

Annual Report

2023-24



Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees

ARCSE was established in 1974 as a 501(c)4 nonprofit organization. We are a membership organization, organized by state chapters. We work to keep our members in touch with each other and with our colleagues at USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. We work to promote and facilitate our members' continued commitment to the conservation and wise use of our precious natural resources. We partner with like-minded organizations to carryout mutually beneficial projects and to identify opportunities for our members to participate in activities that ensure well-trained conservationists and technically sound soil and water conservation for all land uses.

VISION

An active and engaged group of retirees who endeavor to stay connected with colleagues, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and other conservation partnership organizations

MISSION

To provide effective and timely communications, networking opportunities and activities to keep retirees connected and informed so they can support efforts to protect and conserve our nation's natural resources

CONNECTION → COMMUNICATION → COMMUNITY → CONSERVATION

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS

- First Strategic Plan developed
- Annual Plan of Work developed
 - 70 percent of tasks completed or in progress
- Virtual training session held for state representatives on roles and responsibilities
- Virtual get together session held for state representatives
- Operating Policies and Procedures reviewed and updated
- Charter reviewed and updated
- Media coordinator hired
- Annual Meeting held, Iowa
- MOU signed with NRCS
- ARCSE Awards presented for
 - Outstanding Community Service to Brian Peterson, IA
 - Distinguished Service to Deanne Lull KS and William (Bill) Ward CA
- Partnership session offered on history and future of Iowa conservation
- ARCSE Brochure developed
- Planning underway for 50th Anniversary event

CONSERVATION AND SERVICE ARE ALWAYS A PART OF US

MEMBERSHIP

- 66 new members (14 life and 2 affiliate)
- 10 new Senior Conservationists (83+ years and application)

John "Dick" Bogard OK	Thornton J.F. Hole NJ
Michael Bogard TX	John Rice MO
Carey Franklin Evans NC	Neil Sampson VA
Robert Heidecker PA	Nevin Lyle Ulery PA
Leland "Lee" Hardy OR	Ross Ulmer GA
- 14 New Honorary Members (members who are 91 years old and no longer pay dues)

Phillip D Coombs UT	Robert C Maples OK
Glenn Headden TN	Marlene Mechelke MN
Arthur B Holland SC	Norman Mull OH
Jerome C Hytry FL	William U Reybold MD
Jack P Kanalz OR	John F Rice MO
Lowell W. Kenedy WA	Ed Thomas TX
Warren Lytton UT	Mary Wenberg TX

PARTNERSHIPS

- Memorandum of Understanding with NRCS
 - MOU team appointed
 - Plan of Work developed and completed
 - Mentoring project launched
 - *Framework for Success* developed
 - Survey of members to assess interest conducted
 - Survey results provided to state conservationists and members
 - Basic Mentoring Training session developed
- Soil and Water Conservation Society Partnership Agreement
 - Summer intern hired
 - FaceBook posts calendar developed
 - Annual meeting held in Iowa

SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE WHO DONATED TO ARCSE LAST YEAR!

- Sponsorship of SWCS student and early career professional networking sessions
- ARCSE exhibit at SWCS Conference
- Partnership session on History/Future of Conservation in Iowa
- Memorandum of Understanding with New Solutions for ACES Program
 - MOU team appointed
 - Signing event planned

COMMUNICATIONS

- 6 newsletters published
 - 23 articles published on ACES program, SWCS partnership, social media, senior chronicles, directory, mentoring project, Women in Natural Resources and donations
- Member directory published
- Over 600 Facebook posts, 476 followers
- Website redesigned and updated
- Members surveyed as to satisfaction with newsletter and other communication



NRCS MOU Signing Event 7/23, Des Moines, IA Standing L-R Becky Ross, Angie Biggs, Arnold King, Craig Derickson. Seated L-R Julie MacSwain, Carrie Lindig