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# NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter for Retired Conservation Service Employees

Vol. 52, No. 1 Jan/Feb 2025

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1902 Primrose Place, Hudson, WI 54016  
Website: [www.arcse.org](http://www.arcse.org)

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Julie MacSwain, ARCSE President**

Greetings,

On behalf of the ARCSE Board, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very Happy New Year! As you know, in 2024, our organization celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Reaching this milestone achievement for our organization was a big deal. A special thank you to the ARCSE leadership and membership for your continued commitment to our organization.

A concentrated ARSCE membership drive is underway and extends through April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Membership forms have been updated so that new members can identify who recruited them. Please visit our website to learn more about the membership drive and obtain the most current membership program: <https://arcse.org/membership-drive/>.

A special thank you to **Chris Tippie** and **Paul Benedict** for their role in developing this first-ever membership drive. And thank you to our members for their assistance in growing our organization in the next few months.

A few members of the ARCSE Board met with the Regional Conservationists (RCs) on Nov 14<sup>th</sup>. This was the first-time the Board and RCs met virtually, to share information with one another. **Kasey Taylor** and **James Taylor** were the RCs in attendance. They were provided with updates regarding the progress ARCSE has made with the annual plan of work, and efforts on ARCSE providing mentoring to NRCS employees. This led to some excellent real-time discussions. We will continue this collaboration a few times a year.



Remember that there are many ways to stay in touch with our organization. Many of the State Representatives are involved in planning luncheons for the retirees a few times per year. emails are sent to members, and a few of the State Reps are holding Zoom meetings. Additionally, we have a presence on Facebook, Flickr, ARCSE Webpage, and our bi-monthly newsletter.

Thank you for being a member of ARCSE. Together, we can and will make a difference in our organization. If you know of someone who has recently retired, or is going to retire, reach out and let them know about ARCSE. For additional information regarding membership, visit our website: <https://arcse.org/join/>

All the best,  
**Julie MacSwain, ARCSE President**

**2025 ARCSE Membership Dues and Hard Copy Newsletter Fees are due Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025**

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES

## ARCSE Mentoring Update

The ARCSE organization has been working with NRCS at the state and national level over the past year to identify retirees who are interested in mentoring. Readers will recall that NRCS **Chief Terry Cosby** first mentioned the idea of retirees assisting NRCS with mentoring and employee development at the 2022 SWCS annual meeting in Denver. Following the Chief's suggestion, NRCS and ARCSE signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in August of 2023 to collaborate on mentoring. The key task for ARCSE in the MOU is to identify a cadre of retirees interested in providing mentoring services.

ARCSE leadership has been working to increase marketing and support for the mentoring program. In November, several ARCSE Board members met with the NRCS Regional Conservationists and were very encouraged with their interest and support for retiree involvement in mentoring. ARCSE has recently made contact with **Dale Bogardus**, Acting Director of the new NRCS Technical Training & Development Division, and is working to potentially integrate ACRSE mentors into the NRCS mentoring program.

See more on mentoring from **Craig Derickson** in the next section.

## NOTES FROM THE POTOMAC

*–Craig Derickson, retired USDA-NRCS*

### Congress Passes Last Minute Government Funding Bill

While once again staring at a government shutdown deadline, the US Senate worked through the early morning hours of Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> to pass a bipartisan plan that will fund federal operations until March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and provide funds for disaster aid. After several days of Washington, DC political drama, the funding bill was finally approved by the House and Senate and dropped demands of President-elect Donald Trump's to include a debt limit increase.

On December 21<sup>st</sup>, an Associated Press (AP) news article by **Lisa Mascaro, Farnoush Amiri, and Matt Brown** reported that House Speaker **Mike Johnson** commented: "Congress will meet our obligations and not allow federal operations to shutdown ahead of the Christmas holiday season." The AP news reported that the House approved Johnson's latest funding bill overwhelmingly, with a vote of 366 to 34. The Senate worked into the night to pass it, with a vote of 85 to 11, just after the shutdown deadline. At midnight, the White House said it had stopped all shutdown preparations. **President Joe Biden** signed the spending package into law Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.

After the House passed the bill, Speaker **Mike Johnson** said: "this is a good outcome for the country" and added that he had spoken with the President-elect, and he was "certainly happy about the outcome, as well." Senate Majority Leader **Chuck Schumer** had publicly stated that "there would be no government shutdown," and his comments provided a degree of optimism that a bipartisan deal could be reached. The final budget bill was the third attempt from Johnson and the House to approve an operating budget for the government.

The final budget bill was a slimmed-down 118-page version of the first product that was reportedly 1,500 pages in total. The budget legislation is another short-term Continuing Resolution (CR) that will fund the government at current levels through March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and adds \$100 billion in disaster aid and \$10 billion in agricultural assistance to farmers. The bill also extends the 2018 Farm Bill for one more year to give Congress time to pass a new farm bill. For more details see: <https://apnews.com/article/trump-government-shutdown-deadline-speaker-johnson-budget-da117337aa0c0adab34a5626bb5816af>.

According to **Meghan Grebner** with the Brownfield Ag news, "The CR includes \$20.78 billion in disaster aid for farmers in both 2023 and 2024. It also allocates \$10 billion in economic aid to farmers to offset the dramatic decline in farm income, high supply costs and low commodity prices. It does not include a provision that would have allowed year-round sales of E-15, nor does it include an expansion to the debt ceiling."

Additional details from Brownfield Ag news includes a comment from House Agriculture Committee Chairman **Glenn GT Thompson**: "the process was long, but the result is a bill that provides necessary assistance for American agriculture and is a lifeline for farmers and ranchers." American Farm Bureau Federation President **Zippy Duvall** said: "members of the US House sent a strong, bipartisan message that they understand the importance of a stable food supply." For more details on agriculture funding in the CR see:

<https://www.brownfieldagnews.com/news/house-passes-a-funding-bill-averts-shutdown/> .

### Congress Approves National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)

The political landscape in Washington, DC has been noticeably turbulent and polarizing in 2024. However, in spite of the situation, the House and Senate were able to come together to pass the recent CR and bipartisan legislation on the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

An AP news release by **Kevin Freking** on December 18<sup>th</sup>, reported: "the House passed a \$895 billion measure that authorizes a one percent increase in defense spending this fiscal year and would give a double-digit pay raise to about half of the enlisted service members in the military. The bill is traditionally strongly bipartisan, but some Democratic lawmakers opposed the inclusion of a ban on transgender medical treatments for children of military members, if such treatment could result in sterilization."

The bill passed the House by a vote of 281 to 140 and was moved forward to the Senate, where lawmakers had sought a bigger boost in defense spending than what was in the bill. The AP reported: "Lawmakers are touting the bill's 14.5 percent pay raise for junior enlisted service members and a 4.5 percent increase for others, as key to improving the quality of life for those serving in the US military. Those serving as junior enlisted personnel are in pay grades that generally track with their first enlistment term." For more information on House passage of the defense bill see:

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/895b-house-defense-bill-includes-military-pay-raise-ban-on-transgender-care-for-minors>.

The Senate passed the defense bill on the same day. A second AP news report echoed the news of significant pay raises for military members and also reported that the bill had provisions to counter China's growing power. According to **Stephen Groves** with the AP: "the annual defense authorization bill usually gains strong bipartisan support and has not failed to pass Congress in nearly six decades, but the Pentagon policy measure in recent years has become a battleground for cultural issues. Republicans this year sought to tack on to the legislation priorities for social conservatives, contributing to a months-long negotiation over the bill and a falloff in support from Democrats." Nonetheless, the bill passed easily in the Senate with an 85 to 14 vote, and the legislation was sent to **President Joe Biden**. For more information on Senate approval of the defense bill see:

<https://apnews.com/article/congress-senate-defense-spending-transgender-care-troop-pay-9500f2cd2565b57eb85bc60d7cd0ddcb>.

## 2025 Cost of living Adjustment (COLA)

A news release from the National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) stated: "The 2025 cost-of-living adjustments [COLA] will provide a 2.5% increase to Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) annuities and Social Security benefits, while Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) annuities will see a 2% boost. The 2025 COLA is the lowest annual rise since 2021, when beneficiaries saw a 1.3% increase to benefits. In recent years, COLAs have been larger in response to higher inflation. While the 2024 COLA was 3.2%, beneficiaries saw the highest increases in four decades in 2023, with an 8.7% rise, and in 2022, with a 5.9% boost."

