cast member, worked on the set crew, and made the costumes. Their son **Drew** also worked on the set crew. Before the main show, the "K-ACT Radio Theatre" entertained the audience with a brief performance that took us back to the radio music and comedy shows of the past. It was a fun and entertaining evening at the theater.



**Marty and Carol Adkins on the Blithe Spirit Set**

**Greg Townley** recently retired. It didn't take him long to figure out what the rest of us already know: there's just not enough time to get everything done that we want to. The following is a summary of some of the things that he and his wife have going on in just a couple weeks timeframe: "One would think that there would be lots of extra time during retirement, but somehow it all gets filled up. I went to the State Capitol this morning for a weekly Bible Study with Senators and Representatives. I'm the president (and Acting Secretary) for the Prairie City Lions Club, so I need to type up minutes of our last meeting and need to do some coordination for a circus we are hosting in August. I'm serving as an Elder at our church and need to type up minutes from a recent Elder's retreat.

We have our grandson (two years old) and granddaughter (four months old) staying at our house the rest of this week while their parents are attending a wedding in Texas. I also need to clean out goat pens and haul manure before our corn and beans get planted. We are heading to Missouri on Monday for turkey season and will be there until Friday." To put this a little more in context, I asked **Greg** to do a write-up about his military career in the Army Reserves. I told him I needed it in a couple of days. This summary explained why it might have to wait until the next newsletter. Sounded good to me! I'm looking forward to his contribution to the next newsletter.

During the past few months, we have welcomed a few more folks into our retiree community. These include **Mark Schutt**, Resource Team Leader in Tipton; **Greg Townley**, Resource Team Leader in Indianola; **Dean Gronemeyer**, Resource Conservationist in Spencer; and **Peggy Rash Daniels**, Civil Engineering Technician in Webster City.

During the past couple of months, we have been saddened by the passing of **Cecil White**, retired Budget Analyst, on March 29<sup>th</sup>; and **Karolyn Ortgies**, wife of **Duane Ortgies**, retired Soil Conservation Technician in Atlantic, on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

## MAINE

**John Simon, ARCSE Representative**

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

We had a full house March 12<sup>th</sup> with 10 retirees in attendance for breakfast. Included were: **Ray Voyer, Karen Champeon, bruce Champeon, Art Taylor, Buster Carter, John Simon, Dave Mussulman, Lydia Mussulman, Dan Baumert, and Caren Roy.**

**Caron Roy** showed up today using a walker and a badly damaged left knee which resulted from a slip on ice while exiting her automobile! We wish Caron a speedy and successful recovery! Patty Wright sent me an email saying that the cast on her broken right ankle will be off on the 15<sup>th</sup>. We wish **Patty** a full recovery also. She indicated she probably will be back to see us in April if all goes well.

It seems that although the winter has been mild in Bangor (Bangor is down 16% on heating degree days), it still treacherous to us retirees!

We had another new attendee to our breakfast, **Buster Carter**, who has been retired for (I think he said) six years from NRCS. Welcome Buster! Buster had worked for (and retired from) the state of Maine Inland Fisheries and Game Commission. He told stories to those of us - at the end of the table - of some of his various work experiences with both agencies. Interesting! Thanks again to **Mary Thompson** for rounding up our three new retirees for breakfast: Caren Roy, Susan Arrants, and Buster Carter.

I saw that strange look on **Dave**'s face that indicated that he is coming down with GOLFITIS big time. We may not see Dave again till late fall! Most of the golf courses are starting to open up. Dave says he lives only a mile from the Hermon golf course. How convenient is that!

**Bill Moulton** informed us that he, his son **Peter**, and oldest grandson **Samual** recently cut enough trees (white pine logs) down on his wood lot to make a 1,000 ft<sup>2</sup> home. Bill and his family are doing good and obviously enjoying retirement! Logs are going to Irving sawmill in Dixfield, Maine. I hope Bill and family are careful – we have some NRCSers and retirees who did not fare well in the woods. Knowing Bill, I am sure he and family were cautious.

**Kevin Wright** emailed and said that he would love to come to one of the meetings but "it's a tad early for this old dog! I would like you to pass onto the group some of my info. Last December was my 10<sup>th</sup> year of retirement, and I have enjoyed it immensely. I remain very active with a lot of interests and hobbies. I fly-fish and hunt on a regular basis. We fish the Rangeley region most of the time. My wife, son, and grandson usually fish together, and it gives me a lot of joy to look down the river and see three generations all fishing together. I tie my own flies, and I also teach a beginner fly-tying course at the local adult ed. I also do wood carving, producing working duck decoys. My son also is a wood carver, but our processes are vastly different. He uses power carvers and all the modern stuff, whereas I use all hand tools. Kids today! I also do model railroading, a hobby which can take up a lot of time! My health is excellent, thank God! I just turned 70 last Tuesday, so health is paramount to me. Well that is about enough for now. Give my best to the group, and I plan on attending the picnic this summer. Take care and God bless! Kevin."



2024 April 9<sup>th</sup> breakfast: attendees: Karen Champeon, Patty Wright, Dan Baumert, Karen Roy, John Simon (head only), Bob Lagassey, Mary Thompson (partial), Chris Jones, Art Taylor, and Bruce Champeon

As I expected, **Dave Mussulman** has been infected with GOLF-ITIS and he and **Lydia** won't be at breakfasts till his golfitis wears off in the fall. Wishing him well on his efforts at the golf course in working through his golfitis. We love you Dave and look forward to seeing you in the fall.

**Karen Roy's** injured left knee is in the healing mode, but she informed us that she will be wearing a knee brace for quite a while. **Patty Wright's** broken right ankle is repaired, but Patty also will be wearing a brace for quite a while. We wish them both a full and speedy recovery!

**Mary Thompson** said that those folks she works for (on their blueberry fields) in the summer experienced a bad barn fire and lost much of their infrastructure at the farm, and her status with them for the year is questionable. Mary is very talented so hopefully she will pick up other part-time work this summer.

**Dan Baupert** will be in the Kenduskeag River race this month. We wish Dan success, especially over 6-mile falls! I remember well the years when **Art Taylor** and **Brian Stuart** teamed up to do the Kenduskeag and other river races. Those are a thing of the past for both of them, I believe.

Talked to **Bob Wengrzymek** at his 41-year-old daughter **Ann's** funeral on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. He said he also lost his younger 60-yr-old brother in late January, and his wife **Susan** is suffering from Alzheimer's, so he is having a difficult time for sure. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bob at this difficult period of his life. **Linda and Art Taylor** were at the service, and Linda Taylor told me that Ann and her daughter **Andrea** grew up together and spent many sleep-overs at their house. So Art and Linda have many wonderful memories of Ann's growing up well.

I got a note that **Bruce Verrill** recently passed away. According to **Norm Kalloch** He only spent one to two years with SCS out of the Farmington FO before leaving SCS. However, I did get feedback to his obit from several who worked with him. **Paul Hersey** said Bruce used to stop by the office often for coffee and conversation. One of Bruce's daughters went to school with Paul's son **Mike** at Mount Blue high school.

Also heard from **Walt Stinson** who informed me that he and Bruce were Fraternity brothers at Alpha Gamma Rho in the 1960s. Walt also said that he and **Norm Kalloch** and Bruce "were about the same vintage at UMO/AGR." It is good for us to touch bases with old memories (the good ones) at least. See his obit below. Walt left SCS as a field engineer in 1980 to start Sebago Technics in Portland. I was able to return to Maine from Pennsylvania to take his Job in Lewiston, and the rest is history. Thank you, Walt! Sebago Technics is now a large Employee-owned firm with a good reputation in Maine. Walt is truly a unique person and enjoying retirement.

Bruce Verrill obituary: <https://dailybulldog.com/obituaries/dwight-bruce-verrill-1945-2024/>

Recently heard from retiree **Bill Moulton**. He indicated that he made about two gallons of maple syrup for his family, Yum! Bill indicated that he recently went to the 100-year anniversary of Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity in Orono. At the reunion he met retiree **Galen Bridge** who was the National Director of USDA/SCS a while back. Galen was the oldest AGR brother there (Galen was of the class of 1954). Bill indicated that Galen donated \$50,000 to AGR for improvements to their house. Bill indicated he was the third oldest of the crowd.

Till next time, John Simon - ME

## MIDATLANTIC STATES

**Terry D'Addio**, ARCSE Representative

Email: [tmdaddio@aol.com](mailto:tmdaddio@aol.com)



VA retirees' March breakfast: (L-R) John Moore, John Peterson, Bill Irwin, and Dave Thackeray. Picture by Jerry Bernard.



VA retirees' April breakfast: (L-R) Dave Thackeray, John Moore, Paul Benedict, Bill Irwin, Jerry Bernard, Ron Marlow.

From **John Peterson** on Hilton Head Island:

**Blanche** and I have been at Hilton Head Island (HHI). We were joined by **Caroline and Niles Glasgow** from SC, **Don and Jo Gohmert** from LA, and **Art Holland** from Sun City close to HHI. Niles, Don, Art, and John all worked together for USDA's Soil Conservation Service (SCS, now NRCS) and have known each other for nearly 50 years.

John missed our April breakfast meeting because he had hip replacement surgery and also fell at home, requiring further hip surgery. He is recovering well, though.

Paul Benedict is scheduled for heart surgery at the Cleveland Clinic, called a septal myectomy, on April 30<sup>th</sup>.



**Niles and Caroline Glasgow, Art Holland, John and Blanche Peterson, Don and Jo Gohmert at the Crazy Crab restaurant for lunch.**



**A nice setting in front of our Holy Family Church**



**Blanche Peterson, Caroline and Niles Glasgow, Jo and Don Gohmert at Harbour Town in Sea Pines. The Harbour Town scene is most often used in HHI advertisements. Tourists from all over the world come here.**



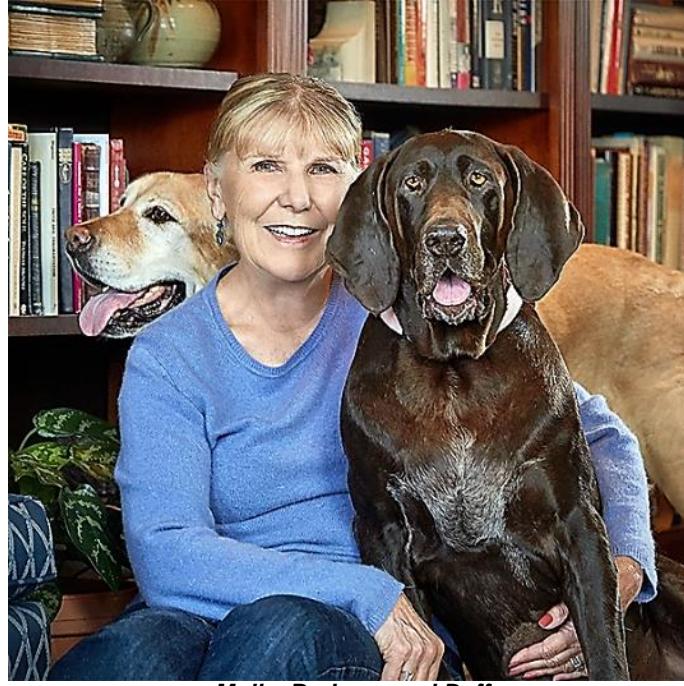
**Historic Church of the Holy Cross (Episcopal or Anglican) in Bluffton on the May River.**



**An alligator visited us. It was 9 or 10 feet long and wanted to eat a turtle that was also prowling around our deck on the lagoon**

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**ONE WOMAN'S HISTORY**  
Barbara T. Osgood, PhD



**Molly, Barbara, and Daffy**

Women's History Month, established by Congress in 1981, is a celebration of the contributions that women have made throughout the history of our country toward science, politics, law, sports, the arts, entertainment, and other fields. It also honors those women who may not have become rich or famous, but who have contributed countless hours to support their churches, schools, and voluntary organizations. And it honors what we now refer to as the First Wave of Feminism, when, in the 1800s, suffragists fought for women's right to vote, and the Second Wave of Feminism, in the 1960s and 1970s, that obtained many other rights and privileges for women, focusing on reproductive rights, financial independence, and workplace equality.

I was proud to be a participant in the Second Wave.

When I was a little girl growing up in a small town in Upstate New York, it never occurred to me that I might have a "career" or be involved in a women's movement. Girls of my generation, born during the Great Depression and growing up during World War II, knew from an early age what our destiny would be. We were to be wives and mothers. We didn't have careers.

From childhood the path forward was clear. There were toys like bride dolls and baking sets; there was a high school counselor who said "girls don't take trigonometry;" and a bachelor's degree from Cornell University, where, among other things, I learned how to iron a man's shirt, and the best way to clean windows. Cornell assured us that we were being prepared to be "educated wives and mothers." I married during my senior year in college, and upon graduation embarked on my predestined role. I had been so well socialized that it was of no immediate concern that I couldn't have a credit card in my own name or open a bank account without my husband's permission.

But life has a way of changing the most careful plans. My mother died of cancer too young. My second child died at birth. Suddenly what seemed satisfying and significant, no longer seemed that. Being president of the garden club, PTA class mother, or chairman of the church women's society, soon lost its luster, although years later I realized how helpful the experience had been.

In 1963, **Betty Friedan**, who lived not far from me, wrote a seminal book The Feminine Mystique that challenged the belief that a woman's only role was to marry and bear children. More and more women were attracted to her message, and a movement began, uniting women under the issues of social equality and reproductive rights. Women were writing and marching and appearing on television. Their message was "You can do this!"

