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NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter for Retired Conservation Service Employees

Vol. 51, No. 6 Nov/Dec 2024

The **ARCSE Newsletter** is published bi-monthly by the
Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees (ARCSE)

1902 Primrose Place, Hudson, WI 54016

Website: www.arcse.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Julie MacSwain, ARCSE President

It's hard to believe that 2024 is ending in a few months. Over this past year, we at ARCSE have accomplished a great deal. The development of the ARCSE Strategic Plan and the Annual Plan of Work have been good directions for our organization to take. The ARCSE Boards and I appreciate your continued commitment to our organization.

For members who joined ARCSE in 2024, your first year of membership was free. We hope that you consider thereafter joining our organization and continue to stay in touch and involved with the retirees. Please refer to **Paul Benedict's** Membership article in this newsletter.

In this issue you will find some reports about our first ever Membership Drive, more updates regarding Mentoring, and how ARCSE can play a role in serving as mentors for NRCS. These are all ways that you can consider being involved as a member of ARCSE.

Next steps in 2024–2025 Action Plan for ARCSE Mentoring efforts:

1. **Training** – The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Team will look for relevant training to provide to ARCSE members on what mentoring is and what ARCSE members should expect if they opt to get involved. A mentoring video will be recorded in the near term by **Craig Derickson, Samantha Ziph, and Becky Fletcher**.
2. **Identify State Mentoring Contact** – The MOU Team will look into identifying a State Mentoring Liaison/Coordinator to improve communication and follow-up with State NRCS staff. The Team will actively work to more formally recruit ARCSE members for mentoring.
3. **Link to NRCS at NHQ** – The MOU Team will work to contact NRCS staff who have a responsibility in mentoring and employee development so that we have a more direct line of contact and communication with them.

Life experiences should be shared, and young people need positive role models in their lives. Retirees are valuable mentors for youth because they have lived through the ups and downs in the different phases of life and jobs, relationships, and finances. Volunteering at a youth mentoring program, like the U.S. Dream Academy, that encourages youth to be the best they can be, is rewarding for both the retirees and the kids they are helping.

Thank you to **Craig Derickson, Becky Fletcher, Chris Tippe, and Bill Ward**, for serving on this Team. If you have any questions, please reach out to the Team.

ARCSE Membership Drive

ARCSE will be conducting a concentrated membership drive which will encourage ALL current members of ARCSE to recruit new members.

The Membership Drive will begin in November 2024 via this newsletter and will conclude on April 15th, 2025. The timing is good because members recruited during this period will be included in our ARCSE Annual Directory which will be released in May, 2025. ARCSE will be offering incentives for any member within each region who recruits the largest number of new members. Please consider this opportunity to assist in growing our organization. Together, we can and will make a difference.

A special "Thank You" to **Chris Tippe and Paul Benedict** for serving on this Membership committee. To learn more about our Membership Drive, please check out the ARCSE Membership Drive report in this newsletter.

Enjoy the Holiday Season. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with family, friends, and yes, your SCS/NRCS retirees. And remember, if you are attending any retiree event, please take a few photos and share in the upcoming newsletter.

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES

ARCSE State Representatives Play a Key Role

ARCSE State Representatives play a vital role in our organization in keeping retirees from SCS and NRCS connected. For these connections to take place, the State Representatives need to collect and maintain current email addresses and other contact information for retirees. Retirees are connected through these emails. The current listing of ARCSE State Representatives, showing contact information and vacancies, is included at the end of this newsletter.

A good way to collect information on upcoming retirees is to subscribe to the NRCS state newsletter. Most of these newsletters will list upcoming retirements. You can then email the individuals to introduce yourself, provide information about ARCSE, and ask if they would like to join your mailing list. If so, they can provide a personal email.

State Representatives communicate to retirees about various retiree events that are taking place online, or possibly face-to-face meetings. These connections are helpful in retirement, as staying connected is important for all of us. Other important information such as death notices and NRCS updates are also important to share.

I encourage you to find ways to stay connected with retirees who don't have emails. Often this is through a friend who is willing to call them.

We have a few states that are currently without a State Representative. Please note the following list. If you are interested in stepping up to this role, please reach out to Paul Benedict, the ARCSE Membership Chair.

States without an ARCSE State Representative

Caribbean	Pacific Islands area
Kansas	Pennsylvania
Maine	Mississippi
South Dakota	Utah
Wyoming	

Many thanks – Julie.

Our group shown below really enjoyed our Zoom session with Dr. Larry Butler as our special guest. It was wonderful to hear him share his interesting stories of his NRCS career, private range consulting work after NRCS, his "Out On the Land" television series and of course your unique relationship with Michael Martin Murphy and to hear some Cowboy Poetry. I saw lots of smiles out there as he was sharing. Thanks to Larry also for encouraging ARCSE State reps to reach out to their State Conservationists.



**Becky Fletcher, Bill Ward, Bill Kuenstler, Larry Butler
Mark Jensen, Jim Culver, Paul Benedict, Craig Derickson
Jack Carlson, Melvin Womack Julie MacSwain, Arnold King**

From the Office of the Chief of NRCS

Can Agriculture Improve Water Quality? With Data-Driven Voluntary Conservation, the Answer is Yes: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/can-agriculture-improve-water-quality-with-data-driven-voluntary-conservation-the>

This blog by Chief **Terry Cosby** details some of the key ways that USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service supports producers and conservation partners in improving water quality and strengthening agricultural operations through voluntary conservation.

The Importance of Traditional Ecological Knowledge in Climate-Smart Solutions: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/our-agency/news/the-importance-of-traditional-ecological-knowledge-in-climate-smart-solutions>

Here at USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, we support conservation efforts on working lands by providing one-on-one assistance to producers and communities. We are taking steps to ensure our conservation solutions integrate Tribal Ecological Knowledge and Indigenous Stewardship Methods.

NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

—*Craig Derickson, retired USDA-NRCS*

Congress Passes Continuing Resolution to Keep Government Funded

The 2024 federal fiscal year (FY) ended on September 30th, 2024, with Congress narrowly averting a partial government shutdown with passage of a stopgap funding bill. On September 23rd, Representative **Tom Cole**, Republican from Oklahoma introduced H.R. 9747, the "Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025." The bill was passed in the Senate on 9/25/24 and was signed into law by **President Biden** on 9/26/24.

According to the Congress website: "the bill provides continuing FY2025 appropriations to federal agencies through the earlier of December 20th, 2024, or the enactment of the applicable appropriations act. It is known as a continuing resolution (CR) and prevents a government shutdown that would otherwise occur if the FY2025 appropriations bills have not been enacted when FY2025 begins on October 1st, 2024."

The Congress website further states: "CR funds most programs and activities at the FY2024 levels, with several exceptions that provide funding flexibility and additional appropriations for various programs. For example, the bill provides additional funding for the Secret Service to carry out protective operations, including for the 2024 presidential campaign and National Special Security Events." For more information see the Congress website at: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/9747>.

Congress Has Much Work to Do

Soon after settling the budget issue with passage of the short-term CR, members of Congress left Washington, DC to focus their attention on the campaign trail during the six weeks leading up to Election Day.

Both the Republican House and Democratic Senate are scheduled to remain on recess until November 12th. However, after the destructive damage and hardships created by Hurricane Helene and also by Hurricane Milton, there are growing concerns about the need for additional funding for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Additional natural disasters could cause Congress to be called back to Washington, DC to take action to provide additional funding for FEMA and other agencies.

The CR bill provides funding through December 20th, but Congress will have much work to do to reach agreement on several pressing measures such as the farm bill, the full suite of government funding bills, and the annual defense legislation.

President Biden's Letter to Congress on Disaster Needs

October 4th, 2024, **President Biden** wrote a letter to Congress stating the need for additional funding for FEMA and other related agencies. The President wrote: "While FEMA has the resources needed for the immediate emergency response phase, at least one other agency does not. Most urgently, the Small Business Administration's (SBA) disaster loan program will run out of funding in a matter of weeks and well before the Congress is planning to reconvene."

The President's letter explained that small businesses and individuals in affected areas depend on disaster loans as a critical lifeline during difficult times. In fact, for individual disaster survivors, SBA loans are often the largest source of Federal disaster recovery funds. Renters and homeowners use these loans to repair and rebuild their homes as well as replace or repair damaged property, including their personal vehicles. Businesses use the loans to cover basic operating expenses.

The letter further stated: "while FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund has the resources it requires right now to meet immediate needs, the fund does face a shortfall at the end of the year. Without additional funding, FEMA would be required to forego longer-term recovery activities in favor of meeting urgent needs. The Congress should provide FEMA additional resources to avoid forcing that kind of unnecessary trade-off and to give the communities we serve the certainty of knowing that help will be ongoing, both for the short- and long-term." For more information on the President's letter to Congress, see: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2024/10/04/letter-to-congress-on-disaster-needs/>

Delayed Farm Bill Causes Concerns for Farmers and Ag Groups

On October 2nd, 2024, **Allison Winter**, staff writer with the Washington State Standard, a nonprofit, nonpartisan news outlet, wrote an article about concerns of a delayed farm bill and the problem of figuring out how to pay for it.

Winter explained that the current farm bill expired on September 30th, 2024, and lawmakers did not pass a new farm legislation or an extension. She wrote: "Congress will have to scramble in the lame-duck session set to begin November 12th to come up with some agreement on the farm bill before benefits run out at the end of the year — which if allowed to happen eventually would have major consequences."

According to Winter, "the farm bill began 90 years ago with support payments to keep farmers afloat but now has an impact far beyond the farm, with programs to create wildlife habitat, address climate change, and provide the nation's largest federal nutrition program — the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)."

Uncertainty for farmers

Winter explains: "The [farm bill] delay creates further uncertainty for farmers, who are facing declining prices for many crops and rising costs for fertilizer and other inputs. Lawmakers have some buffer before Americans feel the consequences of the expiration. Most of the key programs have funding through the end of the calendar year, but once a new crop year comes into place in January, they would revert to "permanent law," [known as parity] sending crop supports back to policy from the 1938 and 1949 farm bills."

Those policies are inconsistent with modern farming practices and international trade agreements and could cost the federal government billions, according to a recent analysis from the non-partisan Congressional Research Service.

While working on agricultural policy is a topic that often brings the parties together, that is certainly not the case at this time. Winter stated: “the stalemate between Democrats and Republicans over the farm bill has centered on how to pay for it and whether to place limits on nutrition and climate programs. Bipartisan support can be necessary for final passage because the size of the \$1.5 trillion farm bill means it inevitably loses some votes from fiscal conservatives and others.”

Evidence of bipartisan support for a farm bill

The day after they approved the CR and left Washington, DC, 140 Republican House members sent a letter to congressional leadership asking them to make the farm bill a priority in the waning weeks of 2024. Winter noted that some Republican members’ letters said: “Farmers and ranchers do not have the luxury of waiting until next Congress for the enactment of an effective farm bill,” and noting rising production costs and falling commodity prices that have put farmers in a tight spot.

Likewise, House Democrats also say they want to pass a new farm bill this year as well. Winter mentioned that House Minority Leader **Hakeem Jeffries**, a New York Democrat, listed the farm bill as one of his top three priorities for the lame duck session after the election. Also on his list were appropriations and the National Defense Authorization Act, which provides funding for the Pentagon. He stated: “It will be important to see if we can find a path forward and reauthorize the farm bill in order to make sure that we can meet the needs of farmers, meet the needs from a nutritional standpoint of everyday Americans, and also continue the progress we have been able to make in terms of combating climate crisis,” Jeffries said in remarks to reporters September 25th.

Support from farm groups

Nearly 300 members of the National Farmers Union visited lawmakers in September to ask for passage of a new five-year farm bill before the end of 2024. “Family farmers and ranchers can’t wait — they need the certainty of a new farm bill this year,” National Farmers Union President **Rob Larew** said in a statement after the meetings. “With net farm income projected at historic lows, growing concentration in the agriculture sector, high input costs and interest rates, and more frequent and devastating natural disasters, Congress can’t miss this opportunity to pass a five-year farm bill.”

Disagreements over SNAP formula

Winter described the key dispute over a farm bill for Democrats is a proposed funding calculation that would place limits on the “Thrifty Food Plan” formula that calculates benefits for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Winter said: “It would keep SNAP payments at current levels but place a permanent freeze on the ability of future Presidents to raise levels of food support. Democrats have characterized it as a sneaky cut to vital support for hungry Americans that makes the bill dead on arrival.”

Meanwhile, Republicans are using the SNAP limits as part of a funding calculation to offset other spending in the bill. Their version of a bill would raise price supports for some crops like cotton, peanuts, and rice. Winter included a statement by Secretary of Agriculture, **Tom Vilsack**, where he said: “They have to do one of two things,” Vilsack said of lawmakers. “They either have to recognize that they can’t afford all the things that they would like to be able to afford, if they want to stay within the resources that are in fact available. Or another alternative would be to find more money.” Vilsack recommended finding other sources of funding outside the farm bill, like changes to the tax code.”

Secretary Vilsack went on to say: “You close a loophole here or there in terms of the taxes or whatever, and you generate more revenue, and you have that revenue directly offset the increase in the farm bill. That’s the correct way to do it. And that’s, frankly, the way Senator Stabenow is approaching the farm bill,” Vilsack said, referring to Senate Agriculture Committee Chairwoman **Debbie Stabenow**, D-Mich. The Senate Agriculture Committee has had no public markup or formal introduction of a bill. But leaders say committee staff have been meeting weekly to discuss a path forward. Stabenow has not publicly disclosed the offsets for the money she says is available to be moved into the bill. For more information in this article about delays in farm bill and problems associated with the delay, see:

<https://washingtonstatestandard.com/2024/10/02/delayed-farm-bill-punted-until-after-election-with-congress-stuck-on-how-to-pay-for-it/>

NRCS/ACES Enrollee Spotlight

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 able to provide services and skills required for the jobs advertised on the web sites of the three non-profits with which NRCS has national cooperative agreement with National Experienced Workforce Solutions, Inc. National and State budget priorities determine which NRCS offices participate in the ACES program.



How to Apply

Applicants should check the web site of the nonprofit partners for available positions:

National Experienced Workforce Solutions

(www.newsolutions.org). Link to all Job Openings: <https://newsolutions.org/jobs/>.

Opportunities to make donations to ARCSE

Your donation to ARCSE provides vital funding for special projects that allows us to expand the services we offer our members, making us more visible and relevant in our field.

Thanks to your contributions, we've been able to keep the first-year dues free for new members and collaborate with the Soil and Water Conservation Society to hire summer interns.

Contribute to ARCSE today! By Mail: Write a check to ARCSE with the memo "Donation" and mail it to: ARCSE, PO Box 8965, Moscow, ID 83843. Online: <https://arcse.org/give/>.