NARFE emphasizes the importance of this cost of living adjustment to counter inflation, particularly for those living on fixed incomes and retirement savings, and also stresses that not all federal retirees will benefit equally, because FERS retirees face COLA caps. NARFE "continues to advocate for the Equal COLA Act (H.R. 866/S. 3194), which seeks to address this disparity and ensure equitable COLAs for all retirees. Help support equal COLAs by urging your lawmaker to cosponsor H.R. 866/S. 3194. Readers can view their COLA notice through your Social Security Administration (.gov) Message Center if you created a *my Social Security* account by mid-November." For more information on COLAs and NARFE activities, see their website at:

<https://www.narfe.org/federal-benefits-institute/cola/> .

## House and Senate Approve Social Security Fairness Act

On November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, NARFE posted a news blog to celebrate U.S. House of Representatives' repeal of H.R. 82 - the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). The news was in response to the House voting 327 to 75 to approve the Social Security Fairness Act, H.R. 82. NARFE National President **William "Bill" Shackelford** issued the following statement: "We've waited over 40 years to get to this moment. We wholeheartedly applaud the representatives who have supported this bill, and especially those lawmakers who supported H.R. 82 during tonight's supermajority vote. This passage ensures a significant step in a movement to bring the Social Security Fairness Act to a vote. In NARFE's entire history, we have not made it this far in our concerted effort to repeal the harmful WEP and GPO. Now we urge the Senate to bring this bill to the floor for an up-or-down vote. With more than 60 sitting senators sponsoring or cosponsoring the bill, there should be adequate support to overcome a filibuster."

Shackelford went on to say: "The Social Security Fairness Act aims to fully repeal the WEP and GPO, which unjustly reduce or eliminate Social Security benefits for millions of federal retirees and public servants. These provisions have long penalized those who dedicated their careers to public service, and their repeal is essential to ensuring fair treatment and financial security for our retired public employees." For more information on House passage of HR 82 see the NARFE website at:

<https://www.narfe.org/blog/2024/11/12/narfe-celebrates-historic-house-approval-of-h-r-82-eyes-senate-action/> .

In a similar action, the US Senate voted on December 21<sup>st</sup> to repeal WEP and GPO with a vote 76 to 20 on final passage. There was much nervousness about whether or not the Senate would act on the bill, with competition from other critical legislation, and time was quickly slipping away before the holiday recess. Prior to passage, the Senate voted against several amendments that would have prevented the bill from becoming law. A headline post from NARFE stated: "Congressional passage of the bill is a historic victory for the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), which has been advocating for repeal of WEP and GPO for 40 years. It will bring substantial financial relief to federal retirees who have been unfairly penalized for their public service for decades." For more information on Senate passage of HR 82 see:

<https://www.narfe.org/blog/2024/12/21/senate-votes-to-repeal-wep-and-gpo-send-h-r-82-to-president/> .

## Understanding DOGE – The New Department of Government Efficiency

Another interesting out-take from the 2024 political environment is the announcement of plans to establish a new Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). This effort would more accurately be described as an advisory commission and will be led by **Elon Musk** and the former Republican presidential candidate **Vivek Ramaswamy**. An article by **Lora Kelley** with The Atlantic news said: the label "DOGE" is a bit of a misnomer. The DOGE commission will not actually be a federal department because those have to be formed by Congress. Instead, it will be an advisory body, one without the practical authority or enforcement ability to enact the lofty goals it has so far put forth."

Headlines about DOGE's intentions included a strategy to slash \$2 trillion in government spending through cutting budgets and eliminating government jobs. However, details on how they would do this are sketchy. The largest chunks of government spending are Social Security, Medicare, and military spending, which are all generally viewed as being off-limits. The Atlantic article suggested: "President-Elect **Donald Trump** has been promising that he won't cut the first two, and the third is politically tricky to cut, especially for a Republican. Still, even if the two achieve only a sliver of the ambitious cuts they've put forth, they could manage to alter government agencies and services that affect Americans' lives." For more on DOGE see:

<https://www.theatlantic.com/newsletters/archive/2024/12/doe-musk-ramaswamy-congress-trump/680914/> .

Strategies to improve government efficiency are not new and have been attempted many times before – and usually without much success. On December 9<sup>th</sup>, **Laura Tyson and Lenny Mendonca** with Project Syndicate News described a similar efficiency effort by **President Ronald Reagan**. "Reagan established the Private Sector Survey on Cost Control, known as the Grace Commission, and claimed that one-third of all income-tax revenues were consumed by waste and inefficiency — a wild overstatement. Very few

of the commission's 2,500 recommendations were ever implemented, and the combination of Reagan's tax cuts and a growing federal government launched the national debt on its long upward trajectory."

The Project Syndicate commentary went on to say: "Similar efforts dating back to **President Harry Truman's** Hoover Commission have also been judged as a failure. "Most initiatives flounder because of a fundamental flaw in their design. Led by business leaders who don't understand how government works, such bodies tend to produce laundry lists of unvetted ideas but have no capacity to carry them out. Implementation remains the responsibility of the relevant agencies and Congress, which legislates and funds federal programs."

The article referenced **Vice President Al Gore's** National Partnership for Reinventing Government in the early 1990s, and how that effort avoided the flaw of leaders with a lack of government experience. The article said: "Housed within the Clinton administration, it was overseen by a cadre of government reformers who succeeded in passing actual legislation: the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, which aimed to embed performance metrics in the federal government's standard operating procedures."

There appears to be general public agreement on the need to make government work better and be more efficient, but only time will tell if the DOGE effort can succeed. For more information on the Project Syndicate article see:

<https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/doge-elon-musk-will-fail-to-cut-us-federal-spending-or-improve-efficiency-by-laura-tyson-and-lenny-mendonca-2024-12>.

– Craig Derickson, retired NRCS

## ARCSE Mentoring Update

### Background on ARCSE MOU and Mentoring

The ARCSE organization has been working with NRCS at the state and national level over the past year to identify retirees who are interested in mentoring. Readers will recall that NRCS Chief Terry Cosby first mentioned the idea of retirees assisting NRCS with mentoring and employee development at the 2022 SWCS annual meeting in Denver. Following the Chief's suggestion, NRCS and ARCSE signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in August of 2023 to collaborate on mentoring. The key task for ARCSE in the MOU is to identify a cadre of retirees interested in providing mentoring services.

ARCSE leadership has been working to increase marketing and support for the mentoring program. In November, several ARCSE Board members met with the NRCS Regional Conservationists and were very encouraged with their interest and support for retiree involvement in mentoring. ARCSE has recently made contact with **Dale Bogardus**, Acting Director of the new NRCS Technical Training & Development Division, and are working to potentially integrate ACRSE mentors into the NRCS mentoring program.

### New Mentoring Application Form Online

ARCSE is working to develop an online mentor application form to make it easier and more efficient for members to express their interest in mentoring. The form is very detailed and intentionally similar to the NRCS form, and leaves open the opportunity for collaboration between ARCSE and NRCS on mentoring.

The online application form will offer several benefits over the current process of mainly spoken communication, emails, and paper forms, including increased efficiency, better data management, and improved organization for both ARCSE and NRCS. ARCSE expects to have the mentor application available on the ARCSE website in the near future.

### State Mentoring Coordinator

ARCSE is also working with State Representatives on a process with the State Representatives to identify a Mentoring Coordinator in each state to be the main ARSCE point of contact for coordinating with NRCS on mentoring. State Representatives may choose to serve in this role. Larger states may identify multiple coordinators. Smaller states may coordinate their efforts with others in the same geographic region and be served by one coordinator. The Mentoring Coordinator will be the person responsible for launching ARSCE/NRCS Mentoring for their state.

### Storytelling and Success Stories

ARCSE continues to encourage retirees to share stories of successful interaction with NRCS in various capacities, including mentoring, Earth Team volunteers, or ACES employees. Stories can be used to share ideas, personal experiences, and important career and life lessons. **Bill Ward**, Regional Vice President and ARCSE State Representative from California, has several success stories of retirees assisting NRCS with priority work and employee development. Be sure to see Bill's stories in the California State report.