Opportunities were opening up for women. I decided to take them.

I went back to school for another degree. I obtained an M.S. in Family and Consumer Studies from Lehman College of the City University of New York and was invited to stay there in a faculty position. I taught there for three years, and probably learned as much from my students as they learned from me. I taught students who lived in the projects of the South Bronx, Orthodox Jews, Black Muslims, and students who were the first in their family to attend college. For a young innocent woman from white suburbia, it was a life-changing experience.

After I had been at Lehman for three years, my department chairman urged me to get my PhD so that I would have the credentials for a professorship. I returned to Cornell which, by this time, had been transformed from the College of Home Economics to the College of Human Ecology. Thus began a four-year ordeal to get my doctorate and, at the same time, carry out my responsibilities as a wife, mother, and granddaughter. Every week, I drove four hours to Cornell to become a doctoral student, then drove four hours back home to assume my housewife role. I joked that Superman had his telephone booth, and I had a green Chevy Nova!

During my time at Cornell, I was appointed a Visiting Assistant Professor, and taught an undergraduate lecture and a graduate seminar on the economics and sociology of housing. By the time I had completed the PhD, Cornell had another assignment for me: for a year I would have the title of "Research Associate" and served as a liaison from Cornell to USDA in Washington, DC. During that year I worked with regional research committees of land grant universities all over the U.S. Thus began my contact with SCS and my career at Agriculture.

I began my career with SCS as the first National Sociologist and one of the first professional women to be hired by the agency. The Chief at that time, **Norman Berg**, wanted someone with the expertise to help project engineers and field people to better understand the farmers and ranchers with whom they worked. Soil conservation in those days was almost entirely voluntary, and Chief Berg knew that farmers and ranchers would not adopt practices without reason. Some were economic, but some were sociological.

It was a wonderful assignment for a sociologist! I loved traveling all over the country to work with DCs, visit farmers and ranchers, and put on workshops. I like to think that I also shattered a few small glass ceilings along the way.

I was the first woman to head a technical staff, the Economics, Social Sciences and Evaluation Staff in the Northeast National Technical Center. I was the first woman to achieve the status of State Conservationist, in New Jersey, and one of the first women to be an Assistant Chief for the Northeast. I also worked to get NRCS women into upward mobility positions, and to make sure that their position descriptions reflected the grade level that was appropriate and equal to men in the same position.

Through NRCS I also had opportunities for unusual assignments. I gave a lecture in Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations in Rome to a group of African secretaries of agriculture. On another assignment, I joined an EPA scientist to interview the Secretaries of Agriculture and Environment in Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic, and Romania regarding contamination of agricultural land. In Mexico, I had an opportunity to work with local rural development teams in the Yucatan Peninsula.

After 21 years with NRCS, I retired as a Federal Senior Executive and spent a few years consulting with an environmental firm, writing the Social Impact Assessment chapters for environmental impact statements, mostly for offshore windfarms in the North Atlantic.

Of course, employment is never enough for a complete life. Thirty years ago, I rescued and adopted a black Labrador retriever named **Moody**, and I was immediately drawn into the rescue's activities. I transported dogs, pulled them from the shelter, fostered many dogs, and worked as an adoption coordinator. I soon learned that old dogs died in the shelter, because most people do not adopt old dogs. They became my passion, and I started adopting more of them. I just recently adopted my twenty-fourth senior dog, a 12-year-old, 105-pound yellow Lab named **Remi**, whose family took him to the shelter because he was "too old."

In middle age, after many bouts of severe depression, I was finally diagnosed as bipolar. There was therapy, of course, but the best therapy has been my dogs. Without their companionship, I'm sure I would not have survived. I have written a book about my

dogs, how they have rescued me from the severe impacts of bipolar disorder and saved my life. There is a bit about NRCS in the book, too! The book is called 84 Paws: A Life with Old Labs. The proceeds from it go to my rescue, Lab Rescue LRCP.

In November, I will be 90 years old. When I look to the past, there are many memories of good times and bad times. I am proud of what I have accomplished as a woman who wasn't supposed to have a career. I am proud of the many women I helped to achieve their goals. I look back with such great satisfaction at the farmers and ranchers I supported, the people of New Jersey, whose state I got to know and love, and my colleagues in NRCS, who never failed to amaze me with their knowledge, expertise, and work ethic.

It has been a good run.

But now, the hard work and passion of many women since the beginnings of feminism is being challenged. There are those who would like women to return to the status they had in the 1950s. Women's History Month, by highlighting how the accomplishments of all women have benefitted the nation, demonstrates what a tragedy it would be to return to the past.

My time is limited, but I hope the women who have followed me will not allow their rights to be eroded. They are too valuable in so many ways!

*Our work should equip  
The next generation of women  
To outdo us in every field.  
This is the legacy we'll leave behind.*  
Rupi Kaur

## MISSOURI

**Dave Rastorfer, ARCSE Representative**

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**Dennis Shirk:** Hi folks. **Lois** and I are doing pretty well, anticipating our daughter and her family for memorial weekend from Ecuador. If you want to follow them on Facebook ("Duncan's journey in the jungle"), it's amazing how God is using them. We have been doing some spring development work for human consumption. Enjoy your summer! Dennis and Lois Shirk, 32606 Hwy. AA, Argyle, MO. 65001. My cell phone number is 573 694 4403. give me a call or text.

**Alton Taylor:** Just returned from SCS-NRCS meeting in Belton, TX. Nice bunch of young folks there.

**Kay's** daughter will drive us to British Columbia in July then in September will tour the western states as requested by a granddaughter for things we have missed. Kay had the Easter sunrise service on the hill on her ranch with a big cross on it. It is visible from I-35 looking east when you are on the south upper slope of Clear Creek. We had biscuits and sausage gravy for everyone before they left. It happens each Easter, so do not miss it next year.

**Ed Smith:** Not much going on at the Smiths! If it weren't for doctors' appointments, our social life would be nearly nil. I am making headway in recovery from hip replacement surgery on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Just had x-rays this morning before I start my rehab period on the golf course. Doc says it will be okay!

We have motel reservations for a short trip to south MO in a month. Just a fun trip – no family down there anymore for either of us. Hope to see several of you at one of our events this year.

**Craig King:** A different sort of late winter/ spring for sure. 80 in February and a lot of 50s, lows in the upper 30s late March and so far in April. We have frozen at track meets and baseball games. That east wind is cold.

**Andrea** is close to the end of her chemo. The PET scan last week didn't show much visibly on the liver, so maybe an ongoing chemo pill may be in the future, eluding a surgery. Everything else looks good. Time will tell.

I'm still putting along – some days better than others. My goal now is to make it past graduation, which is May 16<sup>th</sup>. The doctor knows it and said, "if you need a time up, we'll get you past that." So they're tweaking my meds ongoing. I keep going, and still do stuff, just a slower mode. Still in the transplant process, just gotta get bad enough to rank high enough.

**Weston** is finishing his junior year at the University of Central Missouri. Still the starting nose guard for the Mules. They just finished spring ball. His schedule is full. Gets up and eats. Works at the NRCS OFFICE from 6am to 9 am. Healthy snack. Goes to class with a full noon meal 'til about 2:30. Another snack. Football practice/weights. Full meal. Football meetings in the evening, eats again. He said he's tired of eating, but right now gotta maintain the 300-lb. body weight. Will co-op again this summer at the Warrensburg NRCS Office. He's doing really well.

**Candra** is finishing up her senior year. She had her prom last night. Dad might be biased, but she was gorgeous. See the pictures. She's in track now and keeps breaking her own school record. Hopefully she'll make it to State again. She carries a 4.02 plus plus GPA, (I didn't know it went that high). She ranks about 15 in her class of 104, so that tells you about their class. Very proud of the both of them.

She'll be off to Iowa State University in the fall studying biology and furthering her athletics in track. Hope all is well.



## MONTANA

**Lori Valadez, ARCSE Representative**

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

### Gooby Ranch Report:

Last December I wanted a house cat that would sit on my lap. When the cat is sitting on my lap, it helps keep me warm so we don't have to have the stove quite as hot. That saves us lots of wood. We got her when she was a month old. Since we got her, she hardly ever sits on my lap. Instead, she is going through the house looking for mice. Whenever **Amber** catches a mouse, she brings it to show me. I give her lots of praise. **Timber**, our little Toy Aussie, thinks Amber is his personal hunter. Every time Amber brings a mouse to show me, Timber thinks she caught it for him. Every now and then Amber catches more mice than she can eat. When she does, she gives the mouse to Timber as a present.

She has pretty much cleaned out the mice in the house. Since then, Amber hasn't been able to give any mice to Timber, so he told her about all the mice outside. Amber began begging to go outside. Timber goes to the door with Amber and yips for **Mary Ann** to let Amber out. Mary Ann thought she was too little but finally she relented.

I didn't realize how overrun we were with mice. Amber brings in at least 10 mice every day to show us what she caught. We make sure we brag on her and tell her what a great job she is doing. Amber just loves to be bragged on. The more we brag, the harder she hunts.

Amber gave me an idea. If I spent more time bragging on Mary Ann about the good work she does, she will get even more work done.

## NEBRASKA

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

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### LINCOLN SCS/NRCS RETIREES CLUB NRCS/SCS RETIREES CLUB

The March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting was called to order by Chairperson Craig Derickson. Attending were **Paul Bartlett, Harold Klaege, Doug Christensen, Gerald Montgomery, Jim Culver, Gus Dornbusch, Richard Bolli, Steve Scheinost, Norm Helzer, Scott Willet, Craig Derickson, Dana Snyder, JoAnne Thiele, and Donna Dornbusch**.

The April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting was called to order by Vice-President **Doug Christensen**. Attending were **Paul Bartlett, Harold Klaege, Bob Engel, Steve Scheinost, Dave Camper, Gus Dornbusch, Richard Bolli, Norm Helzer, Jim Culver, Dana Snyder, Gerald Montgomery, Scott Willet, Norman Kempf, Thomas Reinsch, Gary Muckel, Donna Dornbusch, JoAnne Thiele, and Doug Christensen**.

Craig reminded everyone that the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) will have its national meeting July 21<sup>st</sup>–27<sup>th</sup> in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. An ARCSE session is also planned at that time.

**Craig** announced that LB-1368 Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act looks favorable to pass. The bill would use incentives to reduce the use of nitrogen fertilizer to improve water quality.

**Doug Christensen** said that the state office is settled in at the new location and back up to speed. The Soil Survey Center is still moving, as is the laboratory. Craig said that NRCS is hiring up to 72 new employees for several states.

**Harold Klaege** gave a NARFE update. He hasn't heard anything since the hearing on the proposed LB-863 which would prevent FERS retirees from eliminating state taxes on their annuities. It is not a priority bill at this time. No action has been taken on HR-82 which would reduce Social Security benefits for individuals who receive other benefits such as a pension from state or local government. **Representative Flood and Senator Fischer** are not supportive of that bill at this time. Harold encouraged retirees to donate to the NARFE PAC (political action committee) which supports senators and representatives friendly to NARFE.

Discussion was held on the men's and women's basketball teams who will both play Texas A&M teams in the NCAA tournament and what possible connection it might have with the Nebraska Athletic Director going to Texas A&M as their new athletic director.



*Lincoln, NE Retirees Breakfast March, 2024. Our March retirees breakfast at Greenfields Restaurant was a busy one. Harold Klaege, our Nebraska NARFE President briefed us on a current Nebraska Legislative Bill about the status of a bill on FERS retirees having to pay Nebraska State Income Tax. L-R: Jim Culver, Craig Derickson, our Chairperson and Gus Dornbusch.*



*Lincoln, NE Retirees March 2024 breakfast – Harold Klaege – St. Pat's Day. Harold Klaege provided a bright spot during our March meeting with his neat St. Patrick's head gear and celebration of this special day – O'Neil, Nebraska always has special activates on this day!*

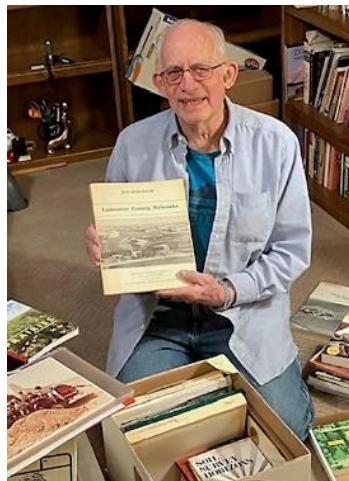


**Monday afternoon Lincoln, NE coffee group.** Retired SCS/NRC people in Lincoln have several interconnecting coffee and other get-together groups to visit and maintain contact with what is going on in past, present and future NRCS Agencies activities. This is one of the long-time coffee groups that has met each Monday afternoon at 2pm for over the past fifty years. L-R: Larry Brown, Jim Culver, Lou Buller Gary Muckel and Steve Scheinost.

**Gus Dornbusch** announced that he and Donna are moving to Eastmont. **Steve Scheinost** and his wife spent five days in San Diego and saw many of the city's sights. They had lots of fun. **Norm Kempf** said he had visited his brother in Ohio and got to see the solar eclipse while there. He will be leaving May 16<sup>th</sup> to travel to Amman, Jordan, to see his granddaughter graduate from high school.

**Paul Bartlett** recently celebrated his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

A celebration of life for **Howard McNiff** will be held Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, at 10am at the St. Andrew Catholic Church in Tecumseh. **Gary Muckel** announced that the funeral for his wife will be at 11am on April 27<sup>th</sup> at the Roper South Chapel at 3950 Hohensee Drive in Lincoln.