Thank you! –Julie

Earth Team Volunteer Program

Since 1985, Earth Team volunteers (ETVs) have provided a valued source of talent to NRCS. These dedicated volunteers work with conservation professionals on private lands to improve soil quality, conserve water, improve air quality, and enhance wildlife habitat. Serving as an ETV is a way for you to give back to NRCS in retirement.

After I retired from NRCS in Portland, Oregon, Angela Biggs, Wisconsin State Conservationist, reached out to me to see if I'd be interested in becoming an ETV when I moved back to my home state of Wisconsin. I told Angela I would definitely be interested. This led to my assisting the Ellsworth Wisconsin Field Office in various field office administrative activities. Within about six months, my volunteering switched over to assist Management and Strategy in Washington, DC for outreach items. All in all for me, this was a great way to stay connected with NRCS, and at the same time, give back to an agency that I enjoyed working with for almost 40 years.

For more information regarding ETV opportunities at NRCS, please check out the following webpage:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/about/volunteers>

–Julie

ARCSE Update on MOU developments

The ARCSE MOU work group continues to work on ways to support the objectives of the Joint [NRCS/ARCSE Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)] to work together to identify and recruit NRCS retirees to work with NRCS staff as "mentors or in a mentoring capacity," drawing on the experience and skills of NRCS retirees to enhance the professional development of current working NRCS Staff.

In August of this year, California ARCSE State Representative Bill Ward prepared and documented a California success story on how three California retirees with exceptional skills and experience working with NRCS staff as ACES employees were able to assist NRCS in two major areas as follow:

1. Helping field office Staff get important Field office work done to meet workload demands at the field office level
2. Providing excellent Mentoring and training assistance working directly with NRCS staff.

This success story is considered important because many State Conservationists have historically viewed ACES employees as primarily being used to get the work done. This success story, however, clearly demonstrates that they have great value in providing mentoring assistance at the same time as well.

This is not new but a reminder that "A Framework Plan" has been developed by ARCSE that is an example of how State Conservationists and ARCSE State Representatives can work together to identify and recruit retirees to work with NRCS staff to provide valuable mentoring assistance.

Any ARCSE State Representatives can contact **Bill Ward** at bluegrassbillward@gmail.com to receive a copy of either the "Framework Plan" or "Success Story" described above.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Paul Benedict, Membership Chair

New Members

Anne Derting – King City, Oregon
James Ford – Newnan, Georgia
Barbara B. Fletcher – Winchester, Virginia

New Affiliate Member

Lynn Knight – Milton, Vermont

2025 ARCSE MEMBERSHIP DUES and HARD COPY NEWSLETTER FEES are due Jan. 1st, 2025

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

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

Or you can pay by check. Make the check payable to **ARCSE** and mail to: **ARCSE, PO Box 8965, Moscow, ID 83843**

The **annual membership dues** are **\$25/year**, and **hard copy fees** are **\$15/year**. If you are a **Life Member** or are an **Honorary Member** (Member with 5 or more years of paid membership who turned 91, or will turn 91 in 2024 or earlier), you do not owe annual dues. Life and Honorary members receiving the printed newsletter in the mail must still pay \$15 for that service. If you have questions about your membership or newsletter status do not hesitate to contact me at soilwarden@verizon.net.

Donations to ARCSE are always appreciated. Donations can be mailed to the address above (please mark **contribution** on your check), or they can be made online at <https://arcsecommunications.wordpress.com/give/>

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

Members receiving the electronic newsletter: Members receiving the electronic newsletter whose dues are due will receive a separate email from ARCSE with dues notice attached (WATCH FOR IT). Life Members, honorary members, and members who have already paid their 2025 dues will receive an email assuring you that your membership dues are paid.

Membership Drive – Exciting time to recruit new members.

A concentrated ARCSE membership drive begins in November 2024 and extends through April 15th, 2025. Membership forms have been updated so that new members can identify who recruited them, available at <https://arcse.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/arcse-2025-membership-form-2.pdf>.

Tools/Aid: Watch the ARCSE website for updates including processes that have been used to successfully find and contact retirees with invitation to join ARCSE.

Incentives: All members are encouraged to recruit new members. A member from each region who recruits the largest number of new members will receive a complimentary Life Membership, or a \$200 gift card if they are already a life member.

We all know fellow retirees who are not members. Please consider this opportunity to assist in growing our organization. This is a great opportunity to feature the complimentary first year membership and other activities of the organization including:

- Strategic Plan and Annual Plan of Work
- Mentoring MOU – recruit retirees interested in mentoring NRCS employees.
- ACES MOU – promote ACES opportunities for retirees.

ALABAMA

Earl Norton, ARCSE Representative

Email: earl_norton@yahoo.com

Report from former state conservationist **Ernest Todd** on destruction by Hurricane Helene at his house in Steinhatchee, FL – a first-hand example of damages in the area. However, damages were much worse in other places.



House built in 1994, 15 feet above sea level according to topo maps. The house and deck are about two miles up the Steinhatchee River from the Gulf of Mexico. Over the years many SCS guys have enjoyed the great fishing and camaraderie at the Steinhatchee.

The 20-ft surge of Helene put 6" of water over hardwood floors. The captain was on the sailboat on the right side of picture as a 20-ft surge occurred. A tornado broke the sailboat loose from its mooring and ran it upon the bank. The Todd floating dock is now located under a large dock in front of the Todd dock.

Congratulations to **Ambers and Jean Hanson**, parents of Earl Norton. They recently celebrated their 72nd wedding anniversary! Jean said that they had little money and no job when they married. A short time later, Ambers went to work with the Soil

Conservation Service in Moulton, AL, and the Hansons have had a remarkable life over the years. Ambers was 101 years old in July, and Jean is just saying "He married a younger woman."



Ambers and Gene Hanson, 2021



Ambers and Gene Hanson, 1952

ARIZONA

Wade Biddix, ARCSE Representative

Email: rbiddix@aol.com

From **Ken Cookson** – My wife and I celebrated our 65th wedding anniversary in August. It was a quiet day for us with calls from our kids and a drive up to Mt. Lemmon to enjoy the scenery and lunch at a favorite bake shop.

Like any other couple we have had many ups and downs. I don't recall any specific thing in our wedding vows that would have alerted us to some of these events. Of course, on that day, you are not thinking about what it is going to be like down the road. I just knew that I was marrying the love of my life, and everything was good.

In April we went on a trip to Hawaii. We have been there several times and really enjoyed every trip. We were on the Island of Kauai for six days, in the Honolulu area three days and on the Big Island for seven days. While on Kauai there was some flooding. The road to the town of Hanalei was closed one day from the flooding. The flood alert sent was for the entire island, and it is not a big island.

Every island has its own beauty, and we feel blessed that we were able to make the trip. We are already thinking about when we might make the next trip.

In May, we went to Santa Fe, NM for five days. We have been there several times and like the area very much. It always includes a trip to Los Alamos, home of the Manhattan Project, a drive to the beautiful Valles Caldera to hopefully see elk and, if that is not possible, see prairie dogs around the visitor center. We then drove down the beautiful Jimenez Mountain with a stop at the Ponderosa Winery and back to Santa Fe. We had a great time.

From **Steve Black** – Steve reported that he spent a week at his farm near Carrollton, Illinois taking care of weed and brush control around a 20-acre tree planting consisting of walnut, red oak, and white ash trees that were planted 38 years ago. He harvested some older walnut and oak trees a few years ago that were approximately 100 years old. About 18 years ago he planted two areas of native tall grass prairie that are now mainly Big Bluestem and Indiangrass. Tall grass prairie was the main type of vegetation on the land that was purchased by his great, great Grandmother in 1821 for \$1.25 an acre. Steve normally spends several weeks at the farm in the fall to help with corn and soybean harvest.

ARKANSAS

Ralph Mashburn, ARCSE Representative

Email: ralphmashburn@gmail.com

Mike and Carol Sullivan celebrated Mike's recent retirement with a Mediterranean vacation. They visited six countries starting in Barcelona, Spain (Gaudi's Sagrada Familia pic shown). Then they visited Monte Cristo, Monaco and the Oceanographic Museum; Lucca, Pisa, Rome, Sorrento, and Pompei in Italy (pictures from Pisa, Rome and Pompeii; Corfu, Greece; Dubrovnik and Split, Croatia – vineyard picture with irrigation – and finally Venice – Canals and Gondola ride). They had a great time on the trip, and Mike reports that he is really enjoying retirement!



Hi Ralph – just returned from vacation. Hope you are doing well! Here are a few pics from retirement celebration to share with retiree group/publication – hope you have one of the two of us to include as well.

We had a great celebration at the Bob Bevis Farm in Lonoke (first pic) with great participation from employees, partners, producers and Mike's family (second pic). **Louis Aspey** presented Mike with the NRCS service award. He also received recognition from the Governor declaring June 28th as "Mike Sullivan Retirement Day" and several members of the Arkansas Congressional Delegation.
– Mike



Report from **Bob Young**: This past year **Bob Young** and his wife **Theresa** traveled with their camper to parks in Arkansas, Missouri, and Illinois. They had about six months caring for his mother so couldn't travel during that time. His Mom died at age 89 on July 24th. They are recovering and have planned a trip to go to several National Parks in California, Arizona, and Utah for two weeks in October.



Dick Babeu has been keeping busy. He volunteers at the Arkansas Nature Center in Little Rock and is walking two miles most every day. Also, he participates in Bean Bag Baseball and other sports at the Senior Center near their home in Maumelle, Arkansas. Ralph Mashburn complains that he isn't available enough to go fishing. Our president, **Bob Price** arranged and MC'd the annual meeting. He was reelected as president. Also below are pictures from our annual retirees BBQ luncheon on September 19th at the Whole Hog Cafe. **Mike Sullivan**, recently retired State Conservationist, was welcomed as the newest retiree.

Attending were **Bob Price, Bill Garner, Ralph Mashburn, Bruce Leggett, Sid Lawrence, Bob Young, Charles Fultz, Tom Fortner, Mike Sullivan, David Tencleve, Randy Ferguson, David Heffington, Randy Childress, and Dick Babeu.**

Two women from Blue Cross Blue Shield made an interesting and informative presentation about the health insurance options available to us.



Front row: Bob Price, Bill Garner, Ralph Mashburn, Bruce Leggett
Back Row: Sid Lawrence, Bob Young, Charles Fultz, Tom Fortner, Mike Sullivan, David Tencleve, Randy Ferguson, David Heffington



Bob Price



David Sullivan





CALIFORNIA

Bill Ward, ARCSE Representative

Email: 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 October 2nd meeting.



**Chester Bush, Bill Ward, Dave Sanden
Doug Toews, Ed Schmit, Paul Benedict
Walt Sykes**

The focus for our meeting was myself sharing about a two-week "road trip" that my wife **Dana** and I just returned home from only two days prior to our Zoom meeting. Our road trip began as a family reunion trip to Omaha, Nebraska to reconnect with relatives on Dana's side of the family. Dana and I decided we would expand our trip to include several "fun things," as well including several days in Rocky Mountain National Park. This was our first visit to this park, and what an amazing time we had there in our short visit of only four days.

Rocky Mountain National Park is a photographer's dream. The real photographer in our family, my wife Dana, was in heaven the whole time we were there. If you have not been there, I highly recommend seeing this park for yourself. I shared numerous park photos with our Zoom group. Since then, I have had a chance to put together a YouTube video with a number of these photos I shared with our Zoom group:

<https://youtu.be/nG8AguwvW0k>

Connecting with retired Soil Conservation technician Bob Dunkle and his daughter Terri in Syracuse, Nebraska

What a surprise it was when I called up my friend and fellow retiree Soil Conservation Service Technician Bob Dunkle a couple months ago to wish him a happy birthday and find out that he and his daughter **Terri** had moved to Syracuse Nebraska. Syracuse is a small town of about 2000, to which Bob decided was a good place to move from California. When I shared my plans for Dana and I going to Omaha, Nebraska for a family reunion, he invited us to come see them, and we made plans to do just that.

Dana and I drove from Omaha, Nebraska to their home in Syracuse, Nebraska. We met and had a nice visit and lunch at a local restaurant where virtually everybody seemed to know Bob. It was great to see Bob and Terri and reminisce about our times working together on EWP and especially our unique "Bark Beetle Tree Mortality EWP Project" with San Bernardino County. Bob asked me to pass on his Best Wishes to all his fellow California Retirees. Here are a couple of pictures Dana took during our time together with Bob and Terri.



Dana, Bill, Bob, and Terri



Bill Ward and Bob Dunkle



Dana shooting a "selfie" with Bill, Bob, and Terri outside our lunch restaurant

And here is another "feel good" wrinkle that came out of Dana and I connecting with Bob and Terri. By chance I had a need to share a message with **Bill Gradle**, retired Illinois State Conservationist and former AC in Salinas CA. Bill Gradle, DC **Bob Hewett** and **Bob Dunkle** had a special relationship going back to the days of Bill being AC in Salinas, CA. When I shared this message with Bill, he let me know he happened to be in Lincoln, Nebraska at that moment doing ACES work related to training newer employees. When I shared with Bill that Dana and I planned to meet with Bob and his daughter Terri the next day, Bill asked me for Bob's contact information with the thought that he would see if he could also connect with Bob before he left Lincoln and returned to his home, which is now in Texas.

It turned out that Bill Gradle was able to reach out and connect with Bob and Terri. Bill drove from Lincoln to Syracuse, meeting Bob and Terri and enjoyed a nice visit and lunch at the same restaurant where Dana and I had lunch with them. I know it meant a lot to Bob and Terri that both Dana and I along with Bill Gradle made this effort to connect with Bob. In a phone conversation I had with Bob after Dana and I got home, Bob said it meant a lot to him that folks like us, Bill Gradle, Dana, and I would make the effort to reach out and connect with a Soil Conservation technician like Bob. I told Bob that Soil Conservation Techs like him were the cornerstones of our agency and deserved that kind of recognition and respect.

So there you have it folks – a nice story of staying connected with our former co-workers and fellow retirees to finish my California Report. Best Wishes to all! – Bill Ward, CA ARCSE State Rep., ARCSE West Region VP

COLORADO

Jack Carlson, ARCSE Representative

Email: pspicata@gmail.com

The Fort Collins breakfast club convened the first Tuesday in September and October, including **Chuck Hart, Ken Harward, Stu Keil, Wendall Oaks, and Jack Carlson**. Both months have been warmer than normal—yet to have the first killing frost. **Jack and Olaf David** (with preparation help from **Frank Geter**) presented during recent week-long DayCent carbon/GHG model training by the CSU Soil Carbon Solutions Center for members—several involved with USDA-funded Climate Smart Commodity projects. Their presentation involved how to set up an automated web service run system for large volume model simulations, from experience gained modeling ~350,000 acres on 4,180 fields across 19 land resource regions for Land O'Lakes Truterra. Olaf, Frank, and Jack also are working with ARS and Texas A&M to establish a run system for volume SWAT+ model simulations, supporting Field-to-Market's soil health (organic matter, carbon sequestration) and water quality metrics through their Fieldprint Platform.