– Craig Derickson, ARCSE MOU Team

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

### Paul Benedict, Membership Chair

#### New Life Members

Keith Leiting – Rio Rancho, New Mexico  
Greg Townley – Prairie City, Iowa  
Curt Hobbs – Fayetteville, Georgia

#### New Affiliate Member

Roylene Comes at Night – Spokane, Washington

#### New Members

Pamela Hertzler – Grass Valley, California  
Madalene M. Ransom – Davis, California  
Harbans Lal – Los Altos, California  
Britt Weiser – Shawnee, Kansas  
Phil Hogan – Woodland, California  
Don Gaddie – Lander, Wyoming

## 2025 ARCSE MEMBERSHIP DUES and HARD COPY NEWSLETTER FEES are due Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 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

### ARCSE MEMBERSHIP DUES Due by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

Member	\$25 per year
Affiliate	\$25 per year
Life (One-time payment)	
Age 64 or younger	\$325
Age 65 thru 74	\$275
Age 75 or older	\$175

*NOTE: Dues payment includes receipt of the bimonthly electronic newsletter only. All members (both life members and those who pay annual dues) who desire a hard copy of the newsletter must pay an additional fee of \$15.00 per year.*

**Please submit Dues to ARCSE at P.O. Box 8965 Moscow, ID 83843**

### Membership Drive – Exciting time to recruit new members.

A concentrated ARSCE membership drive began in November 2024 and extends through April 15<sup>th</sup>, 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 ARSCE website for updates including processes that have been used to successfully find and contact retirees with invitation to join ARSCE.

**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.

Bill Ward sent out the following to promote new membership. There are a number of benefits of ARCSE membership.

One of the major benefits to membership is receiving the ARCSE bimonthly Newsletter. The newsletter typically begins with news from our ARCSE president, Julie MacSwain. She has noted the ARCSE's mentoring and encouraging Retirees to consider mentoring NRCS staff. He noted the content of the newsletters.

The most recent newsletter includes information about this membership drive and ARCSE activity encouraging mentoring.

Folks joining ARCSE for the first time receive their first year complimentary. Annual dues after the first year are \$25. So please consider joining ARCSE. Our website has been updated, and joining online is very easy ([arcse.org](https://arcse.org)).

### Donate to ARCSE

Your donation to ARCSE provides funding for special projects that help us provide additional services to our members so that we are more visible and relevant. Your contributions have enabled us to keep the first-year dues free for new members and partner with the Soil and Water Conservation Society to hire summer interns.

Contribute to ARCSE today! You can donate by MAIL: Write a check to ARCSE with the memo "Donation" and mail to ARCSE, PO Box 8965, Moscow, ID 83843; or ONLINE: <https://arcse.org/give/>.

### ACES Success Stories

From Bill Ward. Hello and Mery Christmas to all my fellow California Retirees. The attached subject "Success Story" has been a long time in coming. I have personally been working putting this together with the three NRCS retirees being recognized for their great assistance provided to NRCS as ACES employees for over a year. The three NRCS Retirees working as ACES employees being recognized here are:

- **Rich Casale** retired NRCS District Conservationist with 50 years (combined NRCS and ACES experience) with special expertise in flood and wildfire disaster response.
- **John Tiedeman**, Retired NRCS Field Engineer with 40 years combined NRCS and ACES experience plus 7 years private Engineering Experience before SCS.
- **Elise Miller**, Retired NRCS Area Engineer, 30 years' experience, 2 years as an ACES employee

These three ACES employees are being recognized for assisting NRCS field office staff in two major areas:

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

Background: In August of 2023, NRCS and ARCSE signed a Joint 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.

ARCSE established a MOU work group to develop guidance for both NRCS and ARCSE on how to work together to be successful in identifying and recruiting NRCS retirees to work with NRCS staff as mentors or in a mentoring capacity, as is the goal of the MOU. I was made a part of this work group.

As California's State Rep for over 10 years, I have observed the good work by all three of these retired NRCS staff working as ACES employees for some time—even years. I also know how important mentoring and training NRCS staff is to each of them, as well as the value of that training/mentoring to NRCS staff who received that benefit from them.

I felt it was important to document their success in assisting NRCS staff as ACES employees, the time commitment they all provided as ACES employees. Other States could consider these successes, working towards the goals and objectives of the joint MOU.

I have shared this success story with CA STC **Carlos Suarez** and Deputy STC **RaeAnn Dubay**. I believe they recognize the value of assistance being provided to NRCS Staff by these retirees as ACES employees.

Ultimately, it is the goal of ARCSE that this California Success story gets shared with NRCS at the National Level, with other State Conservationists and ARCSE State Reps.

So **Rich**, **John** and **Elise**, thanks for your continued great assistance to NRCS as ACES Employees.

## ALABAMA

**Earl Norton, ARCSE Representative**

Email: [earl\\_norton@yahoo.com](mailto:earl_norton@yahoo.com)



Several retirees in the Auburn area enjoyed the annual fall appreciation dinner of the Auburn-Opelika Camellia Club: (L-R) Mac Nelson, Earl Norton, Vic Payne, Charles "Jessie" Bush, Steve Musser, Ken Rogers and Perry Oakes.

Congratulations to Centurian and WWII Veteran **Ambers Hanson and wife Jean** - they celebrated their 72<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024! 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 on July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, and Jean is just saying "He married a younger woman." This is a repeat of the article in the November-December Newsletter to correct children: children are **Scott Hanson** and **Dr. Lynn Hanson**, and not Earl Norton as inadvertently listed in the earlier newsletter.



Ambers and Jean on their wedding day 10/24/1952

Retirees and friends of **John Meetze** were saddened at his passing on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. John worked in Alabama, first as State Soil Scientist and later as State Resource Conservationist. He was an outstanding professional and a well-known person in the Auburn community.

## ARIZONA

### **Wade Biddix, ARCSE Representative**

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

**Wade Biddix Report** – In August and September, **Wade Biddix** and his wife **Joanne** took a two-week Viking cruise from Athens to Rome. They vacationed with Wade's sister and brother-in-law. Several stops were made in Greece, Montenegro, Croatia, Venice, Sicily, Naples, and Rome. Key stops were in Olympia, Greece, where the first Olympic games were held; Dubrovnik, where the movie Game of Thrones was filmed; and 3-days in Venice. It was an amazing trip with many exciting excursions, even though the major cities were very busy.

After returning from their Mediterranean Cruise, Wade had a partial knee replacement due to a torn meniscus and floating cartilage in his right knee. The knee has healed very well, and Wade is back playing golf, pickleball and softball. Below are a few pictures from our trip.



*Wade and Joanne Biddix at the Acropolis in Athens, Greece*

*Wade and Joanne Biddix at the Grand Canal in Venice, Italy*



*Celebrating our 39<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on the Viking Cruise Ship*

## CALIFORNIA

### **Bill Ward, ARCSE Representative**

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

### **California NRCS ACES Success Story – Follow-up**

California retirees continue to enjoy our monthly Zoom meetings. We had the group shown below take part in our December 4<sup>th</sup> Zoom meeting. One of the great aspects of using Zoom like this is that fellow retirees can take part from long distances apart as there is no travel involved. Bill Gradle, former AC in Salinas CA dialed in from his current residence in Texas. **Chester Bush** dialed in from Fresno CA and **Doug Toews** dialed in from Santa Maria CA. There is no way a group like this could have connected for an enjoyable visit without the use of Zoom. We all got the opportunity to wish each other a Merry Christmas as we said goodbye.

This is an "ACES Story," prepared by California State Rep. **Bill Ward** working directly with each of these three ACES employees describing their work with NRCS staff. Following are the "ACES Stories" for each California's ACES employees being recognized for their excellent work assisting NRCS in the two major areas identified above.

The purpose of sharing these "ACES Stories" here is to let ARCSE retirees know that these kinds of opportunities are out there to assist NRCS in a most positive way.

#### **Rich Casale "ACES Story"**

Rich Casale, retired NRCS District Conservationist with 50 years (combined NRCS and ACES experience) to NRCS with special expertise in responding to wildfire and storm disaster events.

"In the last 7 years I have done some 800 site visits following nationally declared wildfire and storm disasters, from the wine country to southern CA.



**Chester Bush, Bill Ward, Doug Toews  
Bill Gradle, Walt Sykes, Tom Wehri,  
Ed Schmit**

Much of this work has been done working with NRCS interns, Earth team volunteers, newer and older NRCS employees, and even RC&D employees by my side. I would estimate that my time working as an ACES employee on normal field office work has generally been about "half time." There are times after disaster events, however, that I have worked some time periods close to "full time" as long as it was necessary.

I estimate that about 75% of my time working as an ACES employee on normal field office work is spent working directly with NRCS staff to help get field office work done or provide more detailed training for some staff as needed. In my work responding to storm disaster events, I would say my time working directly with NRCS staff on site visits, evaluations, and making recommendations is closer to 50% of my time.

My work to assist NRCS in responding to disaster events includes assisting landowners on site (with NRCS or RC&D partnering employees by my side most of the time) and generating follow-up reports/recommendations, including related handouts, soils information, etc. In addition to site visits, I have written more than a dozen handouts, fact sheets, and authored a 62-page resource guide on Post Wildfire Restoration and Response for California field offices. I have provided over 50 professional level talks to diverse groups on a wide variety of Conservation topics.