**Norm Helzer – cleaning files in advance of moving.** Norm Helzer cleaning and sorting out library material in advance of moving. Norm announced that he and his wife Linda are moving to Eastmount Towers- near Gateway Shopping Center. Norm with a smile on his face say's "No more mowing grass and no more snow removal"

**Harold Klaege** gave an update on the state tax situation for Federal employees. There is a final Nebraska legislative vote tomorrow on LB-1317 which would eliminate FERS annuitants from the ability to reduce their state taxes by their annuities. It probably will pass. The elimination of state taxes on CSRS annuities will remain. Harold also gave an update on LB-388 which would tax cigarettes, candy, pop, lottery tickets, etc., at 22% instead of 40%. This bill would help offset the reduction of property taxes and probably will pass. He also said that LB-1368 Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act has been passed by the legislature and is waiting for the governor's signature and is waiting for the governor's signature.

The Nebraska SWCS is meeting June 11<sup>th</sup> through 13<sup>th</sup> in Scottsbluff, NE, to try to put together an action plan to increase conservation measures in Nebraska.

**Gus Dornbusch** brought extra SCS/NRCS memorabilia to give to anyone who wanted them.

**Tom Reinsch** said that **Brock Johnson** visited his property to see the low tunnels he uses as part of his garden conservation measures. NRCS is currently promoting conservation practices in urban agriculture.

**JoAnne Thiele** brought the April 10<sup>th</sup> Lincoln Journal Star article on **Lila Tomek** from Humboldt, NE. She received a Rosie the Riveter Compound Gold Medal for the work she did in WWII in a ceremony at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. She is the sister of **Lyle Westerman** who served as a technician for NRCS.

Minutes recorded by **Donna Dornbusch**, Secretary  
Submitted by Jim Culver and Norman Kempf

## NEW JERSEY

**Nancy Paolini, ARCSE Representative**

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**Throwback photo.** Here is a photo of many NJ NRCS, (SCS back then) and District employees taking a full one-week Surveying Class at Rutgers University, August 1981. All are now retired and sadly, a few have passed away. My first week on the job, by the way. Many are current members of ARCSE.



**Marilyn Mroz, Gary Timberman, Donna Drewes, Doug Kodama, Fred Kelly (deceased), Carl Kline, Bill Ireland, Melissa Pike, Lori Kwoka, MaryBeth Sorrentino, Larry Lindgren (deceased), Carol Carter, Ron Gronwald, Dana Young, Tim Dunne, David Lamm, Kent Hardmeyer, Nancy Paolini, Chris Smith, Dr. Kurt Nathan (instructor).**

**Some NJ News.** The NJ Envirothon will be held on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in Marlboro, NJ. We got a late start, but the event will proceed as usual. Volunteers are always welcome: <https://www.njenvirothon.org/>. NJ NRCS Staff and Earth Team Volunteers will be assisting, as usual.

Now that the pandemic is behind us, NJ NRCS is ramping up their Earth Team recruitment. Anyone interested in helping out can contact [katelyn.colon@usda.gov](mailto:katelyn.colon@usda.gov).

## NEW YORK

**Nancy Lee, ARCSE Representative**

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SCS/NRCS Retirees' Picnic will be held on Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at Chapman Park, NYS Route 31 in the Town of Sullivan in Madison County, from 9 am until 3pm. Bring a dish to pass, meat (if you want to grill), table service and drink. We will eat about 12 noon.

Just received word that former SCS and Water Management Specialist, **Henry Stamatel**, died May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the age of 99, for those older employees who remember Henry.

## NORTH DAKOTA

**Robert Bird, ARCSE Representative**

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These days it seems the news is the passing of former extraordinary colleagues and friends who we have lost. See details in the In Memoriam section of this newsletter.

**Ron Sando** spent his whole SCS career in North Dakota. As a new young engineer, I was sent to training in Lincoln, NE, where we heard from various experts from around the country on various technical disciplines. Ron Sando took an actual project and walked us through the design process. The class felt he was the best presenter and that he gave us something that we could use. Early in my career I worked in Northeast North Dakota on construction of watershed projects that Ron had designed. If we had questions or problems, Ron was always able to answer our questions. He was a great colleague, mentor, and friend.

When I arrived in the Chicago area at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, IL, I met **John Lowrey**, an economist on the planning staff. We played golf all over the Chicago area, including week-long trips to Myrtle Beach and Hilton Head. He surprisingly showed up at our wedding reception in Fargo, ND, and we surprised John and **Rose** at their wedding in Las Vegas. John was a great friend for over 40 years, and I will miss him immensely. John was a veteran and served with the Army in Germany after World War II. I encourage you to attend a Memorial Day ceremony to remember all the veterans that we have lost. Have a great summer!

**OHIO****Mike Monnin, ARCSE Representative****Email: mike.monnin427@gmail.com**

*Editor's Note: Mike sent word that **Tom Sommer** had passed away in Florida as we were going to press. His obituary will be in the next newsletter. (<https://yourtraditionsfuneralhome.com/obit/thomas-charles-sommer>)*

**OREGON****Don Stettler, ARCSE Representative****Email: don.stettler@comcast.net**

The Oregon retirees met for the spring quarter lunch at the Stir Crazy Chinese Restaurant in Aloha on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Attending were **Lowell Kenedy**, **Louise Davis**, **Tom Fujii**, **Joe Sahlfeld**, **Chad McGrath**, **Gail Vogue**, **Bobbie Hart**, **Jim Marron**, **Beth Zetter**, **Don Wallin**, **Ralph Wadleigh**, **Kay Denfeld**, **Russ Langridge**, **Don Huffman**, **Chad McGrath**, **Stefanie Aschmann**, **Dick Sylvester**, **Kathy Sylvester**, **Russ Hatz**, and yours truly, **Don Stettler**.

**Jon Lea** sent his regrets saying he and **Jolyne** would be in Corvallis attending the Western Snow Conference. At the end of the conference **Jolyne** will begin a two-year term as the general chair of the organization. **Eldena VanderZanden** said she could not attend because she is recovering from a broken leg bone and a partial hip replacement in the other leg.

**Russ Hatz** just got back from a trip to central Texas visiting relatives and observing the solar eclipse. Attendees were saddened to learn that **Louise Davis**'s husband recently passed away. **Jim Marron** is watching grandchildren. He went on to say it paid well. **Tom Fujii** had his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday in February. He was required to take a driver's test which was a worry to him, but he passed without a problem. **Russ Langridge** enjoys building hot rods. **Chad McGrath** told of purchasing a house in Sun River to get away from the Willamette Valley rainy winters. He and his wife have been doing some traveling. He recently had cataract surgery on one eye.

**Lowell Kenedy** will be attending his Washington State University's class's 70<sup>th</sup> reunion in Pullman later this year. **Don Wallin** has been dealing with a detached retina in one eye. **Don Huffman** has been remodeling and bringing up to code a house built in 1926. **Joe Sahlfeld** got an early start on planting his vegetable garden. So far, he has planted peas and leeks. **Ralph Wadleigh** will be attending his brother's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday in California. He too is planting a vegetable garden.



**Kay Denfeld** is looking forward to a trip to Rockaway Beach for an annual get together with high school classmates. Last year 15 attended – this year only seven. **Beth Zetter** keeps busy on her two acres near Cornelius. **Dick Sylvester** said he doesn't miss working because he has plenty to do at home. He and **Kathy** keep busy with their yard. They have a large garden with several varieties of cane berries, asparagus, and other vegetables. For her birthday, **Gail Vogue** visited several casinos. She even came home with some winnings. **Bobbie Hart** had a knee replacement about a year ago and will soon have the other one done. She

went on to say that she spends too much time at casinos and is looking forward to spending a week on the Coast. Following are pictures of the group.

**Stefanie Aschmann** has a trip planned to Minnesota to cheer on her nephew for his Special Olympics basketball tournament. **Don Stettler** recently assisted a third cousin who had been linked to him by DNA Discover who her father is. Most likely her father is in for a surprise as he does not know she exists.



## PENNSYLVANIA

### **VACANT, ARCSE Representative needed.**

Excerpts from the PA Bugle, from **Tim Murphy**, editor.



*Thomas Iivari, Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient 2023; 1967, MS 1976, Kent State University.*

*"In my work with older Boy Scouts, I very often recommend Kent State's Department of Geology as a potential university for those interested in a career in geology, earth sciences and related conservation and environmental fields."*

**From Kent State's web site:** Thomas Iivari, '67, MS '76, spent his professional career improving the quality of numerous bodies of water and soil in the U.S. and around the world as a staff member at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Services, (NRCS) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He retired from the NRCS in 2001 after 31 years of service. He then accepted a fellowship position with the EPA and served in this role for six years.

During his esteemed career, Thomas provided detailed environmental and engineering technical assistance to more than 1,000 individuals, small units of government, soil and water conservation districts, and other state and federal agencies, conducting geologic investigations, assessing safety standards and evaluating damages from large natural disasters.

"Thousands of miles of streams and rivers show marked water quality improvement associated with my efforts," said Thomas.

As part of the ODNR-Northeast Ohio Water Development Plan at Kent State University, he worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to locate pollution sources in the Cuyahoga River Basin. During this project, 100 pollution sources were located, described and mapped. The Cuyahoga River was infamous for catching fire in 1969 and burning or destroying several bridges in Cleveland. This fire catalyzed the creation of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Clean Water Act and Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Information from his work was used by city, state and federal agencies to reduce industrial waste and city sewage discharge in the river, prompting a noted comeback that included the creation of Cuyahoga Valley National Park and the Ohio Scenic River.

In 1988, **President Clinton** announced a major new clean water initiative to speed the restoration of the nation's rivers, lakes and coastal waters. The initiative later became known as the Clean Water Action Plan-CWAP, and Thomas was appointed by senior officials of the USDA to be their representative on the task force. "For my efforts, I was bestowed the President's prestigious CWAP Award at a special ceremony," he said.

His on-site conservation work and instruction duties took him to 49 states and 10 countries including Mexico, Nicaragua, Honduras, Brazil, China, Taiwan, Estonia and Czech Republic, where he provided geologic, engineering and environmental assistance.

In addition to his professional career, Thomas has served for more than 60 years as a member of the Boy Scouts of America, first as a Scout and later as an adult volunteer, helping Scouts earn their coveted Eagle Awards as well as Geology, Soil and Water Conservation and Environment Sciences Merit Badges.

"In my work with older Boy Scouts, I very often recommend Kent State's Department of Geology as a potential university for those interested in a career in geology, earth sciences and related conservation and environmental fields," he said.

Thomas visits the Department of Geology regularly to meet with former professors and current faculty members, and he is currently working with a group of KSU faculty and geologists from the U.S. and Utah Geological Surveys who are mapping and preparing extensive geological reports about the world's largest ancient landslide located in East Central Plateau, Utah.

One of his favorite memories from his time as a student was his summer field camp experience. "We went to the Black Hills in South Dakota and learned so much about geology and mapping and more," he said. "It was great to see things live and in person, not just in textbooks, and to visit national parks and historic sites as part of our experience." He also recalls being one of the founding members of Kent State's Sigma Gamma Epsilon earth science honorary fraternity as one of his fondest memories.

Thomas met his wife **Joyce Szymanski Iivari**, '68, at Kent State, and they were married in 1972. They live in West Chester, Pennsylvania, and have two children, **Christian** and **Samantha**, as well as two grandchildren, **Genevieve** and **Teddy**.

## TEXAS NORTH

**Mike Bogard, ARCSE Representative**

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*The Texas SCS/NRCS Retirees and spouses met April 15<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in Belton, Texas for their annual reunion. The group enjoyed visiting and catching up with old and new friends. In addition to roll call of the deceased, they heard a presentation on financial planning.*

Ronald Hillard wrote:

Edith and I served on the Ranching Wildlife Committee, during later February and month of March, at the Houston Livestock show and Rodeo. During the week of February 9–11, the committee hosted the 2024 Young Guns Shooting Sports Competition for

Texas 4-H and FFA and was a huge success. We hosted over 500 competitors that shot at 115,000 clays. We served over 3,000 meals, and we sent our competitors home with over \$130,000 in cash and prizes – all while dodging the bad weather.

During the week of February 27–29 we hosted Ranching & Wildlife Expo.

Educational Seminars at the NRG Center Tuesday, February 27: Beef Cattle Production Wednesday, February 28: Tools For Land Management Thursday February 29: Current Topics in Wildlife.

At the conclusion on Friday March 1<sup>st</sup>, we hosted the Ranching and Wildlife auction which included hunting and fishing trips, beach house trips, and many other items for a grand total of \$510,000 raised for Houston Livestock and Rodeo scholarships.

We will be back in the saddle before you know it.

- World's Championship Bar-B-Que Contest Feb. 27– March 1, 2025
- Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo March 4 – 23, 2025



**SCS/NRCS Retirees' Reunion Golf Tournament, 2024 at Sammons Golf Course in Temple, TX. L-R: John Mueller, Mike Bogard, Steve Uselton, and Mike Black.**

## WEST VIRGINIA

**Peg Reese, ARCSE Representative**

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Once again, the WVU Soil Judging Team made WV proud. Due to WVU hosting the 2023 Southeast Regional Collegiate Soils Contest last October, the WVU team was not eligible to compete in the National Collegiate Soil Judging Contest. Instead, they competed in the 2024 North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Soil Judging Contest. WVU professor and Soil Judging Coach **Jim Thompson** shared the following:

"Last week (April 12–21<sup>st</sup>), the WVU Soils Team traveled across the country to Twin Falls, Idaho for the 2024 North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Soil Judging Contest. The four students from the Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Design represented one of nine teams from schools across the country that gathered for the annual soil judging competition. The students that traveled with the WVU Soils Team were **Abigail Clegg** (Junior, Environmental Soil and Water Sciences), **Alexander Lawson** (Senior, Wildlife and Fisheries Resources and Environmental Soil and Water Sciences), **JosiLee Scott** (Junior, Environmental Soil and Water Sciences), and **Tristan Walker** (Junior, Environmental Soil and Water Sciences).