DayCent soil carbon modeling training class

CONNECTICUT, RHODE ISLAND, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Carl DuPolt, ARCSE Representative

Email: cdupoldt@gmail.com

Fall foliage report:

https://www.thepioneerwoman.com/home-lifestyle/g36804013/best-places-to-see-fall-foliage-us/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=mgu_ga_pw_md_pmx_hybd_mix_ca_18890344261&gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwveK4BhD4ARIsAKy6pMIIOGelRDxzPIDjLm7LfjSXxw3BFxwgcALibz_N_KjmGyXhWR9unGUaAgPKEALw_wcB

CT -Dept. Of Energy and Environmental Protection - <https://portal.ct.gov/portal/deep/search-results?page=163>

NH -Hazardous Waste Coordinator Training: Basic Refresher- in person – CLOSED

<https://www.des.nh.gov/event/hazardous-waste-coordinator-training-basic-refresher-person-closed-2>

Start Date: Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Time: 08:00 AM - 03:30 PM

Location: NHDES, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH

NH - Review Class Grades I & II (TCH 5.0)

<https://www.des.nh.gov/event/math-review-class-grades-i-ii-tch-50-0>

Start Date: Wednesday, November 6, 2024

Time: 08:30 AM - 02:30 PM

Location: Franklin Training Center

NH - Review Class Grades III & IV (TCH 5.0)

<https://www.des.nh.gov/event/math-review-class-grades-iii-iv-tch-50-0>

Start Date: Thursday, November 7, 2024

Time: 08:30 AM - 02:30 PM

Location: Franklin Training Center

RI - Annual Conservation Dinner - <https://www.easternriconservation.org/events/joint-conservation-annual-dinner>

RI - Safety Rule/RI Good Agricultural Practices Training (Registration Deadline)

Date: November 3, 2024 — 8:30am to 1:00pm

Registration: <https://web.cvent.com/event/76db04e8-10d9-4e3a-beaa-d28e5e0e87f4/summary>

VT - November Clean Water Board Public Hearing - <https://dec.vermont.gov/event/november-clean-water-board-public-hearing>

VT - December Clean Water Board Meeting - <https://dec.vermont.gov/event/december-clean-water-board-meeting>

VT - Wade Institute for Science Education - <https://vteandenetwork.org/event-5882536>

IDAHO

Jim Cornwell, ARCSE Representative

Email: idahoarcse@gmail.com

The Idaho retirees take a summer hiatus from our lunch meetings. Our first fall get together was in September. It seems retirees have way more activities than they have time for. Attendance at the past meeting included **Rob and Kate Fredricksen, Paul Calverley, Gene Crisman, Frank Fink, John Kendrick and Jim Cornwell.**

This year we have lost several of our retirees. Their obituaries and death notices have been provided for the newsletter.

This summer in Idaho has been one to remember with record temperatures, record wildfires, and record poor air quality. The fire season has extended well into the fall, and the poor air quality has restricted a lot of outdoor activities. Hopefully with the arrival of fall and cooler temperatures we will see control of the fires and improved air quality.

The guest for the November Federal Retirees meeting represents the local historic movie theatre. Kenworthy theatre occupies a dominant position in the turn-of-the-century cityscape of downtown Moscow. Although the opening of the Kenworthy as a public theatre by Milburn Kenworthy took place on January 4, 1926, some of the building was in use as the Crystal Theatre as early as 1908. A Robert Morgan theatre pipe organ was purchased in 1927 to accompany silent films and is now housed at the University of Idaho Auditorium. The original brick structure was enlarged by twenty-four feet to the south in 1928. At that time, the stage was used for vaudeville and other dramatic productions, and for silent films. Talking pictures started in 1929. The theatre was remodeled in 1949 with a new terracotta tile façade and enlarged marquee. It was run as Moscow's premier movie theatre by the Kenworthy

family until the late 1980s when it was leased until its gift to the Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre, Inc. in 2000. The theatre was placed on the **National Register of Historic Places** in 2002. Write up by Cheryl Simmons.



The Kenworthy Performing Arts Center in Moscow Idaho.

Idaho is moving quickly from fall season to early winter.

NRCS Retirees **Dan Pierce and Cheryl Simmons** met with the local Federal Retirees October meeting.



L-R: Dan Schuettpelz, Ret. IRS; Scott Billing, Ret. BLM; Jan Bosse, Ret.; Rick Brigham, Ret. BLM; Susan Roberts, Ret. Washington State University Extension; Karen Hansen, Ret. ARS; Cheryl Simmons, Ret. NRCS; Dan Peirce, Ret. NRCS. Photo by Donna Beggs



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; Susan Roberts, Ret. Washington State University Extension; Dan Schuettpelz, Ret. IRS; Jeanne Steinhoff, FS spouse

IOWA

Mark Jensen, ARCSE Representative

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After **Rod Angeroth** graduated from Iowa State, he started working for NRCS as a Project Engineer in Denison. Later he was reassigned to the State Office where he worked while also taking some additional coursework at Iowa State. In 1992 he was selected as the Assistant State Conservation Engineer in North Dakota. In 1994, he accepted a field engineer position in Nebraska which brought him back closer to home. He continued working as a field engineer in Nebraska until his retirement in 2022. From there, he moved back to the family farm just a few miles north of Council Bluffs. He has a tree farm with an orchard and nut trees. Rod's dad, **Charles Angeroth**, served as the Contracting Officer on local contracts for Indian Creek Watershed contracts back in the 70s. Rod, welcome back to Iowa!

Linda Seipold retired from her Soil Conservation Technician position in the Malvern Field Office in December 2009. She has managed to keep very busy. She continues to serve on the Malvern Volunteer Rescue Unit. She began doing this in 1981.



Linda Seipold (on the left) and two other volunteers with the Malvern Rescue Unit

Last year, Linda was inducted into the Iowa Emergency Management Service Association's Hall of Fame. Congratulations Linda! Linda's parents owned a farm near Glenwood. Linda and her husband **Kenneth** are still farming the old home place. In 2018, they decided to fix up the house on the farm and make it into a guest house to rent out. It is shown on the AirBnB website as the Ellington Place near Glenwood. Linda has been the host for the guest house since it opened. They have had visitors from many states as well as China and Germany stay at the house. Linda said that some scenes for a Hollywood-produced documentary about a love triangle in southwest Iowa were filmed at the house/farm. On three other occasions, movie personnel have been their guests. I couldn't help but ask Linda what she does in her spare time!

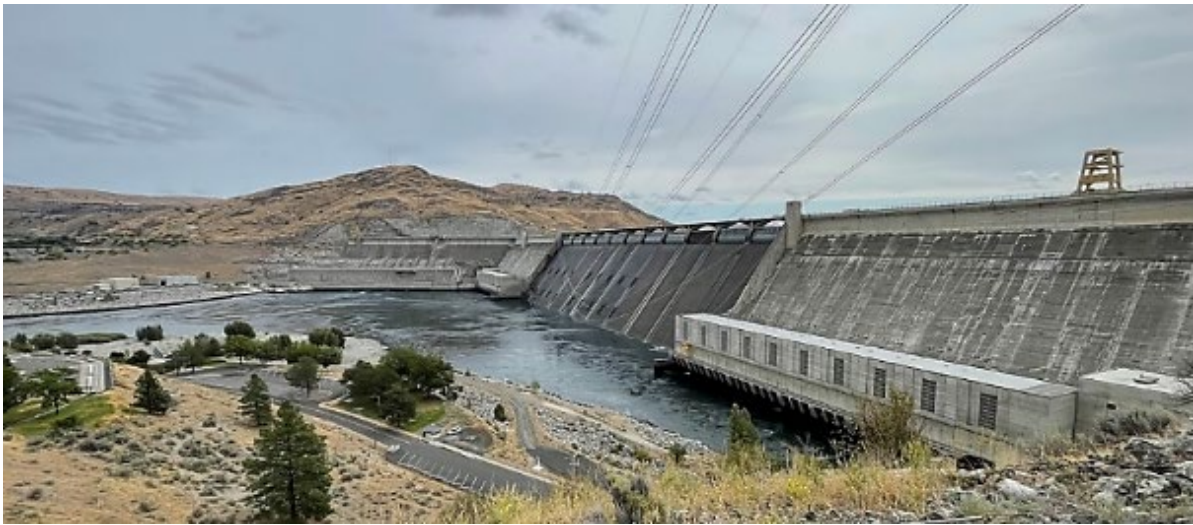
Norman Friedrich continues his work with the National Office through the ACES program. His primary job is working on the NRCS customization of Autodesk software to get it ready for distribution to the field. He also gets to assist with various training sessions around the country. He has provided CAD training to Colorado employees and served as an instructor for a national CAD training course held in St. Paul, MN. He has also served as an instructor at the NPEGLA (New Professional Engineers, Geologists, and Landscape Architects) course held in Spokane, WA, and on the east coast. Eight of the 16 instructors at NPEGLA were retirees for the two week in-person portion of the training in Spokane.



Linda Seipold's Ellington Place Guest House



Group photo of the NPEGLA participants at Riverfront Park along the Spokane River. Norman Friedrich is at the right end of the group. There is a slide on the tongue of the wagon that is used for exiting the wagon.



Grand Coulee Dam. Some of the NPEGLA group made a weekend trip to Grand Coulee Dam on the Columbia River.

In June of 2022 **Curt Fopma** retired from his Civil Engineering Technician position. Shortly after retiring, he started a part time job with NASCAR at the Iowa Speedway in Newton. During the week, he does general building and grounds maintenance. During race weekends, he "takes care of all the little things that come up." For example, managing vehicle and people traffic. However, what I think is the most interesting part of his job comes when there is rain at the track on race day. Most of us have watched a race on television that has had a rain delay. While we're watching, the announcers do random interviews and discuss all types of things to fill in the time gap during the rain delay. Curt is out on the track driving one of the trucks with the driers working on drying out the track. The driers are 1950s or 60s vintage jet engines mounted on pickups or trailers that are pulled by pickup trucks. These blow hot air onto the track to dry it. Three of these units are housed at the Iowa Speedway. When there are big races at the Michigan and Kansas speedways, these units are taken there in case there is rain. Curt goes to these races to operate one of the driers if needed. He told me that at one race in Michigan it rained pretty hard. NASCAR had a tight television schedule to meet. After the race cars were back on the track after drying the track, the driers were sent into pit row to dry that area. Those driers are very powerful, and Curt said they blew water and anything else that was on the ground "all over everything." Some or maybe all of the pit crews weren't very happy with them! Just recently, Curt has taken on another part time job. He was selected to fill an ACES position as an Engineering Technician on the Newton Resource Team. Curt's another one of our retirees who is keeping busy!



Race track drier used by Curt Fopma at the Iowa Speedway

At the end of September **Doug Ensminger**, District Conservationist in Fairfield, joined the ranks of us retirees in Iowa.

During the past couple of months, we have lost three members of our retiree family. These include: **Guy Hempey**, long time Civil Engineering Technician in Sioux City; **Julie DuVal**, wife of Dale DuVal, retired District Conservationist in Council Bluffs; and **Marion Plumb**, long time Civil Engineering Technician in Council Bluffs. See the In Memoriam section for more details.

MAINE

John Simon, ARCSE Representative

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Editor's Note: As we were going to press, I received a message from John that he was in intensive care with complications from diabetes. He said that he was stepping down as the Maine ARCSE Representative and would like to hand over the job to someone else.

MICHIGAN

William J. Fude, ARCSE Representative

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The annual Upper Peninsula Retiree Lunch Meeting was held at the Up North Lodge in Gwinn, Michigan on June 5th, 2024. The event was organized by **Bobbie Hartman**, and we all thank her for once again handling this. In addition to Bobbie, others attending were **Larry Carey**, **Tom Tauzer**, **Bernie Huetter**, **Bruce Petersen**, **Mike Lapointe**, **Loren and Erika Berndt**, **Bill and Betty Perkis**, **Dennis and Sue Robinson**, and **Walt and Phyllis Summers**. Best to you, Bill Fude.

MIDATLANTIC STATES

Terry D'Addio, ARCSE Representative

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The MidAtlantic breakfast ARCSE group met at the Bob Evans in Woodbridge, VA, on Oct. 1 (meets first Tuesday of each month).



MidAtlantic ARCSE Breakfast group at the Woodbridge, VA, Bob Evans on Sept. 3: L-R, Jerry Bernard, Bill Irwin, Ron Marlow, Paul Benedict, and Dave Thackeray.



MidAtlantic ARCSE Breakfast group at the Woodbridge, VA, Bob Evans on Oct. 1: L-R, John Peterson, Paul Benedict, Bill Irwin, Ron Marlow, and Jerry Bernard.



John Peterson in Maine.

History of the Northern Virginia SCS-NRCS Retiree Breakfast Group – By Ron Marlow with input from Wally Ochs and John Peterson

This is a brief history of the Northern Virginia SCS/NRCS retiree breakfast group. The group was initiated by **Neil Bogner**, retired Associate Deputy Chief for Science and Technology, and **John Phelan**, who was Director of the Engineering Division just prior to Neil. Neil retired in 1983, and he and John began the breakfast group a couple of years later. The group first met at Bob's Big Boy in Annandale and continued meeting there until it moved to Bob Evans Restaurant in Springfield, likely sometime in the 90's. During the first ten years or so, regular attendees included **Joe Haas, Joe Haugh, Don Basinger, Jim Newman, John Peterson, Carl Thomas, Wally Ochs, Ed Thomas, Clete Gilman, Plater Campbell, Lennie Losh, Neil Bogner, John Phelan, Wayne Maresh, Dick Wenberg, and Art Flickinger**. Many of these were regular attendees until they eventually moved away. The average attendance was around ten and would occasionally reach fifteen or so. Although some faces changed, the number attending was pretty steady until around 2014.

The group has always met at 7:30am on the first Tuesday of the month, with breakfast ordered at 7:45, usually meeting until at least 9am – but it's not unusual to meet until 9:30 or later sharing stories and good fellowship. Around ten years ago, **Ron Marlow** began sending out a reminder notice a day or two before the breakfast. Here is a list of regular attendees in the 2008 to 2012 time frame who have since passed away: **Neil Bogner, Art Flickinger, Owen Lee, Keith Young, Jerry Hammond, Dave Ralston, Bob Kohnke, Doug Helms, and Marc Safley**. Other regulars during this time period that no longer attend due to moving, health, or other reasons include **John Miner, Cliff Doke, Ross Lahren, Larry Clark, and Wally Ochs**.