The opportunity to provide training and mentoring to the next generation of employees is and has been great. I can't think of a better way for me to share my 50 years of NRCS experiences and technical expertise than through the ACES program with training mostly occurring in the field during actual site visits, but also periodically in a workshop, Zoom or webinar environment.

I can't over emphasize the importance of ACES assistance and training/mentoring in NRCS, not to mention the rare opportunity to have experienced full-career employees return to the workforce from retirement (at a fraction of the pay they received when they were employed), giving back and sharing their incredible experiences and expertise with the next generation of NRCSers. In my opinion there is no better way to learn than in the field with yesteryear "NRCS giants" who returned to the front line to assist, train, and mentor the cadre of individuals carrying out the NRCS mission today.

Thanks again Bill for highlighting the work of some ACES enrollees in CA. – Rich Casale

#### **John Tiedeman "ACES Story"**

John Tiedemann, Retired NRCS Field Engineer with 40 years combined NRCS and ACES experience, plus 7 years private engineering experience before his SCS career. John's primary assistance to NRCS has been to field office staff in Area 1.

(From John Tiedeman, summer 2023). "This week I'm concluding a program of mentoring two U.C. Davis students in the Redding NRCS office. It has been rewarding introducing these engineering students to the NRCS process of planning, surveying, design, and construction. Yesterday **Mason** and I prepared hydrology and a pipe spillway design for a stock water pond. The students are eager to learn, and it's a joy to share with them. Mason is from Woodland, and **Cecelia** is from Calexico. I've worked in those respective counties (Yolo and Imperial), so it was fun to recall experiences.

This summer (2024) we have had a biology intern in Redding and two interns in Red Bluff (soil conservationist and range conservationist). They love field work and observing our methods of planning, communication, and problem solving with landowners."

As an ACES employee John works two days a week, which can flex according to workload and landowner availability. John estimates that he spends about 75% of his time as an ACES employee working directly with NRCS staff helping get NRCS field office work done and providing more detailed mentoring/training to some NRCS staff as needed.

John shared that the compensation provided with ACES funding was not his primary motivation but sees it as a demonstration of appreciation from NRCS for his contribution to NRCS in helping to get NRCS work done and mentoring NRCS staff at the same time. For six years, NRCS Redding has managed its engineering workload by contracting with a skilled TSP consultant, plus John as ACES engineer. This has saved the cost of a full-time NRCS engineer, while accomplishing training and production goals. John's contributions are focused on planning, training, and quality assurance, along with production (surveying, design, and construction).

The appeal for retired NRCS engineers includes (1) contributing knowledge from decades of experience, and (2) reserving flexibility to enjoy the freedom of retirement (hobbies, travel, and family). John says it's been a perfect fit for him. The NRCS offices receive great benefit from the knowledge and experience of seasoned engineers. – John Tiedeman

#### **Elise Miller "ACES Story"**

Elise Miller, retired NRCS Area Engineer, Two Years as an ACES Employee

2023 work as an ACES Employee: I am just finishing up four months of working as an ACES Engineer in Area 4 (Southern California). During this time, I have certainly been working with training and mentoring newer employees in several offices. I really enjoy the mentoring part of this job. The agency has hired some incredible young professionals who I hope will stay long-term with NRCS.

Because I do not live in California, it works best for me to assist NRCS full time for a set number of pay periods. Working full time allows me financially to find a place to stay, earn a little extra money, while giving me more continuous free time to travel. I have also found that working full time allows me to focus and gain momentum in my work assignments, allowing me to accomplish more.

The Area Engineer monitors my work. The ASTC (FO) serves as backup. So I can be made available to assist any/all of the field offices in Area 4. The position description was written with this type of flexibility in mind and to best take advantage of the many years I served as the Area Engineer.

For the past two years, my main focus has been assisting several Area 4 field offices with their ECP, EQIP-Disaster, and EQIP-Regular workload. I estimate that I spend about 80% of my time working as an ACES employee working directly with field office staff to help get Field office work done and provide training to NRCS staff as needed. My direct time spent with NRCS staff has included meeting with many farmers and ranchers to evaluate, document and address their resource concerns.

My main focus this year has been assisting the Oxnard, Santa Maria, and Bakersfield Field Offices. Last year I assisted the Area Engineer with completing field office Spot Checks for five field offices.

For this year my work also included conducting EWP Program evaluations in San Diego County, serving as an Inspector for an EWP Project with the City of Santa Barbara. The highlight for me this year was conducting Quality Assurance Inspections on the Santa Monica Debris Basin PL-566 Improvement Project with the County of Santa Barbara. I got the opportunity to meet up and work again with another NRCS retiree, **Doug Toews**. He was my Area Engineer during the 1990s. It felt great to step back into the Small Watershed Program after so many years away. My NRCS career back in the 1980s began in the PL-566 Small Watershed Program in Gilroy! This project also provided me the opportunity to assist the State Office Engineering Staff.

Besides assisting with the engineering work, I enjoyed working again with my former colleagues in Area 4 and also the opportunity to meet, encourage and Mentor newer NRCS employees and Pathways Students. With the newer NRCS Engineers and Soil Conservationists, I enjoy sharing my knowledge and experience providing them with OTJ training when we visit a job site.

I do so enjoy working as an ACES Engineer, and the variety of the work I am involved in. I am thankful that NRCS California Management has accepted me into this program. I have already spoken with both the ASTC(FO) 4 and Area Engineer about coming back in 2025. Perhaps being stationed in a different field office.

Thank you, Bill, for your continuing efforts in recognizing and bringing forward the importance of the ACES Program by highlighting just a few of us participating retired NRCS employees currently providing support to local NRCS Field Offices. These efforts to share our many years of institutional knowledge and experiences with current NRCS employees are helping in getting critical NRCS field office work completed, while providing for important mentoring/training assistance to the newer NRCS staff. – Elise Miller

For additional information on California's NRCS ACES Success Story please contact Bill Ward, California ARCSE State Rep. at [bluegrassbillward@gmail.com](mailto:bluegrassbillward@gmail.com)



CA Engineering staff, Area Engineers, Admin Staff, Project Engineers, early 1980s.



CA State office Engineering Staff, 1990s.



Bill Ward's California Design Staff, mid 2000s.



A retirement Celebration Gathering for Bill Ward at his house, early 2011.



*Harold Honeyfield's 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party, 2015.*

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## COLORADO

**Jack Carlson, ARCSE Representative**

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

Fort Collins retirees convened for breakfast first Tuesday in November and December: **Chuck Hart, Stu Keil, and Phil Smith in November and Chuck, Phil, Ken Rojas, Frank Geter, Wendall Oaks, Barb Pursley, Tim Carney, and Jack Carlson in December.**

Frank and Jack spent a week in mid-November at the Texas AgriLife Blacklands Research Station in Temple working on carbon balance in the SWAT+ model to get it ready for use by Field-to-Market (FtM) – The Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture starting June 2025. Jack (with CSU colleague) also attended the FtM Plenary and Sustainable Ag Summit in Minneapolis the following week.

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## CONNECTICUT, RHODE ISLAND, NEW HAMPSHIRE

**Carl Du Poldt, ARCSE Representative**

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CT–Climate Smart Land Stewardship Grants–

<https://ctconservation.org/programs/climate-smart/2025-climate-smart-land-stewardship-grants/>

CT–North Central Conservation District–

<https://conservect.org/northcentral/>

NH–Climate Resilience Grants–

<https://www.morningagclips.com/nh-conservation-districts-announce-fourth-round-of-nh-conservation-districts-climate-resilience-grant/>

NH–Common Grant and Loan Sources for Land Conservation in New Hampshire–

<https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/documents/conservation-funding-resources.pdf>

RI–DEM Educational Course–

<https://dem.ri.gov/press-releases/winter-wildlife-sign-dem-educational-course>

RI–Environmental Policy–

[https://ballotpedia.org/Environmental\\_policy\\_in\\_Rhode\\_Island](https://ballotpedia.org/Environmental_policy_in_Rhode_Island)

VT–Water Withdrawals Reporting–<https://dec.vermont.gov/press-release/vermonters-asked-report-surface-water-withdrawals-january-2025>

VT–Environmental Leadership Trainings–

<https://vtfishandwildlife.com/get-involved/partner-in-conservation/community-wildlife-program/environmental-leadership-trainings>

VT– Working Lands climate Corps–

<https://www.whiterivernrcd.org/working-lands-climate-corps-ca7e31e>

VT- Tree Plant and Trout Sales–<https://www.vacd.org/plant-sales/>

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## IDAHO

**Jim Cornwell, ARCSE Representative**

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

Idaho retirees met November 21<sup>st</sup> for the third meeting of our fall and winter schedule. Our next meetings are December 21<sup>st</sup> and January 23<sup>rd</sup>, so if retirees are in the Boise area they are welcome to join us. We meet at the Golden Corral, 8460 west Emerald St in Boise. **Keri Gibbs** brought **Shane Veal** from FEPBLUE to provide information for those considering changes during the open season. She also has available information from other health insurance companies.