The team prepared for the contest during a four-day journey that allowed them to examine diverse soils and landscapes of the northern United States, with notable stops in Wisconsin, North Dakota, and Wyoming. Two days of practice in Idaho provided specific training on the soils they would see in the contest, which mainly included sandy and silty desert soils (Aridisols) formed in loess and alluvium parent materials, deposited over basalt bedrock adjacent to the Snake River Canyon.

I am pleased to report that the WVU Soils Team again performed well. Among the 57 participants in the individual judging portion of the contest, WVU soil judges claimed the top three places, with **Josi Scott** dominating the field to earn a first-place finish, followed by **Alex Lawson** in second, and **Abby Clegg** in third. With **Tristan Walker** placing 17<sup>th</sup> as a first-time soil judge, the WVU Soils Team easily took first place overall. This is the first time that WVU has won the NACTA Soils Judging Contest and the third national championship overall.

As always, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of these students, and I hope that you will join me in congratulating them. These students continue to build upon the past success of the WVU Soils Team. I believe this speaks to the quality of the training that these students receive from the Division of Plant and Soil Sciences. It also reflects the overall strength of the academic programs across the Davis College. Thank you for your support of these students, particularly when they are away from campus for extended periods at critical times during the semester."

The WVU Institute for Community and Rural Health was awarded a five-year \$8.5-million cooperative agreement grant for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Increasing Land Access Program, funded by **President Joe Biden's** Inflation Reduction Act. Titled "Working Lands of Central Appalachia," the WVU project covers West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and North Carolina. Pairing with 11 state, regional and national organizations, the group will address agricultural workforce training, farm-to-institution markets, and food as medicine. Their work will focus on assisting underserved veterans, people with limited resources, and beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers.

The Sierra Club, the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, and the West Virginia Rivers Coalition reached an agreement with the federal Environmental Protection Agency regarding failures to set acceptable levels for certain pollutants in some West Virginia waterways. The proposed consent decree would require the EPA to create Total Maximum Daily Loads for 11 streams, affecting about 100,000 people in the state by January 2025. The environmental groups allege that several streams in the Lower Guyandotte River Watershed — affecting residents in Cabell, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Boone, Putnam and Mason counties — are disproportionately affected by ionic toxicity in the water. Despite this, the EPA has missed deadlines and failed to impose TMDLs for pollutants common in coal mining communities for the waterways. Residents have until April 29 to comment on the proposed consent decree through the Federal Register.

**Lorenzo Henderson**, former Assistant State Conservationist for Watersheds, passed away on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. Lorenzo left our State Office to work in Washington, DC. His funeral was held at Tillman Funeral Home Chapel in Tallahassee FL.

## WISCONSIN

**Deb LeGear, ARCSE Representative**

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

I had seen solar eclipses before, but I never experienced a total solar eclipse. I was not able to travel to the total eclipse in 2017 and felt I had to go this year. The next total eclipse is 20 years away. I packed up my vehicle, booked a hotel and headed to Indiana. It rained the entire drive the day before the eclipse, but I went anyway. When I saw three different rainbows along the way, I felt the next day would be perfect. Monday was sunny when I woke up and I set up in Carmel, Indiana for the show. I met some very nice people from Michigan and Florida, and we shared the experience. I must say it really was worth the trip.

*Editor's Note: Sometimes you can't make this up. They went to see the solar eclipse with their dog, Sunshine!*



**Totality was taken by Aaron. The diamond ring taken by Aaron.**



**(L-R) Deb LeGear, Rusty with dog Sunshine, Cindy, and Aaron**

The Wisconsin retirees met for the first time this year in Eau Claire, Wisconsin on April 18<sup>th</sup>. There were 24 in attendance, and it was great to see so many people. A great time was had by all.



(L-R) Joanne Lubich, Susan Gundlach, Howard Gundlach, Ken Lubich



(Standing) John Campbell. (L-R sitting) Pete Lindgren, Linda Lindgren



(L-R) Ted Manning, Tom Cogger, Vice Price, Mary Price



(L-R) Tim Meyer, Steve Rake



(L-R) Lisa Custer, Jay Custer



(L-R) Larry Natzke, Louie Barber, Kathy Barber, Judy Derricks, Ted Manning



(L-R) Kathy Barber, Deb LeGear, Judy Derricks



(L-R Standing) Mike O'Shea, John Campbell. (L-R Sitting) Kent Wabrowetz, Keith Sendbusch, Greg Rebman

## 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.

### Are You a Senior Conservationist?

If you have ever skimmed through the ARCSE Newsletter or browsed the ARCSE website, you have probably seen some people referred to as a "Senior Conservationist." Have you ever wondered what that means? Maybe you have wondered if you could be recognized as a senior conservationist, or how you go about being recognized as a senior conservationist.

The recognition of senior conservationists began many years ago to salute retirees of the Soil Conservation Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service for their efforts in building and maintaining a very strong agency. For most SCS/NRCS retirees, their work with the agency was much more than just a job. Their work centered around an ethic of desiring to protect our soil, water, and other natural resources for future generations by serving the public through promotion of wise voluntary stewardship of the land. Many retirees have continued those efforts into

retirement through volunteering, consulting, or just providing perspective and advice to younger generations on how conservation has changed over the years. The Senior Conservationist recognition honors these individuals.

As of December 2023, over 820 retirees have been recognized as senior conservationists. Here are the requirements to be recognized:

- You must be a retiree who worked for the SCS or NRCS
- You must be 83 years of age or older
- You must complete and submit the Senior Conservationist Questionnaire

Please note you are not required to be an ARCSE member to be recognized as a senior conservationist. So, if you know of a deserving retiree who is not a member, please let them know about this recognition so they can apply. And you are certainly welcome to encourage them to join ARCSE too. You also don't need to have worked as a soil conservationist. Any retiree of SCS/NRCS of any discipline is eligible. We have senior conservationists that were engineers, soil scientists, biologists, technicians, area clerks, computer specialists, etc. It doesn't matter, your work helped put conservation on the ground.

After you meet the requirements and are named a senior conservationist, there will be a writeup in the ARCSE newsletter about your career and what you have been up to in retirement, and it will be posted on the ARCSE webpage as well.

Our ARCSE webpage dedicated to senior conservationists is here: <https://arcse.org/senior-conservationists/>. On this site you will find a link to the Senior Conservationist application. If you do not have access to a computer, I would be happy to send an application to you. Just call me, Paul Benedict, at 202-578-8226, and I will get one in the mail to you right away.

**Senior Conservationist Chronicler Needed:** As many of you know, our Senior Conservationist Chronicler, **Marc Safley**, passed away a year ago, leaving a huge gap in the association. ARCSE needs someone to take over the great work that Marc was doing in recognizing our senior conservationists. Perhaps you are not old enough to be recognized as a senior conservationist yourself and are looking for a rewarding way to put your energy to use. The Senior Conservationist Chronicler prepares the Senior Conservationist articles for the Newsletter and maintains the file on the Senior Conservationists. You don't do this all by yourself. The Regional Vice Presidents and State Representatives help. So does **Jerry Bernard**, our Editor. As Membership Chair, I work closely with the Chronicler to make sure he/she has an accurate record of who is eligible or approaching eligibility. If you are interested or have questions on what might be involved, please contact ARCSE President **Julie MacSwain**, your regional Vice President, or me.

## SENIOR CONSERVATIONIST CHRONICLE

### Senior Conservationist

#### John R. "Dick" Bogard

**John R. "Dick" Bogard** was born 09-16-1940 in Norman, OK. He graduated Oklahoma State University with a BS in Agronomy/Soils in 1962. He married Cloyce Avon Bogard on 03-21-1964. Sons: Vinson D. Bogard McKinney, TX; Alan V. Bogard, Portland, OR. Grandchildren: Sklar, Pierce, and Hannah. Sixty-year wedding anniversary 03-21-2024.

US Air Force Reserve Active Duty 1962–1965, 355<sup>th</sup> Tac Fighter Squadron Administrative Officer and squadron Officer Commander George AFB and McConnell AFB. 1967–1984 Civil Engineering Officer, Tinker AB. Retired as Major 1984.

Seven Air Force medals, including the AF Commendation Medal as Base Agronomist, Tinker AFB 1983; AF Longevity Service Ribbon with Four Oak Leaf Clusters.

SCS and NRCS career: 1965–1967 Soil Conservationist, Perry, OK; 1968–1971 District Conservationist, Blackwell, OK; 1971–1992 District Conservationist, Pawhuska, OK; 1992–1995 RC&D Coordinator, Tallgrass RC&D, Pawhuska, OK. Retired NRCS 01-03-1995 as RC&D Coordinator, Pawhuska, OK. Two Outstanding ratings with NRCS.

Kiwanian Layperson of the Year in 2007. And Kiwanian of the Year 2014–2015 in Durant, OK.

Chamber of Commerce and Community Foundation Executive Directory in Pawhuska, OK 1996. Child Welfare Specialist in Pawhuska 1998–2003 and in Durant, OK 2004–2006 and 2008–2018. Curator of the Three Valley Museum in Durant, OK 2007.

Baptist Deacon 1968 to present. Certified Disaster Relief Chaplain, Durant, OK.

Kidney cancer survivor, presently in good health. Wife Avon is also a cancer survivor.

Dick's contact information: 2002 W. Locust St., Durant, OK 74701; cell (580) 745-4300, home (580) 931-8995; email dbogard7777@att.net.

## SENIOR CONSERVATIONIST CHRONICLE

### Senior Conservationist

#### Michael H. Bogard

**Michael H. Bogard** was born 02-26-1941 in San Sabo, TX. He graduated Texas A&M University with a BS degree in 1967. He is married to **Mary Beth Bogard**, and they have a son and a grandson. Before working with the SCS, he worked on farms and in a feed store. He retired September 2003 as a District Conservationist in Groesbeck, TX.

GS-5, Soil Conservationist, Vernon, Texas, June 1967 – July 1968.

GS-7, Soil Conservationist, Memphis, Texas, July 1968 – March 1970.

GS-9, Soil Conservationist, Lamesa, Texas, March 1970 – July 1974.

GS-9, District Conservationist, Groesbeck, Texas, July 1974 – January 1975.

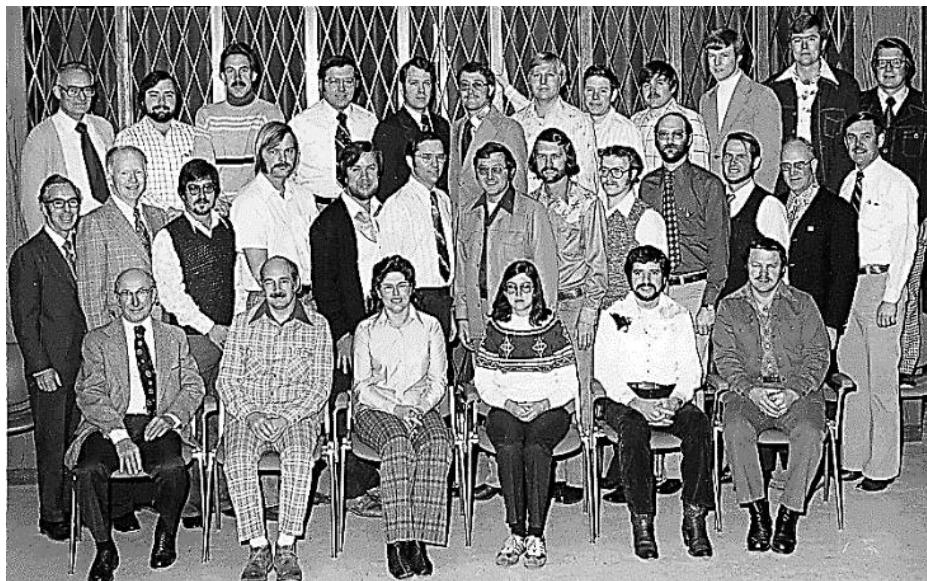
GS-11, District Conservationist, Groesbeck, Texas, January 1975 – 1998.

GS-12, District Conservationist, Groesbeck, Texas, 1998 – 2003.

He worked part time for a consulting service from 203 to 2005. He plays golf and is in very good health.

Michael's contact information: 108 Sunny Lane, Gatesville, TX 76528; cell (580) 745-4300, home (254) 248-7795; email mbogard41@gmail.com.

**Old picture** from a 1977 soils mechanics course, courtesy of **Noller Herbert**:



SOIL MECHANICS SHORTCOURSE  
Level II  
January 5 - February 11, 1977

**Front Row**

W.G. Holtz  
Edwin L. Minnick  
Susanne M. Leckband  
Deborah J. Lyons  
Thomas W. Smith  
John J. Swanda Jr.