Current attendees are **John Peterson, Bill Irwin, Dave Thackeray, John Moore, Jerry Bernard, Paul Benedict, Ron Page, Ron Marlow and Melvin Womack**, with the attendance usually around five or six. In February 2020 we began meeting at the Bob Evans Restaurant in Woodbridge, VA. The meeting location has migrated fifteen miles farther from DC since first meeting in Annandale in 1985.

Fourteen ARCSE members met for lunch at Madigan's on the Waterfront in Occoquan, VA, on Oct. 3rd, savoring fresh local seafood and updates on members and families. The next luncheon will be at the same place on May 1st, 2025.



MidAtlantic NRCS retirees met for lunch, Oct. 3rd, Occoquan, VA.

Front row: Blanch Peterson, Ron Marlow, Dave Thackery. Second row: Vera Carey, Maxine Barron, John Peterson, Mary Margheim, Ann Marlow, Terry D'Addio, Melvin Womack, Barbara Osgood. Back row: Jerry Bernard, Gary Margheim, Rick Swenson.

John Moore reports that he was trip leader for the Vermont Geological Society's fall field trip on September 28th. Eleven members participated in examining four channels on Barnet Mountain, Caledonia County, VT. During his 10-field season study of glacial recessional moraines in northeastern Vermont and adjacent New Hampshire, John had serendipitously discovered about a score of what he calls glacial outlet col channels. These channels likely carried only one season's meltwater of the receding margin of the continental ice sheet, as the tops of hills and small mountains became uncovered by ice. Sags (cols) between adjacent hills served as conduits for high-discharge, sediment-laden flows that carved trapezoidal, nearly level channels. The flows from the channel outlets, in turn, formed steep V-notched gullies on the south side of the cols. Today, the size of these channels and gullies are "misfit." They carry very little natural runoff to otherwise account for their dimensions. John hypothesizes that the channel-forming processes included supercritical flow regimes. Channels so formed are not reported in local geologic literature.

MISSOURI

Dave Rastorfer, ARCSE Representative

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The Missouri retirees held their annual luncheon on September 12th in Columbia. Those in attendance were: **Jack Cronhardt, Mike and Pam Blaine, Randy and Bonnie Freeland, Jerold and Mayree Sue Crowder, Bob Herschbach, Marty and Molly Comstock, Jean Herman, Jay Lingwall, Dennis Hoffman, Gena Michalson, Ed Smith, Jerry Edwards, Bill Pauls and Dave Rastorfer.**

Bill Pauls: "Just turned 75 in October. Celebrated by running a 1/2 marathon the day before. Running the next one in Huntsville, AL December 15th. It will be #26 the 3rd time around the states (1/2, 1/2s and half full marathons #129 overall) Still enjoying it! "Run Forest, Run."

Everything here at the Lake of the Ozarks is really good. Beautiful fall, albeit a bit dry. Doing a lot of volunteering at St. Anthony's and enjoying that as well. **Kris** is doing well too (she is still, and always will be, a bit younger than myself (4 months) (yup, married a mere kid).

Grandkids are all very active. Homecoming and proms and district and state softball and tennis. Also fall baseball finishing up, and volleyball still going.

Life is GOOD. Come visit us anytime, our door is always open. We wish everyone health and happiness and may God bless you all.

Alton Taylor: We were two weeks in September going through the western states looking for history as well as scenery. We did go to Crater Lake, and it was nice to see all that water and knowing it all stayed where it fell over its life. Also, at that altitude it was 42 degrees vs. 92 where we left from. Stayed one night on the reservation in one of their old-style mud homes. It was made with trees then covered with mud a foot or more thick. It was cool, yet 90 degrees. One of their dogs liked us so well he spent the night with us. Also, we saw the end of Route 66 and its museum in NM. Traveling done for this year.

Gena Michalson: We just weaned our three foals of this year. There are two colts and a filly. They all look fabulous. The daughter is training on the 3- and 4-year-olds, and they are doing well. Those we sold are also doing well, showing in their chosen disciplines. She serves on the Board of Directors of the US Sporthorse Breeders Association and puts on the Young Horse Show at the Sedalia fairgrounds every year. She is also being honored as a Distinguished Alumna of South Dakota State University.

A momma squirrel donated a baby squirrel to my daughter. His name is Houdini because of the way he appeared in a cat carrier in her yard. He's very friendly and lets me pet him. He's also a picky eater and loves walnuts and avocados. He's living in the little house in a tree my daughter built for the set of three squirrels she raised a couple years ago. We're speculating he is the baby of one of those.

The family in Houston is doing well and just bought a new house with a pool. The grandkids are good in school, sports, and music, and their activities keep everyone there hopping.

I'm inundated with genealogy work serving as Registrar for three lineage societies. I like the research, but it's hard to keep so many family trees straight in my head and figuring out what each society wants to see as proof, and how to fill out the forms.

Several of our former co-workers have come out fishing, including **Norm Klopfenstein** and **Odie Swanegan**. There are still a few fish in the pond.

The following people have passed on:

Gary Luttrull, Ian Kurtz, and John Eric Fredrickson. See the In Memoriam section for more details.

NEBRASKA

Norm Kempf, Jim Culver, ARCSE Representatives

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LINCOLN SCS/NRCS RETIREES CLUB NRCS/SCS MINUTES

September 20, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President **Craig Derickson**. Attending were **Norm Helzer, Craig Derickson, Bob Engel, Doug Christensen, Norman Kempf, Jim Culver, Dana Snyder, Dave Camper, Gus Dornbusch, Angie Thompson, Harold Klaege, and Donna Dornbusch.**

October 16, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson **Craig Derickson**. Attending were **Gerald Montgomery, Steve Scheinost, Richard Bolli, Gus Dornbusch, Mike Kucera, Dave Camper, Bob Engel, Harold Klaege, Gary Muckel, Craig Derickson, Jim Culver, Steve Stover, Norm Helzer, and Donna Dornbusch.**

Craig announced that the National Office gave the go-ahead to the ARCSE to reach out to NRCS state conservationists to discuss the potential for ARCSE retirees to mentor new NRCS employees. **Norm Kempf** and Craig will contact the Nebraska State Conservationist Rob Lawson for his input. Another issue on this subject is whether to pay compensation or have it be a volunteer service or both.

Craig announced that Ray Ward's wife **Jolene** passed away this week. Ray runs a soil analysis lab in Nebraska and is a soil health expert.

Tom Hamer passed away on 9/14/20224. He was an engineer and worked for many years at Tecumseh, NE. He retired as the State Conservation Engineer. Several retirees attended the funeral services. **Harold Klaege** had a copy of the funeral bulletin for everyone to review.

Scott Davidson of Stanton also passed away this week. He was an NRCS technician. **Deanne Law** who worked 49 years for the agency in Kansas also passed away.

The Dave Langemeier Memorial Golf Tournament sponsored by SWCS was held September 8th at the Highland Golf Course. There were 64 participants at the tournament, and \$3,300 was raised, mainly for scholarships. **Jim Culver** provided a table display for the tournament.

The new Nebraska Soil Health Coalition has been officially designated as a nonprofit in Nebraska. There were articles published in the Lincoln newspaper (under Public Notices) on September 2nd, 12th, and 19th. The next step is to get 501c3 status, hopefully by the end of the year.

Sylvia Kempf moved to the Legacy Estates assisted living facility. Her Daughters, **Rachel** and **LeShea**, spent time helping her get settled. Norm Kempf said that his wife's sisters and brother visited them last week.

Craig saw on the news the effects of storms and drought are having on some states. Homeowners may lose their home insurance or rates will go up dramatically because of the effects of natural disasters.

Craig gave an update on the new USDA building open house on October 11th. The building is located at 1121 Lincoln Mall. Some of our members attended. Former Nebraska State Conservationists **Craig Derickson** and **Steve Chick** attended the ribbon cutting ceremony in the morning as well as NRCS **Chief Terry Cosby**. The USDA building houses the NRCS State Office, the FSA State Office, the National Soil Survey Center, the Kellogg National Soils Laboratory, and the National Soil Mechanics Laboratory of the

National Design and Construction Unit. There is a dedication plaque for **Dr. Tupas** at the Dr. Luis M. Tupas Memorial Library on the first floor. Dr. Tupas was the NRCS Deputy Chief for Soil Science and Resource Assessment until his death in August 2023.

Jim Culver has a collection of minutes from previous years. He had approached the State Historical Society to see if they would be interested in documenting the minutes for historical purposes. The Society reviewed the minutes and decided they would accept the minutes for preservation purposes. A representative from the society has agreed to pick them up from Jim to begin the process. All of our club records are now property of the Nebraska State Historical Society. During the past few years Jim organized and scanned in all significant club records. Originally the box on the table contained over 35 pounds of records. That has been pared down to about 25 pounds. The Lincoln NRC Retirees Club had done an excellent job of recording club activities, so making these records available to others in the future is a significant accomplishment.

Harold Klaege gave an update on NARFE activities. US government employees will receive a 2 ½ percent pay raise in 2025. However, insurance rates will be going up. For employees who opted out of Medicare Part D may be able to go back. HR-82 may or may not be brought up in this lame duck session in the House. He stated that the NARFE meeting on November 16th at 11am will have a representative from BCBS as well as a representative from GEHA to discuss their health insurance programs and changes for 2025. The meeting will be held at the First Lutheran Church in Lincoln.

Craig announced that there is a continuing resolution in Congress until December 20. There has been no budget passed and no farm bill passed. This is a lame duck session until January 2025. Everything is riding on the election.

There is a Husker football game in Indiana this Saturday and one with Ohio the following Saturday. The Husker volleyball team has won 13 games straight.

Quote of the day from Craig: "To imagine is everything, to know is nothing."

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



Jim Culver, standing, announced that he had received an email from Tom Mooney, Curator of Manuscripts that the Nebraska State Historical Society Collections Review Committee had accepted all of the over 50 years past records of our club for storage and future access by the public.



There was excellent attendance at our September meeting. L–R: Steve Scheinost, Paul Bartlett, Bob Engels, Thomas Reinsch, and in back, Jo Anne Thiele and Donna Dornbusch.



Hostess taking orders for our September, monthly meeting. L–R: Larry Brown, Richard Boll, Gus Dornbusch and Norman Kempf.

created the photo collage to include photos shared by our early departers. We were thrilled that one of our retirees was visiting from Florida and able to join us. Since so many of our retirees have relocated to faraway places, the next meet-up of NJ ARCSE will be virtual. Watch your email for news of the next virtual meeting.

NORTH CAROLINA

James Canterbury, ARCSE Representative

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Eleven retirees from the Raleigh area met at the Farmer's Market Restaurant for breakfast on September 25th. Attending the breakfast were **Jim Canterbury, Tommy Cutts, Frank Evans, Dick Fowler, Dick Gallo, Hubert Hawkins** and **Ed Helmey**. Also attending were **John Kelly, Duncan McGregor, Cecil Settle** and **Greg Walker**



North Carolina Breakfast group meeting

George and Ellen Norris, along with their daughters, **Linda Chapman** and **Beth Hamilton**, recently visited their good friend **Craig Right** at his home in Mebane, NC. Craig is doing well and celebrated his 99th birthday in August. They are looking forward to returning next year to celebrate Craig's one hundredth birthday.



George Norris reminiscing with Craig Right



L-R: George and Ellen Norris with Craig Right

George served as Craig's Assistant State Conservationist for four years (1976-80) in West Virginia. Their association resulted in a family friendship that has lasted through the years. Craig and his wife, **Jo**, honored the Norris's by attending their four daughters' weddings.

Craig and George enjoyed reminiscing about work experiences. The girls and Craig shared family memories.

OHIO

Mike Monnin, ARCSE

Representative

Email: mike.monnin427@gmail.com



October 23, 2024 Ohio NRCS Retiree Luncheon Attendees
Front, L-R: Larry Tornes, Lenny Losh, John Crumrine, Jim Forshey
Rear, L-R: Dick Croft, Scott Jerrome, Jon Gerken, Art Brate, Jim McCluskey, John Armentano, Chuck Reynolds, Mark DeBrock, Mike Monnin.

With great sadness I'm passing on the obituary notice for **Keith Rowe** who passed away Friday:

<https://www.morganfbremenohio.com/obituaries/Russell-Rowe-3/#!/Obituary>

Please join me in keeping Keith, Karla, and their family in our thoughts and prayers.

OREGON

Don Stettler, ARCSE Representative

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The Oregon retirees met at the Stir Crazy Chinese Restaurant on a sunny but brisk October 23th. Attending were **Denise Troxel, Louise Davis, Leland Saele, Lowell Kenedy, Ralph Wadleigh, Lamont Robins, Karen Robins, Eldena, Joe Sahlfeld, Gale Voge, Dick and Kathy Sylvester, Bobbie Hart, Kay Denfeld, Russ Hatz, and yours truly, Don Stettler.**



Several sent their regrets. **Jeff Repp** said he would be working in Nevada the day of the lunch. **Jon and Jolyne Lea** told me they were busy getting ready for the Vancouver Kennel Club dog show. Several mentioned that they were scheduled for a dentist

appointment at the time of the lunch. It would be good if everyone would use their scheduler to show the retiree lunch the fourth Wednesday of January, April, July, and October.

The group welcomed newly retired **Denise Troxel** to her first retiree lunch. **Lamont and Karen Robins** have returned to their home in Vancouver after spending most of their time in North Carolina the last four years. They were in North Carolina finalizing Lamont's brother's estate. **Lowell Kenedy** has been contemplating all the changes he has experienced in his lifetime. **Joe Sahlfeld** has been assisting his brother remodel a rental home. A big job on a forty-year-old duplex. **Dick and Kathy Sylvester** have been having fun replacing appliances and gathering the leaves from a large ash tree that seemingly fall all at once. **Bobbie Hart** had just returned from spending three weeks at her and her husband's beach house. She is now busy with Christmas shopping.

Kay Denfeld continues to enjoy playing ukulele with a group that performs at community events. **Eldena VanderZanden** has been dealing with some serious medical issues. **Gale Voge** had COVID and needed to replace a dishwasher. **Louise Davis** also had to deal with COVID. She is also learning to play the ukulele. **Ralph Wadleigh** and his daughter recently took a trip to New Hampshire and Maine. There they attended several family get togethers. **Lee Saele** has been working on installing new windows in their home. He mentioned that the job is taking much longer than it would have ten years ago. **Don Stettler** told about going to his 70th high school class reunion. He was in the last graduating class from Salem High School. The next year there was a North and a South Salem High School. Now the Salem-Keizer School District has eight high schools.

The next retiree lunch will be held on January 22nd at an east side restaurant.

PENNSYLVANIA

VACANT, ARCSE Representative needed.

Excerpts from The PA Bugle, courtesy of Tim Murhpy:



Seated (left to right): Gina Murphy, Bob Heidecker, Liz Zimmerman, Pete Vanderstappen, Shirley Thomas.