November attendees: (seated) John Kendrick, Gene Crisman and Frank Fink. (standing) Keri Gibbs, Phil Morrisy, Jim Cornwell, Dean and Rita Kidd, Gale Roberts, and Rob and Kate Fredericksen.

## INDIANA

**Jane Hardisty, ARCSE Representative**

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Indiana retirees who live near Indianapolis make it a point to get together once a month at a local Mexican restaurant. We are often joined by family members and friends who work in the state office or nearby field offices. Attendance varies from 8 to 20, depending on the month. Here are photos from our November and December gatherings.



L-R: Nick Brown, Jill Reinhart, Tom Mulligan, Paula Mulligan, Deb Montgomery, Becky Fletcher, Jane Hardisty, Bob Eddleman, and MaryBeth Brown (not pictured: Susan Meadows)



L-R: Jane Hardisty, Gary Struben, Mike Cox, Chris Ritz, Chris Tippie, Becky Fletcher, Cathy Deal, Paula Mulligan, Jill Reinhart, and Deb Montgomery

Becky Fletcher also noted that Jane's mom is in home hospice care. "It's been a rough few years for her."

## IOWA

**Mark Jensen, ARCSE Representative**

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On November 13<sup>th</sup> we had our retiree Christmas party at the Machine Shed Restaurant in West Des Moines. Thirty-nine folks enjoyed a great meal and had a fun time visiting and catching up with old friends. The names with the pictures show who attended.



Dennis Schrot, Keith Edwards, Randy Stewart, Barb Stewart, Marsha Ayen, and Jim Ayen



Dora Guffey, Greg Townley, Donita Link, Roger Link, Ron Hersom, Jo Elyn Hersom, Helen Kopitzke, Lyle Asell, and Charlotte Asell



Lew Brent, Connie Brent, Gerald Stevens, Marion Stevens, Dennis Pate, Dale Faulkner, Jerri Faulkner, Jim Phillips, and Kelly Phillips



Alan Lauver, Richard Rogers, Kay Peterson, Don Peterson, Linda Miller, Dennis Miller, Kathy Peterson, and Brian Peterson



Lee White, Alice White, Margaret Dysart, Maralee Sarasio, Deb Billingsley, Ann Jensen, and Mark Jensen

On November 1<sup>st</sup>, Ann and I went to Knoxville to watch the Knoxville Area Community Theatre's (K-ACT) Production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. **Marty and Carol Adkins** were both part of the cast. In addition to their being in the cast, Carol worked with the costumes and make-up, props, and set crew, while Marty helped with the set crew. As with all the K-ACT productions, it was well done and provided us with an enjoyable evening. Marty is the President of the K-ACT Board and Carol is the Secretary.



*The Rabbi (Marty Adkins) and Grandma Tzeitel (Carol Adkins) in Fiddler on the Roof*

As you all know, ARCSE has been encouraging retirees to serve as mentors. This is generally thought of as being a mentor to help new employees. However, I don't think there is anything in the rules that says that mentoring can't be to help more seasoned employees. **Norm Koester** sent me the following interesting anecdote about how he has helped a couple of folks: "I did some mentoring last week – not the kind ARCSE is talking about with new employees but with two experienced engineers on the regional design staff. I'm not sure that it is newsworthy. but I will share it with you anyway.

You no doubt remember that we had several concrete chutes wash out in Little Sioux in the 70s – 80s. (Little Sioux was one of the original PL534 watershed projects.). On one of them in Arnold Armstrong WS we installed a slurry trench just upstream of the drop

inlet. It wasn't the 1<sup>st</sup> one done by NRCS, but it was the 1<sup>st</sup> one done by NRCS in Iowa. It was a unique experience, so I saved the photos, specs, correspondence and copies of the job diary entries.

I had become acquainted with **Jake Robison** at the Soil Mechanics Lab a few years ago. He is now on the design team, so I shared it with him and left him with the whole file. Those guys were aware of slurry trenches and had been involved in the preliminary phase on one but hadn't actually seen one. They seemed to find the pictures and narrative quite interesting. I'm not sure this comes under the heading of "mentoring" – perhaps "counseling" is a more apt description. I'm also not certain that it is of any interest to ARCSE, but I do believe that the day spent was useful.

I don't remember if you got in on this or not. I kind of think you were in Idaho by then. It failed in '81 and was repaired in '82." Thanks Norm! I left western Iowa for Idaho in 1978, so I missed out on the slurry trench activity in Arnold Armstrong. This kind of "mentoring" definitely helps develop and maintain NRCS's technical expertise.

The church that **Eldon Weber** attends recently hired a new pastor. When Eldon was talking with her while getting acquainted, the 1980s farm crisis topic came up. She was interested in Eldon's take on the situation during those years. Following are some of Eldon's reflections about his experiences with SCS and Iowa State University Extension, mostly from the 1980s and 1990s. "The farm crisis resulted from low farm income due to low crop and livestock prices with high interest rates during the Carter administration. **Jimmy Carter** was president from 1977–1981. I was the area conservationist at Fairfield. In the 80s, the Reagan administration supported farm incomes through federal farm programs. Ronald Reagan was president from 1981–1989. I was the assistant state conservationist for operations during 1983–1987 and at ISU from 1987–1990 when I retired from SCS.

The Food Security Act of 1985 required farmers to have a conservation plan to get federal assistance. However, it didn't authorize money for additional employees. I suggested to **Mike Nethery**, our state conservationist, that we needed to teach FFA students in the state to develop their own conservation plans on their farms. The Conservation Reserve Act also paid farmers to take steep erosive land out of crop production and seed the land to grasses and legumes, reducing erosion and water pollution.

I worked with **David Williams**, Chair of the Agriculture Department at Iowa State, to set up a position for me in Agriculture Education & Studies to teach high school Ag teachers to learn how to write conservation plans so they could teach their students. I held workshops with Ag teachers to teach them how to develop conservation plans. I also developed sustainable agriculture curriculum and "in-serviced" Ag Teachers. I served as their professional development coordinator until I retired in 2001."

During the past couple of months, we have been saddened by the passing of **Roger Koster**, long time Soil/District Conservationist in northeast Iowa and **Doug Haynes**, long time Soil Conservation Technician in southeast Iowa.

## MAINE

**John Simon, ARCSE Representative**

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*Editor's Note: John said that he was stepping down as the Maine ARCSE Representative and would like to hand over the job to someone else.*

## MIDATLANTIC STATES

**Terry D'Addio, ARCSE Representative**

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The following members met for breakfast on Tuesday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Ron Marlow, Bill Irwin, John Peterson, Dave, Thackeray, Paul Benedict, John Moore, and Jerry Bernard.**

Discussion topics included the COLA increase, health plan issues including coverage, costs, and increased premiums. **Paul Benedict** also noted that he is the new Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Chair. He is also still on the mend from his heart surgery last year.

NACD's Senior Advisor, **Rich Deusterhaus**, was awarded the Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD) Natural Resources Conservation Award at the VACD Annual Meeting. Throughout his distinguished career in conservation, Rich has been actively engaged in advancing the science and practice of natural resource conservation, and he has made significant contributions to advance the federal, state, and local conservation delivery partnership.

NACD congratulates Rich on this recognition of his ongoing impact in the conservation space.

**Virginia Chapter SWCS Annual Meeting on Climate Change and Virginia's Natural Resources.**



November 20, 2024, Summary of Topics

- Climate Trends and Forecasts in Virginia: Challenges and Opportunities for Agriculture
- Role of Agriculture in Climate Change and Mitigation
- Coastal Flooding, Groundwater Salinization, and Climate Equity on the VA Eastern Shore
- Overview and Status of Carbon Credit Markets, Implications for Virginia
- Impacts of Climate Change & Uncertainty on Watershed Processes, Pollutant Delivery, and BMP Performance
- NRCS Conservation Programs and Priorities for Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry

## MISSOURI

**Dave Rastorfer, ARCSE Representative**

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The Columbia area retirees held their quarterly breakfast at JJ's in Columbia on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Those in attendance were: **Jerry Edwards, Frank and Kay Miller, Ed Smith, Jean Herman, Dennis Hoffman, Gena Michalson, David Gruber, Gail Sallee, John Turner, Frank Gordon, Odie Swanegan, Bob Hummel and Dave Rastorfer**. The next quarterly breakfast will be on February 12<sup>th</sup> at JJ's in Columbia at 8am. All retirees are welcome.