**Middle Row**

Reynold K. Watkins  
Irving S. Dunn  
C. Jeffrey Craggs  
Stephen Hovey  
Ernest O. Copeland  
Richard L. Peace  
Elwin A. Ross  
Fenton Nash  
Rod Den-Herder  
Jim R. Crouch  
Robert D. Wiwi  
Wayne L. Robison  
O'Gene W. Barkemeyer

**Top Row**

Fred Kiefer  
Dennis K. Carman  
James C. Nettum  
William A. McNeill  
James L. Evans  
John Steven Wilson  
Daniel G. Edwards, Jr.  
Terry R. Baker  
James A. Hill  
Kevin L. Prior  
L. Dennis Medlin  
Loren R. Anderson

## 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 internet, Paul Benedict will be glad to do the search. PLEASE SEND DEATH NOTICES AND OBITUARY INFORMATION DIRECTLY TO PAUL BENEDICT 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> )
Adams	2024	William "Bill" Ralph Adams (76) of Mansfield, Texas, passed away April 6, 2024. Bill was born to Shade and Marjorie Stamper Adams on July 14, 1947, and grew up in Whitesburg, Kentucky. Bill's career in the USDA-Soil Conservation Service took him across the country to Virginia, Tennessee, and Colorado before settling in Mansfield, Texas. His 42 years of service saw a great change in agriculture, initially working directly with farmers as a soil conservationist, working to modernize resource management. Bill ended his career in project management at the National Cartography & Geospatial Center in Ft Worth, Texas, still focused on improving the livelihoods of people through conservation. Bill conducted classes on Ham Radio, working on community safety and disaster preparedness, and mentoring local high school teams on communications. He was a member of the Mansfield Ham Radio Club. Bill's faith was very important to him. He served as a Gideon, deacon, and leading Sunday school teacher. Bill is preceded in death by his first wife <b>Georgetta Humphrey Adams</b> . He leaves behind to cherish his memory wife <b>Emma Brown Adams</b> , children; <b>Jeff Hawkins (Laura)</b> , <b>Sarah Marcel (Des)</b> , <b>Pam Weisenhorn</b> , <b>Will Adams (Diane)</b> , and <b>Ashley Godawski (Joe)</b> , and eleven grandchildren.
Adcock	2023	Senior Conservationist <b>Willie Leroy Adcock</b> (102) of Tyler, Texas, passed away October 13, 2023, surrounded by family. Leroy was born on September 23, 1921, in DeWitt County, Texas into the loving family of <b>Marie Emelia nee Schlein</b> and <b>Oliver Adcock</b> . As a young man, he raised champion livestock and farm animals and, like his siblings, enjoyed playing music together on various instruments. He enrolled at Texas A&M College (class 1944) and worked throughout his time there. At the outbreak of World War II, he was sent to army officers training school and then to Europe where he served throughout the war, surviving two wrecked planes and being awarded the Air Medal for valiant conduct behind enemy lines. Returning with the rank of Captain, he continued to serve in the Texas National Guard and finished his undergraduate degree at TAMC and later his master's. A mutual friend introduced him to the love of his life, <b>Margaret Louise Ballow Adcock</b> . After a long-distance courtship via letters and sometimes him flying a plane for visits to her home in Rusk County, Texas, they were married in her little Millville family church on April 3, 1953. Leroy's career with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service took them from Bryan, Texas to Bellville, Texas - where a daughter <b>Kathy</b> (1954) and a son <b>Timothy</b> (1956) were born - then to Denton and Decatur, Texas. After his retirement, Louise and Leroy settled in Tyler, Texas in 1989 and had many happy years together there. Leroy devoted his life to family, church, community, and country. He served as a Deacon in his church and spent many hours as a volunteer and fund-raiser through his church, community, and the Republican Party. Leroy is preceded in death by his wife of 70 years, He is survived by his two children, <b>Kathy (Royce Glenn) Smith</b> of Dallas, Texas; son, <b>Timothy</b> of Houston; his grandson, <b>Dakota (Jessica)</b> , and their two children, <b>Xander</b> and <b>Zelda Smith</b> of McKinney, Texas. Leroy cherished and tenderly cared for Louise throughout their lives together, especially in the ten years of her decline due to Parkinson's dementia. When she could no longer be cared for at home, he visited her daily.
Attebury	2024	Gay E. Attebury (67) of Lubbock, Texas, passed away April 8, 2024, in an automobile accident. Gay was the wife of <b>Kelly Attebury</b> , Resource Soil Scientist for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service in Lubbock. Gay was born May 12, 1956, in Corpus Christi, Texas, to <b>Robert</b> and <b>Patricia (Shaughnessy) Stricklin</b> . She attended Texas Tech University. She married Kelly Attebury, September 15, 1978 in Lubbock. Gay graduated from Texas Tech with a bachelor's in general studies and later a Master's in Hotel and Restaurant Management. She worked at Texas Tech in the School of Nursing, School of Medicine and the catering department for over 20 years. She later earned her second Master's from West Texas A&M in Speech Pathology. After becoming a speech pathologist, she worked for over 15 years in schools, home health and nursing homes. Survivors include her husband, Kelly Attebury of Lubbock, daughter, <b>Robyn Ellis</b>

		( <b>Jimmy</b> ) of Rockville, Maryland, son, <b>Taylor Attebury (Katherine)</b> of Lexington, Kentucky, 3 grandchildren, <b>Harvey</b> and <b>Maev Ellis</b> of Rockville, Maryland and <b>Louise Attebury</b> of Lexington, Kentucky.
<b>Baskins</b>	<b>2024</b>	Senior Conservationist <b>Thomas Harold Baskins</b> (96) of North Little Rock, Arkansas, passed away March 22, 2021. Thomas was born November 22, 1924. He was United States Army veteran of World War II. He was married to <b>Mildred Elizabeth Baskins</b> who passed away in 2005. Thomas worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, starting off as a Soil Conservationist and finishing his career as a Resource Conservationist in 1987. Thomas was a member of St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Little Rock, Arkansas. Survivors include his children, <b>Dr. Larry Abdullah, Patricia Baskins-Dean</b> , and <b>Thomas Baskins, Jr.</b> Burial was at the Arkansas State Veteran Cemetery, 1501 W. Maryland Avenue, North Little Rock.
<b>Brown</b>	<b>2024</b>	ARCSE Life Member <b>Raymond N. Brown Jr.</b> (85) of South Burlington, Vermont passed away March 3, 2024. Ray was born May 27, 1938, in Jacksonville, Florida. Ray led a life of service to his country and community that touched countless lives. He graduated from Alfred University in New York and then earned a Degree in Agriculture from the University of Georgia. He also attended the Naval Officers Training Center and served as a Commissioned Commander in the United States Navy and for 25 years as a Naval Reservist. Ray obtained a Master's of Professional Studies in Agriculture Management from Cornell University which paved the way for his 35 year career with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (now Natural Resources Conservation Service). Ray held numerous positions including Soil Conservationist, District Conservationist, Area Conservationist, Deputy State Conservationist and Assistant Director in New York, New Jersey, Vermont, and was the Associate Director for the Northeast National Technology Center. After retiring he continued to be an active member of his community. He attended Shelburne Methodist Church, sang in the choir, and served as President of Shelburne Rotary and Rotary International. He also volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, Young Life in Addison and Chittenden Counties, and helped facilitate the yearly Shelburne BBQ. Ray's community involvement and service were extensive, and he even went back to work at Valdez Environmental Consulting firm to keep busy where he continued his passion for agriculture and clean water by working on the restoration efforts of the Everglades at Lake Okeechobee, Florida. Ray loved gardening, classical concerts, bird watching, dinners on the lake, and dancing. Ray was predeceased by his Wife <b>Nan</b> in 2001. He is survived by his wife <b>Roxanne</b> , sons <b>Raymond (Pamela) Brown</b> and <b>Frederick Brown</b> ; a daughter <b>Kathy (Mike) Shea</b> ; stepchildren <b>Tonya Love</b> and <b>Thomas (Ann) Love</b> as well as numerous grandchildren.
<b>Carter</b>	<b>2024</b>	District Conservationist <b>Philip Scott Carter</b> (57) of Plains, Texas, passed away March 17, 2024. Philip was born in Las Cruces, New Mexico, to <b>Joe and Carolyn (Stone) Carter</b> , on September 25, 1966. He was raised in Ira, Texas, and went to college at Angelo State and Texas Tech University. There he earned his undergraduate degree in Animal Science. Then he later returned to Angelo State to further pursue his love for Range and Wildlife Management and earned his master's degree. After graduation, Philip worked for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, and eventually made his way to Plains, where he was the District Conservationist. Philip went on a blind date with <b>Vee Ann Fitzgerald</b> , and they married on February 26, 2000. They made their home in Plains for 24 years. He served as a deacon at the Denver City Church of Christ and the Hillside Church of Christ for many years. Philip spent his time ranching, fishing, hunting and chasing not only his daughters but all his nieces and nephews in all their numerous activities. Survivors include his wife, Vee Ann, and his daughters: <b>Madison Carter</b> of Lubbock, Texas; <b>Marka Carter</b> of College Station, Texas; and <b>Mikah Carter</b> of San Angelo, Texas.
<b>Coffee</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>Harold "Hack" Coffee</b> (78) of Canadian, Texas, passed away on April 1, 2024, in Canadian. Hack was born March 14, 1946, in Pampa, Texas to <b>Walter and Irene Coffee</b> . He graduated from East Texas State University in Commerce, Texas in 1968 with a bachelor's degree in agriculture. Soon after graduating college, Hack enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He served in Vietnam and was on active duty for three years. Hack also served six years in the Marine Corps Reserves and left the service with the rank of Captain. On June 4, 1966, he married the love of his life, <b>Bobbie Stoebe</b> in Miles City, Montana. They have celebrated almost 58 years of marriage. Hack, Bobbie, and their children moved to Canadian in 1987. He worked for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for over 35 years before he retired, most of that time as the District Conservationist in Canadian. Hack was a member of the Methodist Church of Canadian and the American Legion Post 106 in Miami, Texas. Hack was an avid outdoorsman, rancher, hunter, and a heck of a handy man. He also enjoyed metal detecting, scuba diving with his sons, and making trips to Las Vegas (and elsewhere) to gamble. Hack and Bobbie were members of the McLean, Texas Dance Hall where they rarely missed a dance. He was a quiet man but told the best jokes and entertaining stories. He was preceded in death by his daughter, <b>Katy Coffee</b> in 2011, who worked as a District Conservationist for the NRCS in Newcastle, Wyoming. Survivors include his wife, <b>Bobbie</b> ; eldest son, <b>Cameron Coffee (Cara)</b> of Portland, Oregon, their children <b>Quinn</b> and <b>Sasha</b> and <b>Jim Coffee (Wendy)</b> of Austin, Texas.
<b>Daniel</b>	<b>2024</b>	ARCSE Member <b>Marvin A. Daniel</b> (101) of Fredericksburg, Texas, passed away on March 26, 2024. He was born in Florence, Texas on July 28, 1922. He joined the Army Air Corp in 1942 serving as a radio operator during World War II. After his discharge in 1946 he worked as District Clerk in the Florence office of the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS). That Fall he started attending Texas A&M and he graduated in 1949 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture. After graduation he started work with SCS in the Fredericksburg work unit. He worked there for ten years. In 1959 he and family moved to Coleman, Texas. where he worked as District Conservationist until 1962 when he became Land Rights Specialist and moved to Brownwood, Texas. A few years later he became the District Conservationist in the Brownwood Field Office. In 1971 he transferred to Vernon, Texas as Area Conservationist where he worked until moving to Harlingen, Texas as the Area Conservationist there. In 1978 he returned to Fredericksburg as Area Conservationist where he served until his retirement from SCS in 1980. He is survived by his son <b>Wendell M. Daniel (Linda)</b> of Early Texas, grandchildren, <b>Celie Thomson (Lane), Kelly Foltz (Douglas)</b> , as well as 7 great grandchildren. A funeral service was held April 1, 2024 at the First Baptist Church in Fredericksburg followed by interment at Greenwood Cemetery.
<b>Day</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Dwayne Albert Day</b> (61) of Tuscola, Texas passed away November 4, 2023 in Paducah, Texas. Dwayne was born in Corpus Christi, Texas on February 14, 1962. He married <b>Nina Sue Pavlicek</b> on May 15, 1982, after working for her dad in the rice field for 5 years. He received his master's in agriculture from Texas A&M University in 1984. He spent 20 years working for the USDA- Natural Resource Conservation Service. And then he worked as a drilling consultant in the oil field for 12 years before he retired. After retiring from the oil field, he devoted a large amount of his time helping his daughter <b>Rita Anne</b> build and run her new veterinary clinic. He wholeheartedly lived by the Aggie motto "Never lie, cheat or steal and don't tolerate those that do". Dwayne always thoroughly loved the outdoors. He enjoyed adventures with his motorboat