Standing (left to right): Fred and Jane Schuetz, Tim Murphy, Dave Shaffer, Mary and Martin Smith, Glenna Latshaw, Ed Brzostek, Hosea Latshaw, Rita Brzostek, Barry Frantz, Debbie Watson, Tom Sierzega, Phil and Alice Sheets, Ken Harvey, Bill Parrish, Gary and Anne Smith, Rose and Norm Wolfrom, Alan Wood, and Rob Clauto.

Our annual meeting in Lebanon County on September 15th and 16th was a great success. Twenty-six retirees and spouses gathered at the Bluebird Inn for a delicious meal on Sunday evening. On Monday, 30 people attended our meeting at Hoss's in Annville. Our guest speakers were **Robin May** and **Marcie Lloyd** from the Mount Gretna Area Historical Society. They provided an interesting history of the resort and cottage community and the PA National Guard camp at Mount Gretna.

After lunch, 21 attendees took a narrated boat ride through the Union Canal Tunnel in Lebanon. This is the oldest operating canal tunnel in the country. It was used commercially from 1827 to 1885, providing a water route from Reading to Harrisburg

TENNESSEE

Dana Ensor, ARCSE Representative

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The Tennessee SCS/NRCS Retirees met in Cookeville at The Golden Corral for our fall meeting and lunch. In attendance were:

Patty Lane, Anna and Jack Chidester, Paul Fulks, Dewitt Simerly, Kathy Daugherty, Bill Dailey, James Sims, Kevin Brown, Jim Lansford, Pamela Hoskins, and Traci Horne.

Terry Gupton was out of town but is doing OK. **Allen Crowe** was out of state and unable to attend. **Debbie Brasfield** was soiling and said to tell everyone "hello." **James Creasy** was working and unable to attend.

Dewitt Simerly has been at Pall Mall, TN for five years now. He enjoys farming and watching the two vehicles that pass by his place every day, one of which is the mailman! His daughter and son are both in Indiana about 90 miles apart. He has a two-year-old granddaughter, so they make frequent visits. He has a cattle operation and is making a large amount of apple butter.

Paul Fulks has four grandchildren, and they are all in Tennessee. He has a place in Dunlap, TN on a mountaintop which abuts his neighbor's 24,000 acres. He also still has his main home and spends time mowing and taking care of the two properties. He is involved in a lot of church work as well.



Tennessee SCS/NRCS lunch meeting

Patty Lane just returned from a trip to Asheville, NC. She is planning a trip next month with **Faye Floyd** and **Traci Horne** to Laurel and Oxford, MS. She has five grandchildren and will be adding a 4th great-grandchild this weekend to her family.

Kevin Brown just hosted a wedding for his youngest child in his backyard. He has been at his place now since 2008 – the longest he has ever lived in the same house. He enjoys trout fishing, gardening, and volunteering. **Jim Lansford** says that he goes to church on Sunday, a Bible study on Tuesday, and then to whatever medical visits that he has the rest of the week. He has two grandsons, and he is doing well.

Anna Chidester says that she and **Jack** are doing OK. They are headed up to Pigeon Forge after our meeting to see the Oak Ridge Boys on Friday night. **Pamela Hoskins** recently retired on May 31st. She is still getting used to being retired and can't sleep past 6am. She lives on her farm and the house she grew up in, which is 100 years old. She has a son in Mt. Juliet doing financial research. She also has a daughter, who is an RN, and a son-in-law living with her. They are expecting Pam's first grandchild in December and are saving to build a house there on the farm. She stays busy with the house and farm and has goats, chickens, and cows. She is also doing a lot of fencing.

Traci Horne has had some back issues this summer that prevented her from taking her trip to Washington, DC with her nieces. She is doing much better after some physical therapy and is looking forward to a trip with Terry on Saturday to Panama City Beach. She is also planning on taking a trip to Oxford and Laurel, MS with **Patty** and **Faye**.

Kathy Daugherty has been handling her late aunt's affairs and has had hip bursitis. Tracy has been working from home three days a week because he has had AFIB. Her son is working with TVA, and her daughter is working with the State Dept. of Agriculture doing permitting for hemp production and doing quality control.

Bill Dailey is glad to be here. He has 170 acres but has sold all his cows. He has one horse and one donkey, and his farm has become a wildlife sanctuary. He is now cancer-free but has a lot of fatigue from his treatments. His heart is also under control as well. He has two grandkids that he enjoys.

James Sims is 84 today! He was hired back in 1959 in the coop. program. While he was born in West Tennessee, he grew up in California because his Dad was drafted by the Navy for World War II. His Dad was 35 when he went to basic training. They moved back to West Tennessee when the war was over. He is still working with the ACES program and has several projects underway. His daughter **Jana** is in her 50s now.

Paul Fulks also mentioned **Joe Spencer**, former Chattanooga DC, who turned 100 in May, but recently passed. Paul went to the funeral. We also shared the obituary of **Betty Harris** that James Sims brought.

Dewitt Simerly brought everyone a jar of homemade apple butter. Thank you, Dewitt!

Our next meeting will be in Lebanon, TN on December 12th, 2024. Hope to see everyone there!

–Traci Horne

TEXAS NORTH

Mike Bogard, ARCSE Representative

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Mary Beth and Michael Bogard at Yellowstone National Park



Mary Beth and Michael Bogard at North Rim of Grand Canyon.



Voyager balloon



Mass ascension



Zozobra balloon

Ronald L. Hillard wrote: **Edith** and I have just returned from the 52nd Annual Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta. The event was from October 5th–13th this year. There were 15 countries and 40 states represented this year, with over 600 balloons participating.

Edith and I worked Crewing with the Voyager Balloon from Lubbock, Texas, piloted by **Mr. William Fitzgerald and wife Susan**.

The Voyager balloon is approximately 95,000 cubic feet and can carry three passengers. Many of the commercial balloon companies are about 225,000 cubic feet and carry 10 passengers. Special-shaped balloons can be 150,000 to 300,000+ cubic feet.

Balloon Fiesta is in the top 15 events to attend in the world – a Bucket List item.

WEST VIRGINIA

Peg Reese, ARCSE Representative

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NRCS chief **Terry Cosby** visited Morgantown in August, and State Conservationist **Jon Bourdon** took him on a tour of an urban farm and a climate monitoring site. The first stop was at Mountain Harvest Farm, a certified naturally grown farm and the recipient of the 2023 WV Conservation Farm of the year. Co-owners **Mary Oldham** and **Chico Ramirez** grow 30–40 vegetable crops and raise chickens for meat and eggs. They used an EQIP contract to help fund a high tunnel with micro irrigation.

Chief Crosby learned that one of the challenges facing Appalachian farmers was deer. “I wouldn’t have a farm here without a fence in this area,” Ramirez said. “The first year we started, I worked so hard the whole summer. I remember it was October. We just needed a couple weeks, and the deer ate everything.” Crosby said the NRCS doesn’t offer assistance for fence installation, but the trip is already making him consider policy changes. “How do we make them more flexible so we can offer something, because for a vegetable person to be successful, you got to take the pressure off,” he said. “Especially if you’re going the organic route, you can’t have any pressure from pests.”

Next on the tour, **Brian Nestor**, NRCS assistant state soil scientist, soil scientists **Chelsea Cook**, FSA Monroe County executive director, and **John Perdue**, FSA state executive director, displayed the tiny ambient weather monitoring station Cook created. The weather station can monitor temperature, precipitation, humidity, dew point pressure, and wind direction and speed. It transmits data via WiFi every five minutes. There are 140 placed across the state, with 30 more to come via an agreement with WVU Extension. Its data can be downloaded and stored and help farmers with such things as proving a weather event affected their crops or livestock.



L–R: Brian Nestor, John Perdue, Chelsea Cook, Terry Cosby.

Fifty sites have been selected across the state for soil data collection, and this was one of 15 installed so far. Soil data can help with such things as assisting engineers in placement and planning of agriculture facilities and structures, and informing producers on areas good for pasture and what plant types are best suited for the particular ground. The governor recently used some of the data to declare a drought state of emergency.

Cottage Hill Farm in Grant County (Traditional Farm) and Powder Keg Farms in Hampshire County (Non-Traditional Farm) were recognized for their efforts to protect soil, water and other resources. **W.C. “Sonny” and Carole Taylor** own and operate Cottage Hill Farm, and **Gini and Brian LaMaster** own and operate Powder Keg Farms. The two farms are located in the Potomac Valley Conservation District and received their top West Virginia Conservation Farm of the Year awards at the annual WV Conservation Partnership Conference at Sutton on October 22nd. Each farm received a \$1,000 award and the use of a tractor from Middletown Tractor Sales in Fairmont, a longtime sponsor of the conservation farm awards.

Following a long tradition, the WV Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society held their silent auction during the Conservation Partnership Conference and raised \$486 dollars to support chapter activities such as providing educational workshops and awarding scholarships to students attending a college or university in West Virginia, who are working towards a career in soil and water conservation. The last scholarship awarded was to **Luke Brumbach**, a WVU civil engineering student.



In early October, nine undergraduate students from the School of Natural Resources and the Environment and Coach **Jim Thompson** travelled to Lexington, Kentucky, to participate in the 2024 Southeast Regional Collegiate Soils Contest. After hosting this contest at WVU last fall, this was the first opportunity for most of these students to compete in collegiate soil judging.

The contest was hosted by the University of Kentucky. Other schools that participated were Alabama A&M University, Auburn University, Clemson University, the University of Florida, North Carolina State University, the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, the University of Tennessee-Martin, Tuskegee University, Virginia Tech, and Western Kentucky University. The students who traveled with the Team were **Aubrie Benavidez** (Sophomore, Environmental Soil, & Water Sciences), **Abigail Clegg** (Senior, Environmental Soil & Water Sciences), **Damon LeMaster** (Senior, Environmental Microbiology), **Talan Linville** (Freshman, Environmental Soil, & Water Sciences), **JosiLee Scott** (Senior, Environmental Soil & Water Sciences), **Brynn Sisk**, (Sophomore, Environmental Soil & Water Sciences), **Daisy Stemple** (Sophomore,, Environmental Soil & Water Sciences and Wildlife & Fisheries Resources), **Madelyn Soble**, (Senior, Environmental Soil & Water Sciences), and **Jaden Wiser** (Senior, Environmental Soil & Water Sciences).

The first three days of the event were dedicated to preparing for the contest. Favorable weather and well-prepared practice sites gave the Team an excellent opportunity to study a dozen, different soils found in the Inner Bluegrass region of central Kentucky and hone their soil description skills. The contest, which was held on Thursday, October 10th, challenged the students to work individually to describe and interpret four new sites. Later that day when the results were announced, three WVU students had earned a place in the top 25, with Josi Scott finishing, second, Abigail Clegg in seventh place, and Damon LeMaster at 22nd. Based on these individual scores, WVU captured a second place finish in the team competition. The Team will now begin to prepare for the National Collegiate Soils Contest, which will be held in April 2025, in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. The other schools that will represent the Southeast Region in the National Contest are Virginia Tech, North Carolina State University, the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Alabama A&M University, and the University of Kentucky.

WISCONSIN

Deb Legear, ARCSE Representative

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From **Julie MacSwain**: "I have been enjoying the opportunity to help out NRCS in retirement. Currently I am working as an ACES Enrollee for New Hampshire NRCS, and Management and Strategy out of Washington DC. The work is being done remotely out of my home in Hudson Wisconsin."

WI Retirees' Luncheon at Mt. Horeb on September 18th.



Judy Derricks, Renae Anderson Roman Statz, Susan Gundlach



Carl Walker, Clink Pankey, Tom Thrall, Alison Peña, Kent Peña, Sheryl Paczwa



Susan Gundlach, Robert Weihrouch, Howard Gundlach



Carl Walker, Clint Pankey, Tom Thrall



Jim Enlow, Evelyn Widdell, Keith Widdell, Ted Manning, Keith Behling behind Ted Manning

WI Retirees' Luncheon at the Shawano Cafe in the Northeast part of Wisconsin on October 10th for the last meeting of the year. There were 17 retirees in attendance. **John Campbell** always provides dessert to keep us all sweet and happy.



Pat Leavenworth, Phil Leavenworth, Lori Van Halle, Lynnette Enlow



Steve Kellermann, Larry Decker, Gary Stanley



Dave Gruber, Deb LeGear, Vic Price



Pete Lindgren, Linda Lindgren



Greg Rebmann, Susan Gundlach, Howard Gundlach



Ted Manning, Keith Sendbusch



Leon Janowski, John Hoephner



John Campbell, Joe Waukechon

Present but not in pictures: Deb LeGear, Scott Mueller, Kirsten Mueller, Keith Behling



John Campbell

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 that 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.

An Opportunity for You!

Senior Conservationist Chronicler Needed: ARCSE needs someone to take over the great work that Marc Safley 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 Paul Benedict.

SENIOR CONSERVATIONIST CHRONICLE Senior Conservationist Loren William Berndt

Loren William Berndt was born 9/30/1937 in Bridgman, Michigan.
Loren's contact information is 3868 Linke Rd., Bridgman, MI 49106, rustyauger2@aol.com; 269-326-0924.
Loren graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Soil Science in 1959. He married **Erika** on 10/27/2018 after losing his first wife **Gertrude** in 2016 after 43 years of marriage. He has three stepdaughters, six step-grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. Before going to work for the SCS, he worked on the family farm.
He retired on 12/31/1993 as the Assistant State Soil Scientist in East Lansing, MI. His duty assignments included:
1961 – 1964 Soil Scientist, Marquette, MI
1964 – 1967 Project Leader for Delta County and West Unit of Hiawatha National Forest Soil Survey, Escanaba, MI
1967 – 1978 Area 1 (Upper Peninsula of MI) Soil Scientist, Marquette, MI
1978 – 1984 Project Leader, Baraga County Area Soil Survey, L'Anse, MI
1984 – 1985 Project Leader, Houghton County Soil Survey, Hancock, MI
1985 – 1993 Assistant State Soil Scientists, East Lansing, MI
He received the Melvin Jones Award from the Lions Club. His hobbies include birding, traveling, and gardening and is currently a volunteer driver for the Senior Center. He was a Partner and manager for the Berndt Brothers Vineyards from 1990 – 2017 and Lake Charter Township Supervisor from 1996 – 2002.

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.** Always include the position or the spouse's position with SCS/NRCS.