**Paula Price:** Merry Christmas! Just a 2024 update. I lost a friend and constantly positive person in life when **Buck Burch** passed away. He stayed in contact with me, until he could no longer have the energy to make a phone call. **Carolyn** and I remain friends. All who got to know him know his dedication to agriculture in every possible way.

My Granddaughter, **Jordin** is quickly approaching Senior status at Excelsior Springs High School. So rewarding to see her excel and stay her sweet self. She was chosen to be a part of the CAP program at North KC Hospital so does 1/2 days there and 1/2 days at high school, is a lifeguard at the community pool, is in a competitive volleyball team in Liberty, and earned the honors of 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Conference and 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-District 2024 in Volleyball. Her future is bright and right now she wants to be a part of the medical field.

The twins are now 10 and are sassy and funny. They make me smile! Sometimes it's laugh! **Andrew and Cindy** are amazing parents teaching in the Excelsior Springs School District. I count my blessings that right now all is well, and all is bright.

I am still employed at Heaton-Bowman-Smith Savannah Chapel four days a week, and volunteer in the Mosaic Lifecare gift shop on Wednesday mornings. My big challenge this year is being the President of Andrew County Rotary. We are embarking on a rather large project, so fundraising and lots of attention is focused in that direction. I also received the distinction of being a 50-year member of P.E.O. this year. 50 years ago, it looked very far away and honored older members: And then there is church! Personally, God knew my heart and sent me a perfect friend named Steve who fills an important part of my life voided by Alan's death.

I hope this entertains you and that you have a blessed holiday season. May 2025 bless each of you with good health, some wealth, and happiness. SCS/NRCS and its humans of the 80s and 90s will always hold a special place in my heart.

**Dennis Shirk: Lois** and I are doing pretty well just now. We would like to wish everyone and very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Mike Blaine:** Merry Christmas to all! Well, I've got my Christmas shopping done, (actually ordered and waiting for delivery). **Pam** and I keep UPS in business. It is so much easier to order and get home delivery rather than drive 25 miles to the nearest place to really shop. I hope this Christmas season finds you all well. It is a time to enjoy family, church, and reflect on God's most precious gift to us in the person of Jesus Christ. And praise God, we have not been getting the terrible snow storms to the north and east of us. We are still burning the wood stove almost all the time, even though not too cold yet. Pam really likes the projected warmth of the wood heat (so do I). I am pretty sure I have enough wood stacked for the rest of the winter. So, again, From both of us to you merry Christmas and happy new year! May God bless you richly.

In Memoriam: John McCarthy, Doris Harryman, Ralph Collins, and Ed Heller.

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## MONTANA

**Lori Valadez, ARCSE Representative**

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A nice note from **Dick Gooby**: "Merry Christmas, It's been a good year.

We have been basically retired since we sold the cattle. **Mary Ann**'s daughter **Jeannie** and her husband **Gary** live nearby. They take care of us and the ranch. They do all the heavy lifting for Mary Ann.

One day Mary Ann and I were talking, and we decided a retiree should have a chauffeur. We had to get rid of our drivers' licenses, so Jeannie would have to drive us wherever we wanted to go. We decided to tell Jeannie that the license bureau said we were too old to drive and took our licenses away. Jeannie bought in on it, and started taking us for drives as well as to the doctor, dentist, and mainly the grocery store.

Since we had no drivers' licenses, we had no reason to carry our billfolds with us. When we get to the checkout counter at the grocery store, we don't have any cash or a credit card, so Jeannie has to pay for the food. Since Jeannie is paying, we are buying much fancier food than we are used to. This being retired has its good points.

We wish you a great Christmas and a happy new year in 2025. —**Dick and May Ann Gooby**

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## NEBRASKA

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

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LINCOLN SCS/NRCS RETIREES CLUB  
November 20, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson **Doug Christensen**. Attending were: **Harold Klaege, Bob Engel, Doug Christensen, Steve Scheinost, Dana Snyder, Jim Culver, Thomas Reinsch, Larry Brown, Richard Bolli, Steve Stover, Norm Helzer, JoAnne Thiele, and Donna Dornbusch**

**December 18, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson **Craig Derickson**. Attending were **Harold Klaege, Doug Christensen, Steve Scheinost, Jim Culver, Thomas Reinsch, Larry Brown, Steve Stover, Norm Helzer, Gary Muckel, Dave Camper, Craig Derickson, Norm Kempf, JoAnne Thiele, and Donna Dornbusch**. **Rob Lawson**, Nebraska State Conservation, was in attendance.

Chairperson **Craig Derickson** was unable to attend the November meeting because he is currently working with a soil health group.

**Jason Miller**, the representative for Blue Cross Blue Shield, was at the NARFE meeting last week to answer questions about Federal health insurance questions and changes during open season. If you opted out of prescription coverage last year, you must enroll in it to receive coverage for the coming year. There have been price increases for 2025 health insurance benefits. Discussions on health insurance coverage followed.

**Jim Culver and Craig Derickson** attended the November Nebraska Community Foundation (NCF) meeting to learn more about ways to help the NSWCS Foundation Board increase fund raising capability. Approximately 300 planned gifts totaling more than \$63 million are in place to benefit Nebraska communities and organizations in the future. **Jim, Craig** and others would like to see the NSWC Foundation accelerate fund raising activities and help the Foundation achieve a goal of having \$500,000 in the endowment fund to provide meaningful scholarships and assistance to grow the next generation of conservation leaders for Nebraska and beyond.

**Harold Klaege** and his wife celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary.

Deaths: **Jim Kearney** and **Tim Haakenstad**. See the In Memoriam section for more details.

**Dana Snyder** has had carpal tunnel and hip surgeries. He has now recovered and doing better. **Tom Reinsch** cut his wrist while helping to butcher a hog and went to the emergency room but is also doing better. **Norm Kempf** will be having cataract surgery. **Louie Buller's wife** fell and cracked her hip, but is doing better.

**Doug Christensen** and his wife spent five weeks on a cruise ship while traveling to Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia, Tahiti, etc. They had a great time. **Norman Kempf** traveled to Rapid City, SD to visit his wife's sister and chase deer in the Black Hills. He returned to NE and was successful in getting a NE deer.

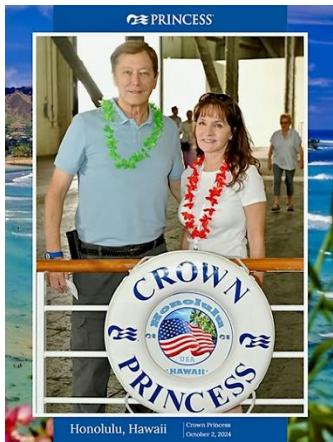
**Harold Klaege** stated that the House passed HR-82, and the Senate will be taking it up and see if they can pass a cloture on the government pension offset before it adjourns for the year. A cloture means that a vote will be taken without any comments or discussion. Federal employees and retirees can call 202-224-3121 if they wish to express their support of HR-82.

**Jim Culver and Craig Derickson** attended a university foundation session to learn more about fund raising for foundations. The SWCS is trying to contact people to encourage them to designate some of their estate to the SWCS. Jim Culver said that five \$1,000 scholarships were given through the SWCS.

Craig talked about new officers for 2025. He will be stepping down and **Doug Christensen** will be the new Chairperson. **Donna Dornbusch** will remain as secretary and **Steve Scheinost** as treasurer. No nominations were brought forward for the Vice Chairperson.

**Rob Lawson**, State Conservationist for Nebraska, brought us up to date on happenings in Nebraska. Nebraska will be aggressive in filling intern positions for 2025 as they had 24 interns last summer. The new NRCS office officially opened at 1121 Lincoln Mall in October. The NSSL and SML also have their offices/laboratories there. The Chief of NRCS was here for the opening and spent several days in Nebraska. Rob also stated that Nebraska is moving ahead on filling positions. The office is trying to promote information to retiring employees. Nebraska does not have any remote workers; however, it allows those working in field offices to work remotely one day a week and area and state office employees to work remotely two days a week.