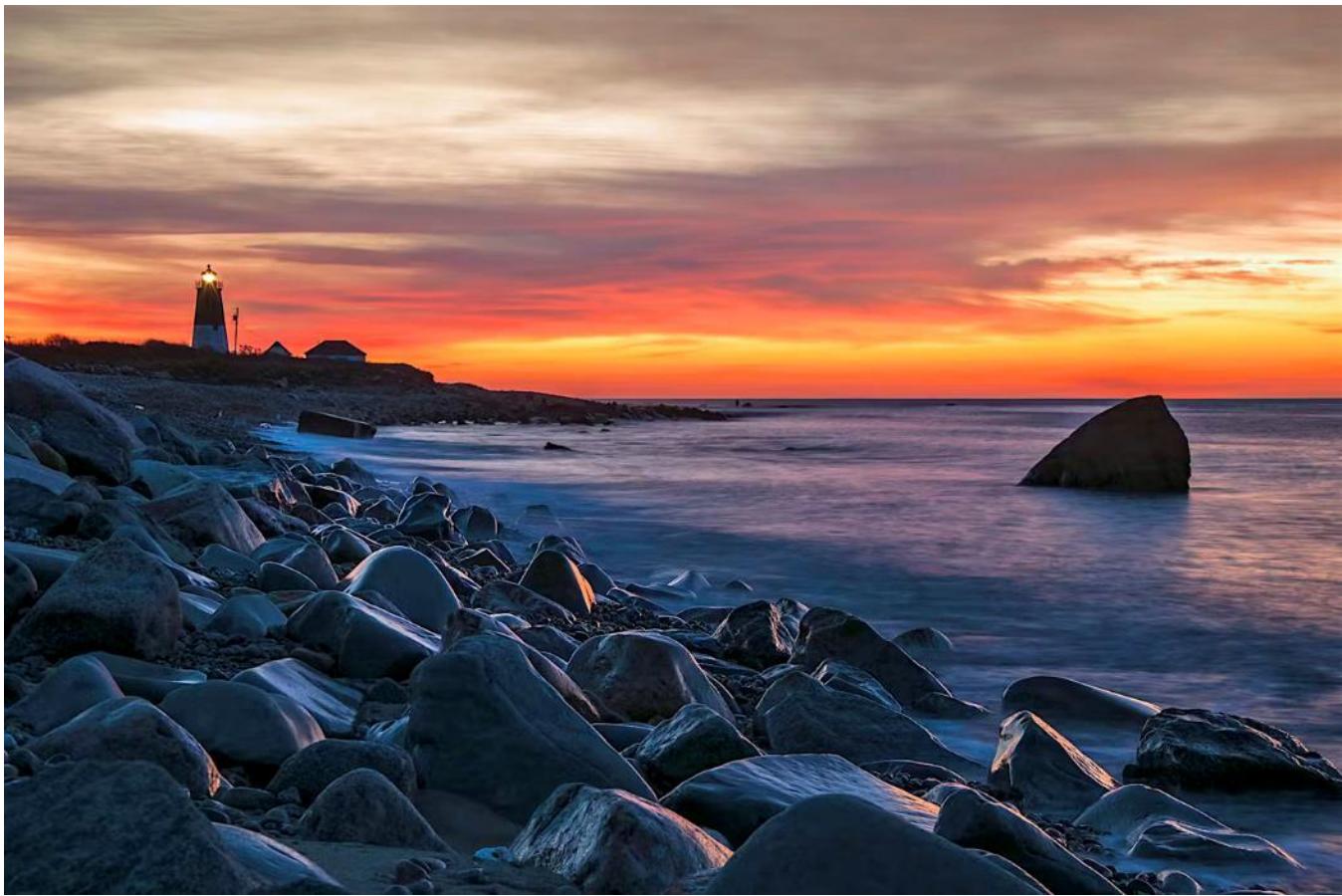
		60 miles offshore fishing, hunting mountain lions in and flying his own plane to go scout for elk. He is survived by his wife, <b>Nina Sue Day</b> and his three children <b>Rita Anne Ikeler (Eric)</b> , <b>Savanna Lee Delgado (Jeremy)</b> who have and his son <b>Conrad Levon Day</b> ; grandchildren <b>Via Lee, Von Edward, Joslyn Nicole, Delia Mae</b> and <b>Bronson Nicholas</b> . He is also survived by his mother, <b>Alice Anne Day</b> , and 3 siblings.
<b>Fox</b>	2024	<b>Stanley Raymond Fox</b> (82) of Punta Gorda, Florida, passed away March 22, 2024, surrounded by his family. Stan was born August 22, 1941, in Washington, DC. In 1968 while working as a draftsman for the Post Office Department, he met the love of his life, <b>Karen Koechley</b> . They were married on May 2, 1970. In 1977 they made the brave move to relocate across the country to Oregon where Stan worked as a Snow Hydrologist for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, now the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The adventures he experienced could easily have been a script for a television show. Stan was allowed remote access to various mountain sites, accessible only by helicopter. Stan even heliocoptered into the crater of Mount St Helens to measure the snowpack between eruptions. He was an instructor at the Snow Survival School. He once was in a helicopter crash landing on a dried-out riverbed. Luckily, he was unhurt as he had a very experienced Vietnam Vet pilot. Stan was a consistent contributor to local television, radio and newspapers. Stan retired from NRCS in 2004. In 2005, the sunshine, tropics and most importantly a boat lured Stan and Karen to Punta Gorda, Florida. He named the boat Sno Mon. They enjoyed kayaking, snorkeling, cruising the Caribbean and family outings. In addition to his wife Karen, Stan's survivors include daughters Angela and Kristi.
<b>Goddard</b>	2023	ARCSE Member <b>William David Goddard</b> (84) of Fillmore, Utah, passed away December 8, 2023, at Utah Valley Hospital. Bill was born July 5, 1939, in Fillmore to <b>Roy Kenneth</b> and <b>Elaine Melville Goddard</b> . He married his high school sweetheart, <b>Joyce Ashman</b> , on July 1, 1959, in the Manti, Utah Temple. Bill served his country in the Army National Guard for 9 years. After completing his associate degree in civil engineering from what is now Southern Utah University, he went on to receive a bachelor's degree from the University of Utah and from there became a professional civil engineer for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS). During his career with the SCS, there were numerous transfers with promotions. After a long career, Bill ultimately retired as the State Soil Conservationist of Nevada and later returned to Fillmore. There he was able to build his dream shop where he spent many hours making beautiful creations for his children and grandchildren. He loved spending time with his sons and sometimes his daughters working on cars and doing home repairs and could fix just about anything. He also had a love of travel and really loved his trips to Hawaii along with fishing at Kent's Lake and Otter Creek. Bill was a faithful member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He served as Bishop of the Morgantown, West Virginia ward for five years among many other callings. He enjoyed working in the Reno, Nevada and Manti Utah temples with his loving sweetheart. Together they served two missions: one in Tennessee as well as Sparks, Nevada. Survivors include his wife, Joyce, of almost 65 years who continues to live in Fillmore, son <b>Bret (Randi) Goddard</b> of Gladstone, Missouri, daughter <b>Robin (John) Eberle</b> of Connoquenessing, Pennsylvania, son <b>Bart (Deborah) Goddard</b> of Fillmore, Utah, son <b>Travis (Kristina) Goddard</b> of Reno, Nevada, son <b>Tyler (Kaylene) Goddard</b> of Cedar City, Utah, daughter <b>Penny (Kelly) Gillins</b> of Fillmore, Utah., 29 grandchildren and 26 great grandchildren.
<b>Headden</b>	2020	Senior Conservationist and ARCSE Life Member <b>Glenn Headden</b> (88) of Union City, Tennessee, passed away November 15, 2020, at his home surrounded by his loving family. Glenn was born on March 24, 1932, in Yorkville, Tennessee, son of the late <b>Maury and Velma (Ashmore) Headden</b> and stepson of the late <b>Hazel (Sturdivant) Headden</b> . He married <b>Sherry Vernon</b> on June 8, 1957. He attended the University of Tennessee at Martin and graduated in 1957 with a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture. He served as the President of the Ag Club and the President of his Senior Class among other achievements. Glenn was a veteran of the United States Army, serving from 1957 to 1959. Following his Army service, he enjoyed a long and distinguished career with the USDA- Soil Conservation Service (SCS), which he had begun as a student intern while attending college. He held multiple positions over the years throughout middle and west Tennessee, including Obion County Soil Conservationist and coordinator in Jackson for the eight county Chickasaw Shiloh Reserve Conservation and Development Project. His last position with the SCS was Area Conservationist, serving all counties in West Tennessee. He was an outstanding steward of natural resources and received a number of awards for his exemplary performance. In 1970 and 1979, he received the SCS' Special Achievement Award. Glenn retired in 1993 and continued his love of the soil through gardening. He especially loved tilling his garden every spring and working alongside Sherry in the garden every summer. He was a devout Christian and a member of the Exchange Street Church of Christ in Union City since 1966. He was a devoted husband, a sacrificial father, and a dedicated Pop! Survivors include his wife, <b>Sherry</b> ; daughters <b>Cindy Gibson (Andy)</b> of Union City and <b>Elaine Kloos (Robert)</b> of Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina; one granddaughter, <b>Jessica Roney (Mike)</b> of Dickson, Tennessee; two step granddaughters, <b>Allison Vogel (Eric)</b> of Malvern, Pennsylvania and <b>Amanda Moore (Alan)</b> of Hyattsville, Maryland; 6 great grandchildren, <b>Emily, Olivia</b> and <b>Alex Roney</b> , and <b>Audrey, Emilia and Jack Vogel</b> .
<b>Henning</b>	2023	<b>Malcolm Leon Henning</b> (77) of Denmark, Tennessee, passed away July 9, 2023. Malcolm was born on February 17, 1946, in Denmark. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He worked for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, retiring as the National Program Manager for the Conservation Reserve Program at National Headquarters in Washington, DC. Interment was at the Denmark Christian Methodist Episcopal Church Cemetery in Denmark, Tennessee.
<b>Hook</b>	2024	<b>Floyd Winston Hook Jr.</b> (65) of Kingston, Oklahoma passed away on March 9, 2024, at his home. He was born on March 10, 1958, in Madill, Oklahoma to the late <b>Floyd Winston Hook Sr. and Eloice Cleo Cryer Hook</b> . Winston attended all 12 years of school at Kingston, graduating in 1976 and was a member of the Kingston Alumni Association. He lived his entire life in the Willis and Fobb area working on local farms. Winston also worked for Weber Aircraft from 1989 till 1991, Marshall County Conservation District from 1997 to 2014, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service from 1997 to 2014, retiring in 2014 due to medical reasons. He later owned Uncle Winky Lawn Service. Winston always had a smile on his face, a huge heart full of love and would do anything for anyone. He loved planting in the garden, raising watermelons and cantaloupe. The love of his life was named "Blue". She was so much more than a dog; she was his child, his companion, she was his best friend.
<b>Hughes</b>	2024	ARCSE Member <b>Judith Lois Hughes</b> (84) of Shiremanstown, Pennsylvania, passed away on January 26, 2024. Judith was born on June 29, 1939, in Pine Grove, Pennsylvania. Judith worked as a personnel clerk in the Harrisburg State Office for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, retiring in 2006. Judith was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church. She was an avid animal lover, especially cats, and she and her husband took care of many beloved pets during their life together. She is preceded in death by her husband <b>R. Burton Hughes</b> in 2008. Surviving Judith are her sister in-