Surname	Year	<i>In-Memoriam</i> (Note: These are recent notices. For a complete list, please see www.arcse.org)
Black	2024	Mickey Lynn Black (82) of Lubbock, Texas, passed away on October 15, 2024, surrounded by family. Mickey was born on June 23, 1942, and grew up in Bronte, Texas. After transferring from Tarleton State University, he graduated from Texas Tech University in 1964 with a degree in Agricultural Economics. In the summer before his junior year of college, he began working for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). While in college, he also participated in the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) and later served as a First Lieutenant in the United States Army from 1964 to 1966. His service took him to Maryland and Oklahoma, before he returned to Texas and continued working for the NRCS. At NRCS, he worked his way up from a Soil Conservationist to Assistant State Conservationist in the High Plains Region. In 2012, he retired after 50 years of service with the NRCS. His commitment, dedication, and hard work were recognized in 2003, when Texas Tech's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources honored him as a distinguished alumnus. Mickey continued managing the family ranch near Bronte throughout his life. He was a fan of rodeos and all Texas Tech athletics. Mickey is survived by his wife Marsha Black; his daughters Debbie Brownlow (Brian) and Kimberley Black; his grandchildren Hayley Wade (Taylor), Mickenzie Stone (Caleb), and Carson Brownlow; and Marsha's children, Traci Beard (Ryan); Grandchildren Ryland and Tessa; Toby Warden and Grandchildren Mallery, Owen and Connor.
Boltz	2024	Stanley Christopher Boltz (61) of Huron, South Dakota, passed away on September 18, 2024, at Huron Regional Medical Center. Stan was the Regional Soil Quality Specialist for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) serving North Dakota and South Dakota. Stan was born July 29, 1963, in Wheatridge, Colorado to Stanley Eaton Boltz and Dorothy (Ard) Boltz. Stan attended Chadron State College for 2 years, Abilene Christian University for 1 year and then transferred to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in agronomy in 1987. It was in college that Stan met the love of his life, Nancy (Schrantz) Boltz and they were married in May 1988. Stan worked for the NRCS in Elko, Nevada as a Range Management Specialist. He later transferred to Reno,

		Nevada. They lived in the Reno area for 10 years and this is where they adopted their first child, Zachary, in April 1997. Stan transferred to Rapid City, South Dakota in 1997 where their daughter, Jessica was born in December 1998. They lived in Rapid City for 7 years before he transferred to Huron, South Dakota as State Rangeland Management Specialist in 2005. He became the Regional Soil Quality Specialist in 2016 and remained in that position until his death. Stan was ready and willing to do any ministry in churches wherever they lived. He loved to lead worship with his guitar. Stan had great musical ability. He taught himself how to play the acoustic guitar and bass guitar. He also played the French horn. He was a deacon for many years and a respected leader in the church. Stan's survivors include his wife, Nancy, his children Zachary Boltz and Jessica Boltz, both of Huron and two grandsons, Riley Boltz and Kyrie Howell.
Buie	2024	John L. Buie (85) of Somerset, Kentucky, passed away on September 12, 2024, at Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital. John was born on December 27, 1938, to the late James "J.D." Buie and Mildred Irene Johnson Buie in Beech Creek, Kentucky. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Somerset. He proudly served his country in the United States Army. During his career he worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service as an Engineer. He was the Area Engineer in Somerset when he retired in 1994. John was preceded in death by his wife, Susan Buie, his son, Dwight Buie, and daughter, Amy Susan Buie. Survivors include his son, David Buie (Wendy) of Somerset and grandchildren: Whitney, Emily and Douglas. Services with military honors were held September 17, 2024. The burial was at Mill Springs National Cemetery in Nancy, Kentucky.
Burnett	2024	Leota Ann Burnett (69) of Bluejacket, Oklahoma, passed away August 22, 2024. Leota was born June 16, 1955. She worked for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as a Soil Conservation Technician at the Miami Field Office, retiring in 2015 after 25 years of federal service. While working for NRCS, Leota served part of that time as the South Central Representative on the National Council of the American Indian Alaska Native Employee Association (AIANEA). Her family held a private service in her honor and an obituary was not published.
Castor	2024	Juan Ramos Castor (71) of Belton, Texas, of Belton, Texas, passed away peacefully at his home on September 5, 2024, after a courageous battle with cancer of the stomach and liver. Juan was born on November 12, 1952, in Killeen, Texas. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1971, serving valiantly during the Vietnam War era he was machine gunner and a combative boxer while serving. His military service was distinguished, earning him the Good Conduct Medal, Rifle Marksman Badge, Vietnam Service Medal w/1-star, National Defense Service Medal and the Vietnam Campaign Medal with device before his release in 1973 as a Lance Corporal. His professional started at the Veterans Administration Hospital, a role he fulfilled for around five years before transferring to the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), where he continued until his passing working as a Construction Control Inspector. His work exemplified the same principles he instilled in his family: hard work, integrity, and a commitment to serving others. Juan was an extraordinary family man who lived by the motto "family first." He is survived by his loving wife of 43 years, Yolanda (Villarreal) Castor, and their five children: Juan Castor II (Nikki) of Temple, Texas, Samantha Gillespey (David) of Troy, Texas, Christina Lange (Michael) of Little River-Academy, Texas, Adrian Marin (Arasely) of Bastrop, Texas, and Stacey Johnson (Chris) of Denison, Texas; thirteen grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, whom he cherished deeply.
Chiglo	2024	Nester Ilot Chiglo (92) of Caledonia, Minnesota, passed away on September 28, 2024, at Claddagh Senior Living in Caledonia. Nester was born at home on July 20, 1932, to Peter Sr. and Myrtle Sveen Chiglo. He was baptized and confirmed at the Whalan Lutheran Church in Whalen, Minnesota. Nester started working at various regional railroad companies until he was 20 years old and was drafted into the United States Army in 1952. He served for two years and was honorably discharged as a Staff Sergeant. On October 17, 1953, Nester married Phyllis Thompson at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Lanesboro, Minnesota. Nester began working for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in 1958 in Preston, Minnesota. He transferred to the Caledonia office in 1964, where he worked until retirement in 1994. Nester enjoyed working with many farmers and implementing conservation practices on farms around Houston and Fillmore Counties. He was a committed member of the Caledonia American Legion for over 54 years and worked on the Legion Bingo crew for 34 years. Nester is survived by Phyllis, his wife of over 70 years; daughters Pam (Tim) Schieber, Kari (Jerome) Neumann of Caledonia, Minnesota; sons Jan (Laura) Chiglo of Green Bay, Wisconsin, Jay (Kara) Chiglo of Frisco, Texas, and Jon (Sherri) Chiglo of Apple Valley, Minnesota; grandchildren Dawn (Jeremy) Klinski, Audrey (Ryan) Staggemeyer, Andrew Neumann, Alex Chiglo, Mackenzie (Tyler) Leikam, Zach Chiglo, Megan Chiglo, Grace Chiglo, Nick Chiglo, Ethan Chiglo and Kate Chiglo; and great-grandchildren Eli, Owen, Noah, Nora, and Clara Staggemeyer; Savannah, Anna, Ezra, and Nadia Klinski; Theodore, and Philomena Leikam.
Colwell	2024	District Conservationist Nathan Cord Colwell (56) of Pryor, Oklahoma, passed away on September 25, 2024, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was born on May 22, 1968, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Cord attended Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton, Oklahoma and Cameron College in Lawton, where he earned his bachelor's degree. In 2003, he married the love of his life, Pam Brown. Cord dedicated many years to working with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, where he served in various capacities, excelling in his role as district conservationist in Nowata, Oklahoma. He remained committed to his work in environmental stewardship, leaving a legacy of commitment and dedication. An enthusiastic outdoorsman, Cord loved to fish and hunt, with particular fondness for elk hunting trips to Colorado alongside his sons. Cord is survived by his wife, Pam Colwell of the home; sons, Jeremy Spencer (Krystal) of Claremore, Oklahoma, Nathan Colwell Sarah of Catoosa, Oklahoma, and Garret Colwell (Tawnie) of Wagoner, Oklahoma; daughters, Tara Brown (Derek) of Pocola, Oklahoma, and Whitney Cornish (Chase) of Adair, Oklahoma; 10 grandchildren, Drayden (Madison), Drexlyn, Dauslyn, Drantly, Kade, Kase, Tember, River, Tinsley, and Taylynn; 1 great grandchild, Sagelynn; and mother, Mary Colwell of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
Culver	2024	Lorna Gayle Culver (79) of Troutdale Oregon, passed away peacefully after a battle with cancer. Gayle was born in Tremonton, Utah on June 8, 1945, to Conley and Daisy Christensen. After high school she attended Stevens-Henager College of Business. Upon finishing business school, she began working at Thiokol. She soon met the love of her life, David in Logan Utah where he was attending Utah State University. They were married on September 14, 1969. After David's graduation from Utah State University, he accepted a teaching position in Portland, Oregon. Gayle transferred her employment with the Federal Government to the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in Portland, Oregon, where she worked for 35 years as a secretary and a technician on the Soils staff of the West National Technology Center. She retired in 2006. During her retirement she had the opportunity to take many trips to see the world, to visit her distant family, and to spend more time with her grandkids. During her retirement she had the opportunity to take many trips to see the world, to visit her distant family, and to spend more time with her grandkids. Gayle loved her family with all her heart. They were the center of her life, and her family loved her. Gayle was an avid crocheter and was known to donate her talented work to local care homes. Gayle is survived by her husband of nearly 55 years, David Culver, her two sons, K.C Culver (Cheryl) and Ben Culver (Mandy), five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Cummings	2024	Johnny Cummings, Jr. (90) of Brownsville, Kentucky, passed away October 13, 2024, surrounded by his loving. Johnny was born on October 2, 1934, to the late Ulva and Johnny Cummings, Sr. He was united in marriage for sixty-two years to his best friend and the love of his life, Marcella Haycraft Cummings. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture from Western Kentucky University. Johnny devoted his career to the USDA-Soil Conservation Service as a soil conservationist and district conservationist where he demonstrated his commitment to the land and its preservation. Throughout his life, Johnny served with great devotion as a trustee of Brownsville Cemetery, a trustee and deacon of Brownsville Missionary Baptist Church, and a charter member of the Edmonson County Industrial Authority. His faith was the cornerstone of his existence. Besides his beloved wife, Marcella Haycraft Cummings, he is survived by his three children, Rhonda Meredith (Gary) of Bee Spring, Kentucky, David Cummings (Sheila) of Bowling Green, Kentucky, and Donna Martin (Porter) of Smiths Grove, Kentucky; his five cherished grandchildren, Brett Meredith (Heather), Ryan Cummings (Jessica), Krista Stinson (Miles), Maci Davidson (Tanner) and Peyton Martin; eight great-grandchildren, Jackson Bley Meredith, Brooklyn, Camden, and Adam Cummings, Mav and Jax Stinson, and JoJo and Vinny Davidson.
DuVal	2024	Julie Kay (Rhoades) DuVal (54) of Logan, Iowa, passed away at her home in Logan on September 24, 2024. Julie was the wife of ARCSE Life Member Dale DuVal, retired District Conservationist with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. Julie was a lifelong educator, beloved friend and devoted follower of Christ. She was born in Omaha, Nebraska on April 19, 1970, to D.G. and Peggy Rhoades. She attended Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. At Wartburg, Julie's love for mathematics and education grew and she graduated with majors in mathematics education and mathematics with a minor in coaching. She taught for 31 years in the math departments at Kirm Junior High School, Ellsworth Public Schools, Hartley-Melvin-Sandborn, and Harlan Community High School. Julie and Dale were married on June 25, 1994. They shared a love for the outdoors, tinkering on tractors, sports, and playing cards. In August of 2016, Julie was diagnosed with Mantle Cell Lymphoma. Throughout her many years of treatment, Julie was a light to her doctors, nurses, and many who followed along with her story. She frequently thought of others, baking pies for her doctors, or asking questions to her nurses about what was going on in their lives, even when she was facing some of the toughest days of her diagnosis. Those close to her were encouraged daily by her faith and courage throughout her time with this disease. Julie is survived by her husband, Dale DuVal; her daughters, Katie DuVal (Douglas) Mihelich and Jessica (Cameron) McWilliams; parents, Donald "D.G." and Margaret "Peggy" Rhoades; sister, Amy (Dwayne) Brown; stepbrother, James Rhoades; and sister-in-law, Loretta Rhoades.
Fredrickson	2024	John Eric Fredrickson (89) of rural Webb City, Missouri, passed away August 22, 2024. John was born on January 9, 1935, in Webb City, Missouri, to Swedish immigrants Karl ("Charles") Johan Fredrickson and Emma Kristina (Andersson) Fredrickson. John attended a one room rural school through the 8th grade. He was a graduate of Carl Junction High school; and the University of Missouri in 1958, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture. During that time, he enjoyed his summer job with the USDA-Forest Service in Oregon. After college, John was drafted into the United States Army and worked in communications in Paris, France, at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers of Europe. While in Paris, he selected and purchased the lace that was to be part of his bride's wedding dress. When he returned from France, he married Shirley Sue (Costley) Fredrickson on August 21, 1960. He worked most of his career as a soil conservation technician for the USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service, where he worked with local landowners to preserve soil, air, water, plants and animals. He loved gardening and was legendary for his cantaloupes and turnips. He often grew unusual garden plants so the kids could try new foods and learn about how things grow; he derived pleasure from keeping cattle for beef to go with the vegetables. As a child, John attended Pleasant Hill Methodist Church. As an adult, John was a long-time active member of New Hope Church, north of Carl Junction, including as a Sunday School teacher. Surviving are John's wife, Sue Fredrickson and children Kristina Fredrickson (Ron Russik), Martha (Jerry) Pope, Timothy Fredrickson, and Stephen (Tami) Fredrickson. He is also survived by seven granddaughters and one grandson, as well as three great-granddaughters.
Green	2024	Joseph Patton "Pat" Green (70) of Somerset, Kentucky, passed away surrounded by his family on October 18, 2024, in Somerset. Pat was born in Somerset to Samuel Patton and Nota Price Green, on July 9, 1954. He graduated from the University of Kentucky before continuing to the eastern Kentucky coalfields beginning a long and successful career with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) ultimately bringing him home to Somerset in 1983 as the Resource Conservation and Development Coordinator. Pat retired from NRCS in 2011. Pat was heavily invested in the mission of the Boy Scouts of America. Having attained the rank of Eagle Scout in 1971, he spent decades supporting and advancing Chester Kaiser Troop 79 as Assistant Scoutmaster, Advisor and Board Member. He was passionate about history and the preservation of battlefields and spent many years enabling and sustaining the restoration efforts of Mill Springs Battlefield in Nancy, Kentucky. Pat was an avid traveler and spent time in 49 states and 18 different countries across Europe and the Americas. Pat's survivors include his devoted wife of 46 years, Delane Harney Green; two children; Nadia Lane Green of Somerset, and Amos Patton Green (Kala) of Danville, Kentucky; and granddaughter Adelaide Green.
Hancock	2024	Steven D. Hancock (78) of Greenwich, New Jersey, passed away on October 14, 2024, in Dickinson, North Dakota after a brief illness. Steve had recently moved to Napoleon, North Dakota, to be near his son. Steve was born on October 13, 1946, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was raised in Greenwich on his family farm on Bacon's Neck Road. He spent many years working with his father at Hancock's Harbor Marina, which his father started along with the Bait Box Restaurant. He attended George School, a Quaker high school in Pennsylvania. He then served in the United States Navy before going to college in Arizona. After graduation he worked on his brother's farm and then for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service as a Soil Conservation Technician in Vineland, New Jersey, for many years and retired after a long career with the federal government. Steve loved his hometown of Greenwich and spent many years in service with the school board and other local groups to support his community. He loved photography, local history and the local agricultural community all over South Jersey. He is preceded in death by his late wife Elaine Hancock. He is survived by his son, Travis Hancock of Napoleon, North Dakota.
Harris	2024	Betty Shaw Harris (89) of Gallatin, Tennessee, passed away peacefully at home on September 4, 2024, with her family at her side. Betty was the wife of retired USDA-Soil Conservation Service employee John T. Harris. Betty was born March 18, 1935, in Gallatin, Tennessee. She married John on July 17, 1965. John's work with the Soil Conservation Service required frequent relocations. Yet, wherever they moved, Betty's wide-ranging skills enabled her to find challenging work. Betty is survived by her husband of 59 years, John T. Harris; daughters, Jackie Bradley Rippey, Marilyn Teresa Scott (Rev. Barry Neal Scott), and Angela Kay Harris (Leah Moyers); grandchildren, Jonathan Scott