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



**Doug and Cindy Christensen on their cruise from San Francisco to Hawaii, Tahiti, New Zealand, and Australia.**



**Our business meeting in progress during our December meeting. Right to left – Steve Stover, Norman Kempf, Harold Klaege and Gary Muckel.**



**We were pleased to have Rob Lawson, Nebraska State Conservationist, join our breakfast this morning. Rob gave us an excellent summary of current conservation activities, staffing and movement of the State Office from the Federal building in downtown Lincoln to 1121 Lincoln Mall near the Nebraska State Capitol.**



**Good attendance at our November meeting. Left to right – Larry Brown, Richard Bolli, Steve Stover, Norm Helzer, JoAnne Thiele, Donna Dornbusch, Harold Klaege, and Bob Engel.**

## **The First Friday of the Month Retirees Breakfast Club of Lincoln**

Though the years Lincoln has been the hub for the location of several United State Department of Agriculture and other Federal Agencies staff people. A directory of United States Department of Agriculture – Soil Conservation Service (SCS) for employees located in Lincoln dated September 15<sup>th</sup>, 1960 listed, several regional organizational units such as Soil Correlation, Soil Mechanics, Watersheds and Cartographic units employing over 170 staff people. This number of SCS employees was in addition to the large staff of the Nebraska State Office. Many people who retired over the years choose to remain in Lincoln. So a good number of USDA retirees still live in Lincoln or surrounding communities.

**Jim Harder and Don Thurber**, who retired in about 2007 started meeting for coffee after their retirement on the First Friday of each month – mostly at the local Hy-Vee grocery store. The group now meets at the Stacy Lane Hy-Vee at 70<sup>th</sup> and Pioneers. Through the years the group increased in size, and currently Jim sends out a monthly email to those interested, reminding people about the breakfast. This breakfast get together is very informal. No agenda, no minutes of meeting and no list of who attended. Last year the group was active in supporting Nebraska State Legislation to exempt the annuities of CSRS and FERS retirees from paying Nebraska State Income tax.

Currently there is an effort to increase the membership of ARCSE. Craig Derickson and Jim Culver visited with those at breakfast recently about the opportunity to join ARCSE. Mark Willoughby, one of the regular breakfast individuals was one of a group on a deer hunting trip to northwestern Nebraska. Mark currently is not a member of ARCSE. He was encouraged to join and we would get the excellent photo on himself and his friends showing the results of their successful deer hunt in the ARCSE bi-monthly newsletter.

Current plans are to have a short recognition about this group in our bio-monthly newsletter. The discussion has been to list those who were in attendance at the Friday breakfast and perhaps a short informational story featuring something of current interest about Nebraska Agriculture and Resources.

Those attending the Friday December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 breakfast were: **Craig Derickson, Dennis Schroeder, Scott Willet, Ed Chmelka, Mark Willoughby, Steve Chick, Dave Griffith, Ken Noonan, Jim Culver, Steve Scheinost, and Norm Koester.**

The special feature highlighted is the Nebraska Ag Expo that is held each year. This December 10<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 event was held at the Sandhills Global Center, Lincoln, NE. This is nationally one of the largest farm equipment shows in the country. There are

displays of large farm equipment, many booths of suppliers, distributors of agriculture services, and seminars with recognized featured speakers about current issues of farming – both nationally and Nebraska agriculture.



**Left to right – Dennis Schroeder and Craig Derickson.** Dennis, one of the past District Conservationists for Lancaster County for several years has been one of the individuals who helps set up the large size farm equipment at one of the largest farm shows in the country. He is one of the pro's in assisting to get the numerous pieces of big farm equipment precisely located in **SMALL SPACES WITHIN THE BUILDINGS** at the Sandhills Global Event Center – Lincoln, NE.



**Left to right, Ken Noonan, Dave Griffith and Steve Chick.** Steve a former Nebraska State Conservationist recently moved from Texas to the Omaha Area. Steve has already done an excellent job of scouting out the bass fishing in several lakes around the Omaha area.



There was excellent attendance for this group of SCS/NRCS retirees at the Stacy Lane Hy-Vee, 70<sup>th</sup> and Pioneers in Lincoln.



**Mark Willoughby** plans to become one of our new members of ARCSE – Great! Mark recently returned from a very successful hunt in western Nebraska. Left to right in photo are – Steve Greenwood, Dave Hartley, Mark Willoughby, Andrew Hartley. All taken first day of 2024 rifle season.

## NEVADA

**Liz Warner, ARCSE Representative**

Email: [ewarner130@aol.com](mailto:ewarner130@aol.com)

We had a lively Christmas luncheon on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Nine retirees attended along with **Tracey Wolfe's mom, Holly**, who took the group photo.



**In the back row from left are** Mark Twyeffort, Chuck Houston, Vada Hubbard, Cub Wolfe and Jonnie Eyler. **Front from left are** Gary Roeder, Tracey Jean Wolfe, Ed Biggs and Liz Warner.



**Cub and Tracey Wolfe** are enjoying life at home in Smith Valley, Nevada. Cub has been taking advantage of some nice weather, driving his horse Joe and the buggy he's restored. Tracey recently adopted a donkey.

**John Fisher** couldn't make it because he and **Cyndi** are vacationing in Australia and New Zealand. **Chuck Houston** is going to be heading to Greece and Europe in 2025. **Vada Hubbard** visited Germany recently when her son-in-law was made Lieutenant Colonel. Lots of world travelers with exciting stories to share.



**Karrina Ferris**

Miss Nevada

Lyrical Dance

*Bill Dollarhide just competed in the Huntsman World Senior games 2024, in St. George, Utah. Bill's wife Keri said "even though it was grueling cold weather and rain, Bill's team took the silver award, 2<sup>nd</sup> place." It was one of the best games she'd ever seen, with an overtime inning score of 23-25.*

*Liz Warner's step-granddaughter Karrina Ferris won the Miss Nevada contest in 2024 and will be competing in the 2025 Miss America Competition December 31<sup>st</sup>–January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025. This will be the first time I've watched the pageant since Bob Barker retired.*

Our next luncheon will be in April, 2025. Join us! All are welcome! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

## NEW JERSEY

**Nancy Paolini, ARCSE Representative**

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



*In December 2024 retirees were invited to attend the NJ NRCS Holiday Party. Pictured are Nancy Paolini, Christopher Smith, Barbara Phillips and Ken Taaffe. The event was covered dish with plenty of delicious items, and it was very nice re-connecting with current employees and retirees.*



*Barbara Osgood has written her second book, [Diary of a Cranky Old Feminist](#). It is available on [Amazon](#). If you missed her first book, [84 Paws, A Life with Old Labs](#) that is also on [Amazon](#)*

## OKLAHOMA

**Randy Freeland, ARCSE Representative**

Email: [freelandrandy50@gmail.com](mailto:freelandrandy50@gmail.com)

The Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees met at the Golden Corral Buffet Restaurant in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on October 24, 2024. Nineteen people were in attendance. They were **Greg Allen, Laurie Bogle, Fred Fortney, Bonnie and Randy Freeland** (and guests **Wilene Jones and Claudia Mornhinweg**), **Harry Fritzler, Sandra and Terry Hough, David McKay, Kevin Norton, Gary O'Neill, Brent Reavis, J. Kirk Schreiner, Terry and Jim Smith, Ed Stinchcomb, and Andy Tucker**.



Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees meeting, October 2024

President **Ed Stinchcomb** called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. **Fred Fortney** provided the blessing for the meal.

**Greg Allen** was introduced as a first-time attendee. He retired as the District Conservationist at Cheyenne on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. He expanded his guide service after retirement and operates a hunting business called "Bend of the River Outfitters." He also established a non-profit group to provide hunting and fishing experiences for handicapped and terminally ill youth. They provide three opportunities each year to hunt deer and turkeys and to fish. The local Methodist Church in Cheyenne provides support to the youth attending. That group is called "Unlimited Outdoor Adventures Foundation." He also provides leadership for a couple of Prescribed Burn Organizations (Oklahoma Prescribed Burn Association and Roger Mills Prescribed Burn Association).

Another first-time attendee, **Claudia Mornhinweg**, told the group about Steve's experiences and the places they lived while he worked with SCS/NRCS.



Greg Allen and Laurie Bogle



Randy and Bonnie Freeland, Wilene Jones, and Claudia Mornhinweg

Secretary-Treasurer **Sandra Hough** read the list of those retiring since April 2024: **Rusty Peterson**, Resource Specialist, Central Zone (North), 5/31/24, 32 yrs 7 mo. service; **Dean Collyar**, Soil Conservation Technician, Pawhuska, 5/31/24, 32+ yrs service; **Scott Pace**, DC, Team 21 (Antlers, Hugo, Idabel), 6/30/24, 37 yrs service; **Jami McVeigh**, Resource Conservationist, Tishomingo, 6/21/24.