		law, <b>Virginia Dalton</b> ; brother in-law, <b>John Hughes</b> ; nephew, <b>John Dalton</b> ; niece, <b>Lynn Dalton</b> ; step-niece, <b>Sheila</b> ; step-nephews, <b>Mike and Kirk (Charlotte) Hughes</b> ; and great nephews, <b>Shawn, Gavin and Clay</b> .
<b>Muckel</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>Nancy Mae Muckel</b> (76) of Lincoln, Nebraska, passed away April 3, 2024. She was the wife of ARCSE Life Member <b>Gary Bruce Muckel</b> who is a retired Soil Scientist for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. Nancy was born April 28, 1947, in Reno, Nevada to <b>LaRoy Grant</b> and <b>Alpha Naomi Parsons (Lehman)</b> of Fallon and Hazen, Nevada. She married Gary on June 10, 1967 at St. Paul Methodist Church in Reno. Gary's led to several job transfers. She moved with husband Gary from Reno to Burley, Idaho, then Twin Falls, Idaho then Bismarck, North Dakota and Albuquerque, New Mexico, Tigard, Oregon, and finally Lincoln, Nebraska in 1992. Each move she continued to serve her community in Jaycettes and many other community activities. She battled breast cancer on and off for nearly 20 years, but it did not slow her down from her many activities and gatherings with friends. Nancy is survived by husband Gary, sister <b>Joan Austin</b> of Sparks, Nevada, daughter <b>Tamera Kay Muckel</b> of Sparks, Nevada, son <b>William Dean Muckel (Holly)</b> of Lincoln, grandchildren <b>Kira Isabel Muckel</b> and <b>Shane Muckel</b> of Lincoln and nieces and nephews in Reno, Sparks and Winnemucca.
<b>Ortgies</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>Karolyn Lo Ortgies</b> (83) of Massena, Iowa, peacefully passed away on April 7, 2024, at Exira Care Center after a battle with Alzheimer's disease. Karolyn was the wife of <b>Duane Ortgies</b> , retired Soil Conservation Technician for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. Karolyn was born on January 11, 1941, in Atlantic, Iowa, to <b>Arnold</b> and <b>Erma (Petersen) Westphalen</b> and grew up on a farm west of Elk Horn, Iowa. Following graduation from Elk Horn schools, she attended beauty school. Karolyn met Duane Ortgies while singing at a friend's wedding where he was a groomsman, and they were married on May 31, 1964. She and Duane established The Travelling Companion bed and breakfast and tearoom in their beautiful home. She later opened The Tinder Box gift shop in downtown Elk Horn. Karolyn is survived by her husband, Duane Ortgies; son <b>Tony (Sally) Ortgies</b> of West Des Moines, Iowa; granddaughter, <b>Clara Ortgies</b> , and her fiancé, <b>Matthew Schmitz</b> of Urbandale, Iowa.
<b>Paulsgrove</b>	<b>2024</b>	Senior Conservationist and ARCSE Life Member <b>Glenn Harold Paulsgrove</b> (98) Knoxville, Illinois, passed away on April 12, 2024, at the Knox County Nursing Home. He was born January 27, 1926, east of Abingdon, Illinois, the son of <b>James R.</b> and <b>Alta Hatch Paulsgrove</b> . Glenn served in the United States Navy during World War II on a Landing Ship Tank (LST) in the Pacific Theater, which participated in the Leyte invasion of the Philippines. Glenn was honorably discharged from the service in May 1946 and enrolled at Knox College in the fall. In 1947, he transferred to the University of Illinois, starting at the Galesburg branch, and then moving to the Champaign-Urbana Campus. Glenn graduated in June 1950 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture. Glenn began his career with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in the summer of 1949. He served in several locations in Illinois, retiring in 1986 from the Area Conservationist position in Northern Illinois. Glenn married <b>Bettelou Flory</b> of Monmouth in 1950. They had three children: <b>Steven, Teresa (Teri),</b> and <b>Robin</b> . Glenn later married <b>Fern Lucille (Lucy) Camper</b> of Galesburg, Illinois in 1971. Glenn was a lifetime member of the American Legion Post #285, Veterans of Foreign Wars #2257, and State Associations of LST Navy Veterans, SCS Retirees Association, and the Elks Lodge 894. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Galesburg. Glenn was an avid Chicago Cubs fan. Glenn and Lucy enjoyed traveling and took many trips and cruises after retirement. They spent winters in Arizona enjoying bowling and playing shuffleboard. Glenn is survived by his children: <b>Steven (Christy) Paulsgrove</b> of Goliad, Texas; <b>Teresa (Randell) Crump</b> of Cleveland, Tennessee; and <b>Robin (Ray) Paulsgrove</b> of Dallas, Texas; four grandchildren: <b>Casey (Cara) Horny, Jamison Horny, Zachary (Dayna) Paulsgrove,</b> and <b>Lindsay Weeks</b> ; and five great grandchildren: <b>Carsyn, Breslynn, and Evelyn Govednik; Jude Mendez, and Maeve Paulsgrove</b> . Glenn also leaves two stepchildren: <b>Larry (Mary Jo) Camper</b> and <b>Kathleen Wolny</b> ; five step-grandchildren: <b>Jason (Allyson) Camper, Sarah Camper, Stephanie (Nick) Roske, Jessica (Joel) Snape, and Nicholas Wolny</b> ; and five step-great grandchildren. Glenn was preceded in death by his wife, and the mother of his children.
<b>Pewthers</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>Lt. Col. John O. Pewthers</b> (87) of Waurika, Oklahoma passed away peacefully in his home on March 1, 2024 with his 3 daughters at his side. John was born on December 22, 1936, at home in Mountain View, Oklahoma to <b>Keith and Margie Pewthers</b> . He graduated in 1959 from Oklahoma State University (OSU) with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy Field Crops with Range Management Option. While at OSU, he did 4 years of Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps. He was in the US Air Force for 36 years, 3 of which were active duty as a Photo-Radar Intelligence Officer and an Air Police Officer. He retired from the Air Force Reserve as a Lt. Col. in 1996. He received his pilot's license in 1963. He worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service for 34 years as a range and district conservationist. John married the love of his life, <b>Phyllis Joy Roles</b> on September 25, 1955. He was an active member in his community and was involved in the Civil Air Patrol, Society for Range Management, Lions Club, American Legion and many others over the years. He accepted Christ at the age of 9 at the First Baptist Church in Mountain View, Oklahoma. He was an energetic member of The First Baptist Church of Waurika, Oklahoma for over 40 years. John is preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Joy. He is survived by his 3 daughters, <b>Janice Joy Mackiewicz (Jake)</b> of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, <b>Johnna Kim Duell (Doug)</b> of Burlington, Colorado, and <b>Terri Dian Moore (David)</b> of Amarillo, Texas, 6 grandchildren: <b>Erica Hunt (Andrew)</b> of Grove, Oklahoma, <b>Barrett Duell (BreeAnn)</b> of Goodland, Kansas, <b>Amber Torres (Joe)</b> of Amarillo, Texas, <b>Tyrel Duell (Sarah)</b> of Sterling, Colorado, <b>Courtney Mayo (Adam)</b> of Kansas City, Missouri, and <b>Jamie Moore (David)</b> of Amarillo, Texas, and 15 great grandchildren.
<b>Pietzsch</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>Jerome Wayne Pietzsch</b> (88) of Hamilton, Texas, passed away March 26, 2024. Jerome was born May 1, 1935, in Hamilton to <b>Gustave</b> and <b>Emma Eilers Pietzsch</b> . He joined the United States Army in 1957. He went through basic training at Fort Chaffee in Arkansas and continued training at Fort Sill in Oklahoma. He was honorably discharged May 31, 1963. He went to work for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in 1962. He retired from the SCS on April 1, 1994, after 32 years of service. Throughout his life he called Pottsville home where he farmed the family land and custom farmed in his time off from the SCS up until his 80th birthday when he retired from custom farming. In 1971 he married the "Love of his life" <b>Alice Ann Ash</b> in Cranfills Gap, Texas. He joined St. John Lutheran Church in 1970 where he led an active role in the church serving as an Elder. He is survived by his wife, Alice. His daughter <b>Patricia (Lynn) Diepenbrock</b> of Davis, Oklahoma, <b>Deborah (Brad) Benne</b> of Round Rock, Texas, <b>Becky (Chris) Andrews</b> of Hamilton, Texas. Son <b>Wayne Pietzsch (Renee)</b> of Georgetown, Texas; his nine grandchildren <b>Tiffany (Jeremy) Mitchell, Ethan Benne, Braden Andrews, Cody Diepenbrock, M'kayla Benne, Christy (Jordan) Rickets, Camden Andrews</b> and fiance <b>Dylan Childress, Breely Pietzsch</b> , and <b>Taryn Pietzsch</b> ; and one great grandson <b>Sutton Rickets</b> .

Ramsey	2024	<b>James Floyd (Chipper) Ramsey</b> (78) and <b>Betty Faye Ramsey</b> (75) of Greenback, Tennessee, passed away unexpectedly on March 31, 2024, at their cherished home, the victims of a double homicide. Chip and Betty were high school sweethearts and were married for almost 58 years. Chip worked for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), which led him across the Southeastern United States. He finished his professional journey in the Washington D.C. National Office where he worked in the Conservation Planning Division. Betty and Chipper devoted countless hours to encouraging and supporting AI and their grandchildren in their various activities. Whether it was pageants, cheerleading, golf tournaments, BBQ cooking, soccer, basketball, or football games, they could often be found in the audience or stands, proudly cheering on Al, Taylor, Creed, and Averi as their most enthusiastic fans. Their unwavering support served as a constant source of inspiration and motivation for their loved ones, embodying the true essence of family bonds and love. They are survived by their son <b>Allen (Tiffany)</b> , their beloved grandchildren <b>Taylor Brooke Ramsey (Evan Wise)</b> , <b>Sr. Airman Allen "Creed" Ramsey USAF</b> , <b>Averi Maddox Ramsey (Daly)</b> , and great-granddaughter <b>Stevie Brooks Wise</b> , all of Knoxville, Tennessee.
Reinke	2024	<b>Barbara A. Reinke</b> (80) of Victoria, Texas, passed away March 26, 2024, a day shy of her birthday. Barbara was the wife of <b>Stan Reinke</b> who worked for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service as a Range Management Specialist from 1997 to 2004. Barbara was born March 27, 1943, in Refugio, Texas to <b>William H.</b> and <b>Anna Marie Crawford</b> . She was a member of Faith Family Church in Victoria. She is survived by her loving husband, Stan; daughter, <b>Kim Stary (Chad)</b> ; son, <b>Tim Reinke</b> ; grandchildren, <b>Emmitt Reinke</b> , <b>Melyn Yaklin (Jacob)</b> , <b>Emily Bohac (Matthew)</b> , <b>Isabella Naju</b> , and <b>Reilly Reinke</b> ; great-grandchildren, <b>Bryant</b> and <b>Weston Bohac</b> .
Rolewicz	2024	<b>Deanna "Dee" Marie Rolewicz</b> (62) of Woodland, California, passed away on March 12, 2024. Deanna was born October 27, 1962. She worked for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service for 31 years. Most of her time she worked at the Davis, California State Office in Soils, Financial Management and Programs. She retired in October 2018 as a Program Management Specialist. Dee loved life, she loved her family and friends but most of all she loved her grandkids more than anything in this world.
Rose	2024	<b>Kenneth Herman Rose</b> (90) of Hutchinson, Kansas, passed away February 22, 2024, at Welsey Towers in Hutchinson. Ken was born June 17, 1933, on the family farm near Bloomfield in Knox County, Nebraska, to <b>Herman Philip</b> and <b>Emma (Hinzmann) Rose</b> . He served in the United States Army in Korea, having volunteered for the draft to earn the GI Bill, and then learned that was a hazardous way to fund an education. He graduated from the University of Nebraska with a bachelor's degree in agronomy and joined the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS), now known as the Natural Resources Conservation Service. He worked for SCS for the next 37 years in several northeast Nebraska locations before transferring to Rochester, Minnesota, and eventually Hutchinson, Kansas where he served as the Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations. He was a member of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, the American Legion Lyle Rishel Post #68, the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, and the National Rifle Association. On December 22, 1955, he made what he felt was the best decision of his life and married his Bloomfield High School sweetheart <b>Vivian Boland</b> . Their oldest child <b>Douglas Kenneth Rose</b> was born in 1959 and succumbed to a glioblastoma brain cancer in 2010. In addition to Vivian, Kenneth is survived by daughter, <b>Kellye Jean Rose (Brent Gregoire)</b> of Burnsville, Minnesota, daughter-in-law, <b>Erica Bergsland</b> of Edina, Minnesota, grand-children <b>Emily Rose Nghiem (Huy)</b> of Denver Colorado, <b>Henry Douglas Rose</b> of Venice, California, <b>Matthew Boland Gregoire (Emilie)</b> of Saint Louis Par, Minnesota, <b>Benjamin Ryan Gregoire</b> of Burnsville, Minnesota and great-grandson <b>Tye Douglas Nghiem</b>
Sando	2024	<b>Ronald D. Sando</b> (83) of Bismarck, North Dakota, passed away peacefully on April 8, 2024 with his family at his residence in Laguna Woods, California. Ron was born in Grafton, North Dakota, on July 5, 1940. He attended Denver University, University of Colorado, and University of North Dakota where he graduated in January 1965 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering. On March 29, 1961, Ron married the love of his life <b>Karen Sue Knutson</b> . Ron was the Design Engineer in the Bismarck, North Dakota State office for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service for many years. He then became the State Conservation Engineer and retired as Assistant State Conservationist for Programs after the agency became the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. He received multiple awards for his work and was most proud when his peers recognized him with the prestigious North Dakota Water Users Hall of Fame. He was a registered professional engineer in North Dakota for 50 years. Upon retiring from government service, Ron continued to participate in his water resource consulting and his work for the Bismarck Parks and Recreation Department. He was a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Bismarck and an associate member of the Lutheran Church of the Cross in Laguna Woods, California. Ron is survived by his wife, Karen; sons <b>Todd (Lunette)</b> and <b>Bradley (Terri)</b> ; and grandsons, <b>Bradley, Nicholas</b> , and <b>Derek</b> ; a brother, three sisters and a brother-in-law. He was preceded in death by his parents. Honorary ARCSE Member <b>John Clarence Lowrey</b> (92) of Sun City West, Arizona, passed away on April 13, 2024. John was born December 25, 1931, the youngest of 6 siblings and was raised in Illinois. John joined the United States Army and served in Germany after World War II in the 5th armored division as a field artillery cannoneer and received an occupation medal during his service in Germany. John later became a proud member of American Legion Post 94 of Sun City West, Arizona. John went on to marry <b>Rose</b> and loved and cherished her through many years. John was a graduate of the University of Illinois. Both John and Rose worked and retired from the federal government working for the US Department of Agriculture. John was an economist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service and worked in Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Washington, DC. John is survived by his loving wife Rose of almost 32 years, a son <b>Mark Lowrey</b> of Texas, a daughter <b>Jean Zertuche</b> of California, and granddaughters <b>Kristine, Renee'</b> and <b>Katie</b> . He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers and three sisters.
Shields	2023	ARCSE Life Member <b>Lee B. Shields</b> (86) of Greenbelt, Maryland, passed away December 7, 2023. An obituary is not available. Lee was the Assistant Director of Information for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service when he retired at the end of 1986. Lee and his wife <b>Bonnie Shields</b> were fixtures of ARCSE luncheons and other functions in the Capitol Area before COVID-19 restrictions came along. Lee and Bonnie were very active in community activities and Greenbelt city government. They were proud of living in their starter home in Greenbelt for over 50 years as is shown in this video: <a href="https://vimeo.com/46113466">https://vimeo.com/46113466</a> . If an obituary becomes available, we will have more information in a future newsletter. Lee is survived by his wife Bonnie but information on other survivors is not currently available.
Smith	2017	Senior Conservationist <b>Philip Randolph Smith</b> (94) of Madras, Oregon (formerly of Seattle, Washington), passed away April 3, 2017, at his home. Philip was born June 4, 1922, to <b>Randolph</b> and <b>Mary Abigail Smith</b> in Lockey, Utah. Philip attended college at Utah State University and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Technical Soils in 1949 and received