		(Rachel) and Hope Scott Newton (Aaron); great-grandchildren, Amariah, William, Eliza, Michael, and Silas Scott and Braxton and Bentley Newton.
Hempey	2024	Guy Hartley Hempey (87) of Sioux City, Iowa, passed away on September 12, 2024. Guy was born on September 26, 1936. He married his high school sweetheart, Patsy Kenderdine, in 1957, with whom he shared 57 years of marriage until her passing in 2014. At the age of 19, Guy served his country proudly as a Navy Seabee, marking the beginning of a life characterized by hard work and service. He went on to build a distinguished 38-year career with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, as a civil engineering technician, retiring in 1994. He embarked on a second career as the "Mole Man," a nickname that captured his persistent and industrious spirit trapping thousands of moles. Guy was an avid hunter and fisherman, pursuits that led him to become a measurer for the Pope and Young Club for 50 years and the Boone and Crockett Club for 27 years. His love for archery and the outdoors was also evident in his co-founding of the Cha Hee Tah Bowhunter Club in the 1970s. Even in his later years, Guy's inventive mind never rested. At the age of 85, one of his bow-straightening inventions was featured in Traditional Bowhunter magazine, a testament to his lifelong ingenuity and passion for innovation. Guy is survived by his two children, Jo Dee Weltz (Mike) of South Sioux City, Nebraska and Jason Hempey (Christi) of Sioux City, Iowa; and grandchildren, Mike Weltz, Josh Weltz, and Braden Hempey.
Hitz	2024	Margaret Ann (Struebing) Hitz (86) of Lincoln, Nebraska, passed away October 10, 2024. Margaret was born on October 24, 1937. She retired from the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service in 2007 at the National Soil Survey Center after 22 years of service where she was a Secretary on the Soil Classification and Standards Staff. She was preceded in death by her husband of 59 years, Gus R Hitz Jr. in 2021. Margaret is survived by her loving children, Gus (Tina) Hitz, Laura (Brian) Runge, Richard (Sandi) Hitz, Trisha (Lloyd) LaFountain, Guy Hitz, her 16 grandchildren, one great-grandson, siblings Donald Struebing, Merle Struebing, and Shirley Mills. Margaret's funeral will be on October 25, 2024 at Mt Olive Lutheran Church. Family requests donations go to Mt Olive Church or Nebraska State Fair 1868 Foundation.
Holkum	2024	James Edward Holkum (90) of Ada, Oklahoma, passed away on August 26, 2024, surrounded by loved ones in his home. James was born January 30th, 1934, to James "Jim" Holkum and Ruby Stewart Holkum. He grew up near Fitzhugh, Oklahoma. He served 2 tours of duty with the United States Army. After his discharge, he returned to the Fitzhugh area where he married Peggy Davenport on December 14th, 1962. James worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service as a technician for many years in Wilburton, Oklahoma, eventually moving back to Ada in 1980 and continued in the same line of work until his retirement. He loved Oklahoma State University football, rodeos, crossword and Sudoku puzzles, fishing, western themed books, and softball. His happy place was the pond on his property where he spent many an hour just "piddling." James is survived by his 3 children: Richard (Rick) Holkum of Wilburton, Vicki Holkum and Tina Holkum, both of Ada and one granddaughter, Delaney Holkum of Ada. James is preceded in death by his wife, Peggy Holkum.
Jennings	2023	ARCSE Member Helen Marie Jennings (87) of Kilmarnock, Virginia, passed away on January 25, 2023, after a short battle with cancer. Helen was born in Crossville, Tennessee, on August 4, 1935, the 10th of 12 children. She met her future husband Robert "Bob" L. Jennings at her sister's wedding, when Helen was 15 and Bob was 16. They got married in 1955 and lived in Washington, D.C., Maryland, North Carolina, and Virginia. Helen was an administrative assistant for the Department of Agriculture and served as the Secretary to the Chief when she retired in 1993. She loved her family, her church family, gardening, going boating and she was an avid basketball and football fan. Helen's survivors include her husband, Robert L. Jennings, her daughter, Cathy Jennings Ortiz, son in law Pierre J. Ortiz, Jr., her grandson, Peter J. Ortiz (Sharon), her granddaughter, Jennifer O. Duffy (O'Bun), and great grandchildren, Kayden, Lucas, James, Malia and Kailani. A memorial service was held at Kilmarnock United Methodist Church in Kilmarnock on February 11, 2023.
Jump	2024	Linda Patricia Jump (78) of Dover, Delaware, passed away October 17, 2024 at the Delaware Hospice Center, Milford, Delaware. Linda was born on July 10, 1946, in Redwood Falls, Minnesota, daughter of the late Albert and Leona Salfer Hertling. Linda went back to work after her youngest started school. She was the Wurzberg community Transportation officer's secretary. When she and her husband were posted to Ft. Ben Harrison, Linda worked at the Army Finance Center as a secretary to Chief of Army Retirement services. When they moved to New Jersey, Linda worked as the executive secretary for the New Jersey State conservationist for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. Her boss once told David that he wasn't sure who worked for whom. While stationed in Europe, they traveled to every country in Western Europe plus Yugoslavia. She thoroughly enjoyed traveling. The highlight for her was when they were fortunate enough to attend one of Pope John Paul's public audiences. They also traveled throughout the United States and the Caribbean. She is survived by her husband of 55 years, David Temple Jump, three children Michael David Jump of Paris, Tennessee; Paul Andrew Jump of Indianapolis, Indiana; and Kimberly Leona Oliver of Hampton, Virginia; and four grandchildren Matthew Thomas Oliver, Sarah Linda Oliver, Kelab Josiah Jump and Noah Alexander Jump.
Kowalski	2024	William "Bill" L. Kowalski (79) of Peshtigo, Wisconsin passed away on September 26, 2024, at Rennes East after a battle with Bulbar Onset Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. He was born on April 23, 1945, to the late William and Ruth (Mund) Kowalski in lower Michigan. He attended Muskegon Community College where his cross-country team won the 1963 NJCAA National Championship. He then attended Grand Valley State College earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education. He was proud to have lettered in sports in college and to have been inducted into the Muskegon Area Sports Hall of Fame. Bill joined the United States Navy Reserve, serving two years active duty from 1969 to 1971. Following service, he went back to school at Grand Valley State University and earned a degree in Environmental Science, and furthered that with his master's at Michigan Tech. On April 21, 1979, Bill married Linda Gustafson in Shawano, Wisconsin, while working for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service as a Soil Scientist. They moved around Wisconsin until settling in Peshtigo in 1990. He worked as the Marinette County District Conservationist and later became the Marinette County Veterans Service Officer, retiring in May of 2016. He loved the outdoors, hiking, golfing, basketball, running, and presenting at conferences. He was a member of Little River Country Club and won several Senior Tournament events. Bill's survivors include his wife of 45 years, Linda Kowalski of Peshtigo; and sons, Paul and Byron of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
Kurtz	2024	Ian Stephen Kurtz (80) of Pomona, Missouri, passed away October 7, 2024, at Mercy Hospital in Springfield, Missouri. Ian was born on September 23, 1944, to James Hugh and Avis Mae (Erbe) Kurtz in Osage, Iowa. He attended the University of Nebraska School of Technical Agriculture and Southwest Missouri State University. From 1967 to 1971 he served in the U.S. Army repairing radars. After the military, he worked for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service for 34 years, where he was a soil conservationist, district conservationist, area resource conservationist, and a

		grassland specialist. He also co-owned I&J Kurtz Farms, LLC with his son, Jamie. On August 1, 1970, he married Camille Koslosky and together they raised 3 children. On September 17, 2017, Ian married Patricia (Morris) Gregory. In his free time, he enjoyed fishing, woodworking, spending time with his grandchildren, working on the farm, and sharing his passion for livestock and grass with his family. He will be greatly missed by all who loved and knew him. Ian was preceded in death by his parents, James and Avis; his first wife, Camille; and one grandchild, Rhett Charles Kurtz. He is survived by his wife, Patricia; his children, Eric, Heather (Keith), and James (Michelle); and his grandchildren, Brittney, Aiden, Ian James, Kelby, Hailee, and Aida. He is further survived by his faithful companion, Cocoa.
Lilly	2024	Michael "Mike" Lilly (73) of Brandon, Missouri, passed away September 22, 2024. Mike was born August 25, 1951, in Pulaski, Illinois to the late Willard and Cozette (Flake) Lilly. After graduating from Shawnee Community College, he continued on to earn his Bachelor of Science degree in Plant and Soil Science from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois in 1977. He spent his career working for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). He started as a soil scientist mapping in the Illinois counties of Pulaski, Calhoun, Jersey, Kankakee, Knox and Pike. He served as Soil Survey Project Leader, Resource Soil Scientist (Northeast areas of Missouri); Assistant State Soil Scientist, and finally advanced to the role of State Soil Scientist in Jackson, Mississippi. He served on the National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils. From 2005-2006 he served in dual roles as State Soil Scientist Jackson, MS, and Acting Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations in Pearl, MS. He mentored many soil scientists assisting in the advancement of their careers. After retiring in 2007, he worked a few years in the Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services (ACES) Program out of Pearl, Mississippi. He gave back by volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, NRCS, and guest lecturing at Mississippi State University. He was still actively on-call to assist regionally with various soil field assignments and events. This year he co-authored: "The Soils of Mississippi" (World Soils Book Series), and previously had published another soil science book. He was recently honored as a Lifetime Achievement Award recipient from the Central Mississippi Blues Society, Inc. He was a member of the Vicksburg Mississippi Blues Society, Indianola Mississippi Blues Society, and Hit the Road Entertainment. He maintained friendships with many blues artists including Pat Brown, Buddy Guy, John Lee Hooker, Dorothy Moore, and Pinetop Perkins; and frequently served as a judge for various blues competitions throughout the state. He enjoyed taking cruises; visiting museums, flea markets, juke joints, blues festivals; father-son deep sea fishing trips; spending time with his grandchildren; and won numerous car show awards as a member of the Alpha Romeo Car Club. His travel adventures took him to incredible places including Ireland, London, Amsterdam, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Croatia, Germany, Switzerland, Austria; China, India, Egypt; Brazil, Chile, Peru; Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, Bahamas, Jamaica, Costa Rica, Mexico, Hawaii, Alaska, Canada, and enjoyed planning and taking adventurous road trips throughout the United States. Survivors include his son: Michael (Annie) Lilly of Chicago, Illinois and grandchildren: Emerson Lilly and Lilah Lilly.
Luttrul	2024	Gary Lynn Luttrull (71) of Walnut Shade, Missouri, peacefully passed away on September 28, 2024. Gary Luttrull was born on October 19, 1952, in Sparta, Missouri. Education mattered tremendously to Gary. He worked nights at Fasco to put himself through college at Southwest Missouri State, the first in his family to graduate college. He worked as a District Conservationist for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service in both Henry and Benton Counties for 37 years where he regaled his coworkers with amusing anecdotes and colloquialisms. His love and appreciation of nature extended to all areas of his life, and some of his most treasured moments were spent with family and friends during hunting season. He taught all four grandkids to drive the John Deere Gator, awarding Gator driving licenses to them when they mastered the task. He wandered his favorite home property on Bull Creek on cool days where the cows followed him like a pack of puppies and where Gary could name the call of every bird in the region. He tended to his garden faithfully, experimenting with predictable and unexpected vegetables, always cultivating more than enough to share. Gary is survived by his loving wife Bonnie, children Danyel (Aaron) and Michael (Elaine), and grandchildren, Izzy, Carter, Ivy, and Owen.
McCain	2024	Patrick E McCain (77) of Helena, Montana, passed away September 23, 2024 surrounded by family. Pat was born in Great Falls, Montana on January 27, 1947, the son of Pat and Vivian McCain. In 1965 he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and was a decorated US Marine Corps Veteran who served in the Republic of Vietnam. Upon discharge, he joined the Montana Army Guard and became a commissioned officer. Pat served on various committees of the Montana Military Museum and was also instrumental in the passage of House Bill 255 which recognized Vietnam veterans and established every March 29 as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veteran's Day". He was a long-term member of the Lewis and Clark American Legion Post in Helena. Pat graduated from the University of Montana in Missoula and became a soil scientist for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, mapping the soils in Lewis & Clark County and various locations in Montana. He was fondly referred to as the "mayor of Elk Park" as Pat could talk to anybody and was able to map private land that had been previously inaccessible. While in Missoula he met and married his wife, Kathy. Pat is survived by his wife of over 50 years, Kathy, children Rob (Bettina), Corrina (Garry) and Dan; and grandchildren Gabe, Levi and Alexa Yadon.
McCandless	2024	Shirley Faye McCandless (89) of State College, Pennsylvania (formerly of West Sunbury, Pennsylvania) passed away on October 20, 2024. Shirley was the wife of ARCSE Member Donald E. McCandless, Jr., retired Water Management Engineer at the Northeast National Technology Center with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service and former State Engineer. Shirley was the daughter of Lee and Edith Hilgar of Euclid, Pennsylvania, born in Clay Township, Butler County on August 1, 1935. On June 6, 1953, she married Donald McCandless Jr. of Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania. Shirley was a homemaker most of her life. She worked at Allencrest Tea Room in 1953 and Danks ladies clothing store in 1954 in State College. In 1968, she went to beautician school and became a licensed beautician in Champaign, Illinois. She loved to sing in the church choir her entire life. She enjoyed sewing, quilting, playing cards with her friends and grandchildren, camping, and watching the Pittsburgh Pirates and Steelers. Above all, she enjoyed spending time with her family. She is survived by her husband, Donald; her three children Sherri Schalk (Mark) of Charlotte, North Carolina, Joan Tillett of Apple Valley, California, and Donald L. McCandless (Jane) of State College; 10 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her granddaughter, Katherine Schalk.
Noe	2024	Harley Randolph Noe (78) of Boise, Idaho, passed away September 29, 2024, after a battle with Myelodysplastic Anemia. Harley was born in Caldwell, Idaho on September 8, 1946, to Dwight and Ethel Noe. He and his family moved from Caldwell to Parma, Idaho, when he was in the 6th grade. Growing up, Harley loved spending time at his grandpa and grandma Shields' farm in Wilder, Idaho. He loved helping his grandpa, playing with their dog and learning to drive a tractor. Harley went to Parma High School, where he was student body president, and graduated in 1964. He went on to study Soil Science at the University of Idaho in Moscow, Idaho where he graduated in 1969. Harley met his wife, Terri, while she was attending Boise State College. They married in Pocatello on May 1st, 1971. After graduation, he went to