		<p>a Master's in Soil Fertility at Purdue University in Indiana. He served in the United States Navy from April 1942 until 1946 on the USS Enterprise. On June 12, 1946, he married <b>Eleanor Mae Jones</b> in Salt Lake City. She passed away January 8, 2015. They lived in several places including Indiana, Missouri, Hood River, Eugene, Seaside, Seattle, and Madras. Philip worked as a soil scientist for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, helping to map soils in Hood River, Lane and Clatsop counties. He was party Leader when he retired in 1984. He was a member of the Church of Latter-Day Saints (LDS), serving in many leadership positions, and went on an LDS mission from 1984 to 1986. He was a member of Boy Scouts of America and the Soil Scientist Society of America. Philip enjoyed gardening, family history and family newsletters. Survivors include his sons, <b>Phil (Sue) Smith</b> of Madras, <b>Peter (Sheue Wen) Smith</b> of Provo, Utah; daughters, <b>Nancy (Dwight) McLean</b> of Tukwila, Washington, and <b>Shirley (Donald) Robinson</b> of Madras; 20 grandchildren and 34 great-grandchildren.</p>
<b>Spencer</b>	<b>2023</b>	<p>Senior Conservationist and ARCSE Life Member <b>Loren John Spencer</b> (97) of Kaysville, Utah (formerly of Reno, Nevada) passed away October 5, 2023. Loren was born December 30, 1925, in Kanab, Utah to <b>Homer</b> and <b>Clara Spencer</b>. His father passed away when he was eight years old. He grew up working with an uncle running the family's farm. He enjoyed riding horses and herding the cattle. During the late 1930's he was an extra in a few of the movies that were made near Kanab. He volunteered for the Marine Corps after graduating high school. He was attached to the 4th Marine Division and sailed to Hawaii for additional training. On New Year's Day, 1945 the Division left Pearl Harbor for the Island of Iwo Jima. The invasion began on February 19, 1945. The unit he joined—K Company, 23rd Regiment—suffered 130% casualties during the campaign. He returned to Maui by way of the Marshall Islands on the USS Kingsbury. He, and all Privates, was promoted to Private First Class. The unit was brought back to full strength. After the atomic bomb was dropped on Japan in August, 1945, he was assigned to an MP company and went to Guam on the Aircraft Carrier USS Bon Homme Richard. One of his assignments was guarding about 500 Japanese prisoners who had survived Iwo Jima. They could not go back to Japan because their families would not accept them. They were supposed to have died for their country. He sailed home in June of 1946 arriving in San Francisco. He was promoted to the rank of Corporal and was told he could keep the rank if he would re-enlist. He declined and was discharged on June 18, 1946. When home, he enrolled in the School of Engineering at the Branch Agricultural College in Cedar City, Utah in the Fall of 1946. In 1948 he went to Fillmore, Utah to get a job with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS). While he was in Fillmore, he met <b>LaRene Petersen</b> when he went to her window at the bank. They were married in the Manti Utah Temple on September 17, 1948. They moved to Logan, Utah where he completed his degree in civil engineering at Utah State University. In 1950 they moved to Beaver, Utah to continue his career with the USDA Soil Conservation Service SCS. As his career advanced, he worked in Cedar City, Utah, American Fork, Utah, Lehi, Utah, and Provo, Utah. In 1968 he was promoted to a planning engineer out of the state office in Salt Lake City, Utah. In 1971 he was assigned as the assistant conservation engineer in the state office. Loren was transferred to Reno, Nevada in 1975 as the state conservation engineer. He retired from the Soil Conservation Service in December of 1994 after a 45-year career, 25 years with the agency in Utah and 20 years in Nevada. In retirement he was a consultant for a local engineering company. He moved to Kaysville, Utah to live with his son, Neil, in 2018 after LaRene passed away. Loren was very devoted to his church. He served as Elders Quorum President and as a counselor in two bishoprics. He worked with the youth, which included the Boy Scouts. He served as Bishop of the Mount Rose First Ward in Reno, Nevada from 1980 – 1985. Served on the Reno Stake High Council for 10 years. He served as Director of the Reno Nevada Family History Center for 22 years. Loren also served many years as the Nevada State Rep for the Association of Retired Conservation Employees. He is survived by his three children: <b>Ross (Margo) Spencer</b>, <b>JaNene (Forrest) Carter</b> and <b>Neil</b> (preceded in death by <b>Donece</b>) <b>Spencer</b>. His posterity includes 13 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren.</p>
<b>Stamatel</b>	<b>2023</b>	<p>Senior Conservationist and Life ARCSE Member <b>Henry S. Stamatel</b> (99) of Camillus, New York, passed away May 17, 2023, at home, after a brief illness. Born 100 years ago in Stamford, Connecticut, his parents were immigrants from southeast Poland and their lives were extremely modest. By 1930, his Uncle Steven had taken him in, and he lived with Uncle Steven's family, while his mother worked as a domestic in nearby Rye, New York. In the 1930s, Henry, his widowed mother, and sister moved into subsidized housing in downtown Stamford. By 1941, Henry was an Eagle Scout, ready to graduate from Stamford High School and go to work in a factory to support his family, but then the Japanese Air Force bombed Pearl Harbor and he joined the military. Henry was trained to be a navigator of a B-29 in the Army Air Corps. As a father, he did not readily share his memories of the war until he was in his 80s when told his adult children, "I flew over the Empire three times." Henry took part in the bombing of the oil reserves at Akita, Japan, the longest bombing raid ever attempted by the 20th Air Force. He remembered that this mission began with the plane positioned for takeoff at the end of the runway while a fuel truck drove out to top off the B-29's tanks one final time. A chaplain was riding in the front seat of the truck. The mission was an American success, and Henry and his fellow aviators were returning to Guam when the radioman announced that <b>Hirohito</b> had surrendered. Weeks later, he boarded a troop ship and made his way through the Panama Canal to Fairfield Court in Stamford. Henry's military service paid for his education at the University of Connecticut and Yale University, where he earned civil engineering degrees. He married <b>Mary Pat Fraser</b> in 1954 and began a family immediately. Henry worked as an engineer for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service for his entire working life, helping municipalities manage flooding and create reservoirs for drinking water. He retired in 1986 as State Conservation Engineer. In later years, he was magnanimous about the change in philosophy that undammed many American rivers. A good friend who was also his boss, Bob Addison, took Henry with him when he moved from New Hampshire to New York in 1971. In Camillus, he mounted a tall rotating antenna on the roof of his home so he could watch hockey night in Canada on Saturdays. He was a steady parishioner at St. Joseph's Church in Camillus, where he lived with his family in the same house until his passing. Henry was a dedicated naturalist who regularly took his five children and devoted wife camping in the White Mountains of New Hampshire and the Adirondacks of New York. He once nailed a fish to a log and then hid, camera in hand, until a raccoon showed up. Henry was an early Nordic skier when equipment had to be ordered directly from Norway! In retirement, he and Pat enjoyed winters in their Airstream trailer in the citrus groves of Florida for a time, where he cultivated bananas, blood oranges, and pink grapefruits. Henry was predeceased by his wife of 56 years, Mary Pat, whom he nursed through her final days with grace and resolve. Surviving are his five children, <b>Thomas (Tracey)</b>, <b>Stanley (Helen)</b>, <b>Mary (Mark)</b>, <b>Elizabeth (Ray)</b>, and <b>Lawrence (Viola)</b>; and seven wonderful grandchildren, <b>Savanna</b>, <b>Brendan</b>, <b>Lauren</b>, <b>Andrew</b>, <b>Patrick</b>, <b>Henry</b>, and <b>Theo</b>.</p>
<b>Strom</b>	<b>2023</b>	<p>Senior Conservationist <b>Elwood Malcolm Strom</b> (105) of Dwight, Kansas, passed away December 2, 2023 in Council Grove, Kansas. Malcom was born March 24, 1918, to <b>Albena and Elwood Strom</b> on their farm near Dwight. It was during</p>

		<p>the same month, only 20 miles away, that the great pandemic of 1918 began. In 1939 Malcolm graduated from Kansas State College of Agriculture and Applied Science (now Kansas State University) with a degree in agronomy. In August of 1941 he began his work with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in Alcester, South Dakota. Following his service in World War II, he returned to the SCS where he spent most of his time in South Dakota. In 1964 he transferred to New Hampshire, where he became the assistant state conservationist. Toward the end of his career, Malcolm had the opportunity to spend 2 years in Nigeria, where he headed an agricultural school under the auspices of United States Agency for International Development. In 1973, Malcolm retired from SCS, and with his wife, Edith, moved back to the family farm at Dwight, where his mother, Albena, still lived. Though retired from government service, he spent several years as an agricultural consultant with Dr. Everett Dennis, of Manhattan, Kansas. Malcolm served his country during both WW II and the Korean War. He was sworn into the army on December 8th, 1941, the day war was declared on Japan. After officer candidate school, he was assigned to the 102nd Evacuation Hospital and trained as their transportation officer. His unit left California for Europe in April 1944. His unit crossed France, Luxembourg, and Belgium, finally entering Germany at the end of the war. He was released from service on December 8, 1945, four years to the day after taking his oath of enlistment. He stayed in the Army Reserves and was then called up for duty in 1951 during the Korean War for eighteen months. On December 17, 1942, Malcolm married the love of his life, <b>Edith Kelley</b>, who passed away in September 1999. During their fifty-six years of marriage, the couple had three children: <b>Eric</b> was born in March 1944, just as Malcolm prepared to ship out for Europe. Sadly, he survived only one day and is buried in Vinland, Kansas. Following the war, the couple had two more children: <b>Byron Malcolm</b> (b. 1946) and <b>Katharine Elaine</b>, born (b. 1948). In addition to his love for his family and his church, Malcolm had several other interests, including history, travel, birdwatching, photography, and genealogy. Malcolm was raised in the United Methodist Church in Dwight. After retirement, he once again became a member of the Methodist church and held several church roles and responsibilities in its local, county, and state organizations. He was active in Friends of Kaw Heritage, and the Morris County Historical Society. Malcolm loved to travel with Edith. They had the opportunity to visit their daughter, Kathy and her family in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Nepal, and the Netherlands. He made a connection with his Swedish relatives and traveled several times to visit them. In addition, they went to Haiti and Mexico for several Methodist mission trips and to Poland for a Heifer Project trip. In the later years of his life, he was able to visit the Amazon and Alaska with his daughter, Kathy and her husband, Gertjan. Survivors include a sister, <b>Helen Fowler</b>, a son, <b>Byron Strom (Becky)</b>, his daughter, <b>Katharine Renes (Gertjan)</b>, four grandchildren: <b>Laura O'Halloran (Jeff)</b>, <b>Joanna Des Marteau (André)</b>, <b>Willem Renes</b>, <b>Sophia Gustafsson-Renes (Anders)</b>, and 6 great grandchildren: <b>Cian, Kaitlin and Grady O'Halloran</b>, <b>Rémy and Elsa Des Marteau</b>, and <b>Sigrid Gustafsson-Renes</b>. He was preceded in death by his wife, <b>Edith</b>, son, <b>Eric Kelley Strom</b>, sisters <b>Deloris Strom</b> and <b>Dorothy Wasmund</b>, and brother, <b>Paul Strom</b>.</p>
Walker	2015	Senior Conservationist <b>Helene Ruth Kiser Walker</b> (97) of Somerset, Kentucky, passed away December 29, 2015. Helene was born November 21, 1918, to the late <b>George</b> and <b>Elizabeth Trimble Kiser</b> in Somerset, Kentucky. She met the love of her life, <b>Kenneth Walker</b> , and they married on Valentine's Day 1953. Helene was stricken by the dreaded disease known as polio at the age of two, however, it did not deter her. After receiving treatments at polio hospitals around the country, her family returned to Somerset where Helene attended school and was a member of the 1937 graduating class of Somerset High School. She continued her education to become a business professional and began her career with the USDA-Soil Conservation Office in Somerset. She served as the Area Clerk in Somerset for many years. After retiring, Helene and Ken traveled throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico and many countries in Europe. Helene was a member of First Baptist Church Somerset, where she was enrolled on the Cradle Roll as an infant. Helene is survived by a niece and four nephews who live in Wisconsin.
White	2024	<b>Cecil Irving White</b> (73) of Des Moines, Iowa, passed away March 29, 2024. Cecil was born on September 4, 1950, to <b>Cecil G and Stella (Stadeker) White</b> . He attended Dowling Catholic School, Des Moines Public Schools, and graduated from Tech High School. Cecil was a former member of St. John's Parish, where he was an altar boy. As a youth, Cecil enjoyed riding his "English" bike and playing basketball. Cecil was a long-suffering Chicago Bears, White Sox and Bulls fan. He considered Chicago a 2nd hometown. Cecil retired from the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service as a Budget Analyst in 2002. He was also a credentialed photographer, who was published by The Iowa Bystander, the Des Moines Register and Ebony and Essence Magazine. He enjoyed a long retirement which included time spent with friends and loved ones. Cecil was well known as a bass player and later a percussionist in the Des Moines area. He enjoyed playing many instruments. Cecil enjoyed playing alongside many bands, including Split Decision Band, Goodcat, Bittersweet, Nation Band, SP3, Its Complicated, Des Funk, Beewitched Belly Dance, Des Moines Drum Circles and a host of others. Cecil loved jazz and was a DJ with KUCB and KFMG radio. Cecil became popular in later years as a Facebook Sage. He shared his wise and humorous personality with all who would engage. Cecil recently posted that "He is an old man, and Facebook is his porch". Survivors include his children, <b>Kali Newsome, Shane (Tricia) White and Jazzy Blues</b> ; his stepdaughter, <b>Samita (Joe) Kaufmann</b> , and his longtime partner <b>Christine Anania</b> .



*Rhode Island shoreline*