		work for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS), first working in the Payette, Idaho, field office and then the Rigby, Idaho, office. During the Teton Dam collapse he was the soil survey party leader at the Rexburg field office and then became a party leader at the SCS office in Mountain Home, Idaho. He worked at the SCS state office in Boise until he retired in 2002. After Harley retired from the SCS, he went to work with several former coworkers doing ground water monitoring and soil analysis. Several years later he and his friend, Mark Johnson, started their own consulting business, Natural Resource Solutions. When Mark passed away, Harley continued the business on his own and later partnered with his brother-in-law, Mike Raymond. He and Mike were in business together until 2023, when Harley's health no longer allowed him to work. Mike continued to do field work, while Harley managed the administrative side of the business. He and Mike both decided to retire at the end of 2023. In 1970 he joined the National Guard unit in Emmett. He attended basic training in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and in Fort Knox, Kentucky. His early days in the guard he served as a vehicle wheel mechanic. In his later years, he and his friend Richard began running the unit's mess section and won several awards for their excellent cooking. Harley retired from the guard after 22 years. After retiring from the guard, he and Richard used their talents to start Anytime Anyplace Catering, which operated for several years. In addition to all his work and guard duties, Harley loved racing cars. He drag-raced for many years throughout much of the Western United States. He was a favorite at the tracks and knew more about repairing and racing cars than most anyone he encountered. In 2019 he was diagnosed with Myelodysplastic Anemia. He was in treatment for several years, but the medications and procedures he received were not successful. He spent much of his last two years in and out of the hospital and fought until he could not fight any longer. Harley is survived by Terri, his wife of 53 years; his daughters Vicki and Stephanie; grandsons Remington and Jeremiah; sister Lorna Cottier and many cousins, nephews, nieces and friends who all loved him very much.
Plumb	2024	Marion K. Plumb (87) of Council Bluffs, Iowa, passed away October 13, 2024, at his home surrounded by his loving family. Marion was born December 5, 1936, in Oakland, Iowa to the late Ray and Opal (Potter) Plumb. He graduated from Oakland High School in 1956. Marion married Constance "Connie" Weston on June 6, 1959, in Griswold, Iowa. Marion retired in 1993 from the USDA-Soil Conservation Service after 35 years of service, where he worked as a Civil Engineering Technician. He served in the Iowa National Guard and was a member St. Patrick Catholic Church. Marion loved woodworking, motorcycling and dancing. In addition to his parents, Marion was preceded in death by his son-in-law, Lynn Bertelsen, and brother Darrell Plumb. Marion is survived by his wife of 65 years, Connie Plumb of Council Bluffs; daughters, Leslie (Steve) Root of Lawrence, Kansas, Trisha (Nick) McGrain of Lenexa, Kansas, Sheila (Gary Bales) Bertelsen of Des Moines, Iowa, Rhonda (Robert) Casson of McClelland, Iowa; eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren; sister, Karen Dobernecker of Pella, IA; nieces and nephews.
Quals	2024	Donald Ray Qualls (89) of Shawnee, Oklahoma, passed away on October 2, 2024, surrounded by family. Don was born on October 24, 1934 in Idabel, Oklahoma to Millard and Ethel Qualls. Don was drafted into the U.S. Army from 1959-1961, where he served as a medic and was stationed in Germany. Don then met the love of his life, Peggy Lambert and they were married on April 22, 1961. In 1969, they moved to Shawnee to raise their family. He was a loyal employee to the USDA-Soil Conservation Service where he worked as a technician and as a watershed inspector on the Okmulgee Watershed. He retired April 1, 1994. Don was an avid hunter, fisherman, and archer. He won many hunting awards through the years. Don is preceded in death by his loving wife of 61 years, Peggy Ann Qualls, son Ricky Lynn, and his son-in-law, David Combs. He is survived by his daughters, Beverly Qualls of the home, Nancy Newton and husband Ronnie Newton of McLoud, Oklahoma, and Karen Combs of the home; his grandchildren, Jessica (James) Spain of McLoud, Tabitha (Jordan) Montgomery of Shawnee, Phillip Searcy (Candance) of Haledton, Oklahoma, Bailey (Tajhler) Phillips of Stillwater, Oklahoma, Alan Brewer of the home, Brayden (Slater) Robbins of Shawnee, and Dedra (Dalton) Meeks of Seminole, Oklahoma; great-grandchildren, Addy Young, Parker Barnard, Lily, Claire, and Olen Steward, Carly Montgomery, Kash and Karoline Phillips, Axel, Aydan, Aariah, and Asher Searcy, Roman and Dempsey Robbins, and Myla and Willo Meeks.
Rowe	2024	Russell Keith Rowe (84) of Cincinnati, Ohio (formerly of Bremen, Ohio), passed away after a short illness on October 18, 2024, at The Glen in Cincinnati. Keith was born on March 30, 1940 in Mole Hill, West Virginia. He was a graduate of Pennsboro High School (1958), attended West Virginia University, Potomac State College, and was a graduate of West Virginia University in 1963. Keith worked as a Civil Engineer for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service for 42 years, retiring in 2006. He was proud of his numerous professional accomplishments, including the positive impact to his community in Bremen with the construction of the Rush Creek Lake and Dam. Keith enjoyed spending time in his garden, golfing, and fishing trips with his family. Keith was a fixer of all things and was especially proud of the home he built that his family lived in for more than 30 years. Keith was generous with his time and resources to anyone in need, which was a testament to his strong Christian faith. Keith lived at The Glen in Cincinnati Senior Living Community for the final three years of his life. The family would like to express their gratitude for the wonderful care and love Keith received during his time there. Keith is survived by his loving wife of 39 years Karla Renee Mericle Rowe. Other survivors include his children, James Rowe (Diana), Carl Joseph Rowe, Christopher Jourdan (Lindsay), and Charles Rowe (Rebecca); grandchildren Lauren, Haley, Sadie, Wesley, and William; and great-granddaughter Lilliana.
Spencer	2024	Joe Tidwell Spencer (100) of Chattanooga, Tennessee, passed away on July 14, 2024, at his home. Joe was born on May 11, 1924, in Burns, Tennessee, to Edgar and Blanche Spencer. He was in the U.S. Air Corps (U.S. Air Force) for three years as a Bombardier on a B-24, flying 10 combat missions in the Pacific during World War II. Joe graduated from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 1948, with a degree in Agriculture. Joe married Margaret Blanche Pyle on Jan. 22, 1949, and had three children, Linda Spencer Harris, Nan Spencer Snyder and Danny Spencer. Margaret died on July 10, 1962. He married JoAnn Campbell on May 4, 1974, and had two stepchildren, Steve Campbell and Karen Campbell Brown. He worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service for 31 years including many years as the District Conservationist in Chattanooga. He retired in February 1982 and was inducted into the Hamilton County Agriculture Hall of Fame in 1997. Joe attended Signal Mountain church of Christ for 65 years, teaching Bible School classes for over 40 years and served as an elder for 15 years. He is survived by his wife, JoAnn Spencer, Chattanooga, children Linda Harris, of League City, Texas, Steve Campbell, of Hixson, Tennessee, Nan Snyder, of Alpharetta, Georgia, Karen Brown, of Hixson, and Danny Spencer, of Maryville, Tennessee; 11 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson. He was a huge Tennessee Volunteer and Atlanta Braves fan.
Stephens	2024	Larry Stephens (85) of Elbow Lake, Minnesota, passed away on September 15, 2024, at Centra Care Hospital in St. Cloud, Minnesota. Larry was born in Elbow Lake, Minnesota on September 3, 1939, to Louis and Pearl (Olson) Stephens. A graduate of Elbow Lake High School, Larry competed in various sports, and in 1961 married Gail Margaret Folken. Throughout his life, he worked diligently at the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in Elbow Lake, taking soil samples before transferring to the Twin Cities until retirement. Minnesota ARCSE State Representative John Brach says Larry

		was their drill rig operator and soil testing lab technician and well respected for his hard work. Larry and Gail returned to Elbow Lake after retirement, living their dream life on Pomme de Terre Lake. Larry was a dedicated member of the Elbow Lake community, involved in organizations such as the American Legion, The Wendell Lions, and serving on the Board of the Soil and Water Conservation District. An avid outdoorsman, Larry found joy in hunting, fishing, and traveling to Florida with Gail during the winter months. Their love for Florida eventually led them to purchase a home in Gulfport, where they created lasting memories together. Larry's survivors include his wife, Gail Stephens of Elbow Lake; his daughters, Lynn (Cory) Stephens-Benson of Burnsville, Minnesota and Missy Stephens of Farmington, Minnesota; his grandchildren, Melissa, Samantha, Kristina, and Jacob; and his seven great-grandchildren.
Ward	2024	Bobby Joe Ward (76) of Arlington, Texas, passed away September 30, 2024, at the Medical Center of Arlington. Bobby was born on January 4, 1948, to the late Frankie Lee and Dossie Mae Frazier Ward in Emerson, Arkansas. Bobby attended Agricultural, Mechanical, and Normal College (now University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff), where he majored in Agronomy. During his time on "the Yard," Bobby was affiliated with the Royal Knights Society. He also became a proud member of the Beta Theta Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., joining the Spring 1969 line as "3 Bandinos" alongside his brothers, Frank Haynes and John Harris. In 1970, without knowing it at the time, he met his future wife and college sweetheart, Brenda Ann Russell. That same spring, Bobby earned his bachelor's degree. For over four decades, Bobby applied his passion for soil science as a Soil Scientist with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. His career took him across the United States and beyond, allowing him to contribute to significant soil research projects not only at home but also in places like the United Kingdom and Africa. His expertise led to the publication of a book on soil usage, focusing on sandy loam soils and septic tank use. He served as the State Soil Scientist of Indiana and retired in 2007 while working at the National Technology Center in Fort Worth, Texas. He leaves behind a legacy of dedication and knowledge. Bobby was a man of deep faith, humility, and strength. He is preceded in death by his grandson Daniel 'Danny' Jackson. Survivors include his devoted wife of 52 years, Brenda Ann Russell Ward of Arlington, TX; his son, Tranardo De'Andre Ward, Sr. of Arlington, TX; his niece, Blair Bell of Arlington, TX, whom he lovingly raised as his daughter; his grandchildren, Cameron Hughes Ward, Chloe Powell, An'Helina Ward, Isaiah Byrnes, Tranardo Deandre Ward, II., Talia Ann Ward, Kane Selders and Kai Richardson; and a great grandson Reign Purcell.
Webb	2024	Earl Wesley Webb (71) of Perkins, Oklahoma, passed away September 17, 2024, in Edmond, Oklahoma. Earl was born June 21, 1953, in Siloam Springs, Arkansas to Glen Richard and Ellen (Alkire) Webb. He graduated from Muskogee High School in 1971. He attended Northeastern Oklahoma State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma for 2 years. Earl married Linda Corley in 1976. He worked for the Oklahoma turnpike, HR Hill, and Kinder Dozer, before going to work as a "dam inspector" (Civil Engineering Technician) for the USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) out of Perry, Oklahoma. After 18 years of service, he retired from the NRCS in 2006. He loved working and tinkering around on tractors (especially John Deeres), diesels, and anything where he could get his hands dirty. He took time to teach his kids how to fix things with the greasiest of hands. Giving them each a love for cars and the tools to work on them! Earl was a member of Agra First Baptist Church in Agra, Oklahoma. He is survived by his children, Ted Webb of Norman, Oklahoma; Jeanette (Brad) Shropshire, of Perkins; Amanda (Rob) Vandervoort of Conroe, Texas; and Adam (Charene) Webb of Ripley, Oklahoma; Grandchildren, Luke Webb, Landon Webb, Lynlee Webb, Bailey (Spud) Shropshire, Moriah Shropshire, Dominic Shropshire, Bobby Vandervoort, Troy (T-Roy) Vandervoort, Taylor Knight, and Ivan Webb.

DEADLINE FOR THE JAN/FEB 2025 NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS IS DECEMBER 25TH, 2024.



Picture courtesy of Noller Herbert.

NORTHEAST CONSTRUCTION, DESIGN, SOIL MECHANICS ENGINEER AND GEOLOGIST
WORKSHOP

VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA - FEBRUARY 23-27, 1981

1st Row

Howard Hall, NETSC
Lou Kirkaldie, NETSC
Harry Hirth, NY
Carl Montana, NJ
John Bister, DE
Bobby Ellis, NO
Bill James, WV

2nd Row

John Mickley, MD
Don Lake, NY
Joe Polulech, CT

3rd Row

Gene Kessel, WV
Joe Zurlo, NETSC
Ed Helmey, NETSC
Ed Alling, NES
Elmo Sheraden, NETSC
Tom Iivari, NETSC
Jack Tibbetts, PA
Rudy Chlanda, MA
Harlan Moonen, NY
Scott Snover, NETSC
Larry Tennity, NETSC
Art Taylor, ME

4th Row

Dave Ralston, NO
A. J. Ramey, VA
Ray Wenninger, NH
Don Bassinger, NO
Jon Lantman, CT
Lee Holt, NJ

5th Row

Larry Gorman, VA
Bruce Champeon, ME
Max Olynkye, NJ
Bernie Ellis, NY
Charlie McDowell, VA
Dave Faerber, PA
Bruce Benton, PA
Chester Dodge, MA
Don Woodward, NETSC
Jim Talbot, NO
Dick Fisher, VT
Tinsley Mack, VA
Dick Hyatt, VA
Gordon Bayles, WV
Lloyd Thomas, NETSC (Photographer)



Comet photographed by Jack Carlson at the Albuquerque Balloon Festival.

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