Sandra also read the list of known retirees who have passed since April 2024: **Robert Maples**, 92, retired DC, Chandler, retired in 1988, 38 yrs service, died 5/16/24; **Bobby Cline**, 71, retired DC, Sulphur, lived in Davis, died 5/19/24; **Scottie Vanderwork**, 62, retired SCT, Taloga, 10 yrs service, died 5/23/24; **Steve Barner**, 64, retired at Eufaula, worked with Wetlands, 34 yrs service, died 6/1/24; **Orville Dean Cook**, 84, retired Project Engineer Perry/Stillwater Watershed Office, retired in 2010, 46 yrs service, died 6/17/24; **Patti Christian**, retired McClain Co. CD District Manager, retired 2010, 32 yrs service, died 6/25/24; **Dale Stidham**, 80, former DC, Waurika, left before 1983 for Woodward to farm and ranch, lived in Sharon, died 7/15/24; **Becca Dominick Lamoreaux**, 36, worked for NRCS in New Mexico and Ohio, lived in Utah, became disabled in her 20s, daughter of **Darrel and Gwyn Dominick**, husband **Dustin** works for NRCS in Utah, died 7/26/24; **A.J. Bristow**, 88, McAlester, Pittsburg CCD Director, 14 yrs service, died 7/26/24; **Leota Burnett**, retired SCT, Miami, retired in 2014, died 8/22/24; **James Holkum**, 90, retired SCT, Ada, died 8/26/24; **Earl Webb**, 71, retired Watershed Construction Inspector, Perry, retired in 2006, 18 yrs service, died 9/17/24; **Joyce Mills**, 93, retired District Secretary, Arbuckle CD, Ardmore, retired at age 85, 37 yrs service, died 9/17/24; **Cord Colwell**, 56, DC, Team 15 (Pryor) died 9/25/24; and **Don Qualls**, 89, former Watershed Inspector at the Okmulgee Watershed Office, retired 4/1/1999, 31 yrs service, died 10/2/2024. A moment of silence was observed in their memory.

**Earl Weisner** and **Duane Crider** were also mentioned as retirees dealing with health issues and not able to attend our meeting.

**Randy Freeland** asked the new retiree in attendance to complete an information sheet and other retirees to provide their retirement activities (i.e. volunteer work, travel, part-time work, activities, etc.). This information is used for the Oklahoma Retired SCS/NRCS Employees Association Newsletter. Many retirees have expressed their appreciation for the information presented on the website [www.joepad.com](http://www.joepad.com). When they are not able to attend the meetings, the website provides pictures, list of attendees, etc.



**Sandra and Terry Hough**



**Gary O'Neill, Brent Reavis, and Andy Tucker**

It is time to renew membership in the Oklahoma Conservation Historical Society. Our retiree group has been a member since the start of this endeavor. The \$50 Organization membership will be sent to **Larry Caldwell** per the 2024 Membership Form which was distributed at the April 2024 retiree meeting. Work is nearing completion with the Oklahoma Historical Society on a conservation photo collection available to the public on the OHS Gateway to Oklahoma History website. There will be 12 to 15 thousand photos in the collection when completed. A grant has been secured from the Oklahoma Historical Society to create a traveling photo exhibit of Oklahoma's conservation history. There will be ten panels and will primarily use the conservation photos from the collection to tell the story. The exhibit will be completed the first of the year. It will be available to conservation districts to use for events or to set up in local museums.

Oral histories which were gathered can be accessed at: <https://library.okstate.edu/digital/>. Several conservationists who have provided oral histories are now deceased emphasizing the need to obtain as many as possible before it is too late. The photos may be accessed at: <http://gateway.okhistory.org/explore/collections/OKCHS>. The website can be accessed at: <https://www.oklahomaconservationhistory.org>.

**Randy Freeland** shared with the group replies he received to the email announcing this meeting: **Mark Maples** said he had a conflict with school board training scheduled and two other appointments for the same day as our meeting; **Chris Stoner** had a conflict but asked that we please keep him on the list; **Jamey Wood** had a conflict with the State Volleyball Tournament he helps officiate; **Carolyn Webb** has grandkids in to celebrate her 85<sup>th</sup> birthday on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, but she shared the following. "I volunteer as a docent at Bristow's Historical Society at our Depot, take Tai Chi and Yoga so I stay busy. Also active in Friends of the Library. I ran the 5K again in May and only took 3<sup>rd</sup> place. I'm at the top of the age division so a couple of young lady yahoos beat me. I'll be ready for them next year." Carolyn finished with..."At this time in my life I appreciate the coworkers and other USDA people more than I did when I was younger. So please send everyone a big hello from me and peace and love to all."

**Ron Hilliard** sent pictures of a trip to the Albuquerque Balloon Festival. He added the following: "Edith and I have just returned from the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta. The event was from October 5–13 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 his wife **Susan**. The Voyager balloon is approximately 95,000 cubic feet and can carry 3 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. This was a Bucket List item for us".

**Rusty Peterson** replied "I have enjoyed retirement and stay plenty busy. I retired May 31<sup>st</sup> and have not missed going into the office. It was a great career and great people but the new day to day schedule is great. I have worked at my mother-in-law's farm doing minor home repairs, plumbing, tank repair, maintenance on machinery... similar things at home, a repair on a bathroom sink turned into a full bathroom remodel. I have gone through some things in my barn and cleaned up some clutter. Sounds like work. Both **D'Ann** and I have had doctor appointments and keep up with our health. **D'Ann** and I have traveled a little. We went to Monte Vista and Durango Colorado. And rode the train to Silverton and went to Mesa Verdi. Then, we traveled to Arkansas and spent a few days in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. I enjoyed a bonus deer hunt and harvested a couple of does the second week of October. Early in the summer I did a little fishing in my kayak. So, we are looking forward to the holidays spending time with family."



**Terry and Jim Smith and Kirk Schreiner**



**Harry Fritzler, David McKay, and Kevin Norton**

**Denise Brown Turner** now lives in Missouri but hopes to come back some day for an Oklahoma Retiree Meeting; **Becka Redding** had a conflict with the Friends of the Library Committee she is on in Yale, Oklahoma; **Don Bartolina** missed due to a doctor's appointment, and **Phil Perryman** had a conflict with an appointment with a veterinarian the morning of the meeting.

An email was sent out October 23<sup>rd</sup> to all on Randy's group email list concerning **Duane** and **Jan Crider**'s move to Washington State. They will be about 20 minutes from their son and in an enhanced assisted living place that can better address Duane's needs. Anyone wishing to send them a letter or card can address it to: Jan and Duane Crider, 4015 164<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Lynnwood, WA 98037.

Here is a little more information about retirees that attended the meeting: **Jim Smith** said he still attends OSU football and basketball games. In June, he and **Terry** took a trip to the Grand Canyon North Rim and saw all of the National Parks in Southern Utah. Another National Park "chaser" **Laurie Bogle**, finished Texas, South, and North Carolina recently. Her daughter and son-in-law are now home-owners and live four blocks from her in Cheyenne, OK.

**Fred Fortney** retired in 1984 as Assistant State Conservationist in Oklahoma. He says he had a wonderful career of 37 1/2 years and has enjoyed 30 years of retirement. He lost his wife of 65 years to breast cancer in 2023. Fred enjoys good health and is active by serving as Associate Director on the Payne County Conservation District Board, participating in activities at the First United Methodist church, gardening, and keeping his yard looking good. He and his oldest son recently took an 8-day tour of the Hawaiian Islands.

**Harry Fritzler** still works with prescribed burning activities, as time allows, with the Oklahoma Prescribed Burn Association. He and his wife are doing a lot of traveling. Since last October, they have been to Europe and a river cruise enjoying the Christmas Markets. Also, to Alaska, Australia (recommend to everyone), the Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque, and playing with the Jeep on rock trails in Colorado and Utah. They mixed in a few other minor trips. He still helps out with the National Range Judging Contest.

Please feel free to send something similar to those above that can be used in the April 2025 Newsletter. Do it now before you forget! Send it to [randy.freeland@suddenlink.net](mailto:randy.freeland@suddenlink.net)

The group briefly discussed the change in day of the week for meetings from Fridays to Thursdays. Golden Corral will not accommodate us on Fridays as their business has greatly increased on that day of the week. Thursday was chosen for this meeting and we will continue on that day of the week, twice a year.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at the Golden Corral on MacArthur Boulevard in Oklahoma City. Be sure to put the date on your calendar. The Golden Corral opens at 10:30am, so there is extra time for visiting before the meeting starts at 11:30am.

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## OREGON

**Don Stettler, ARCSE Representative**

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

The Oregon Cascades have had an early snowfall this fall. On November 15<sup>th</sup>, skiers celebrated the earliest ski season opening in fifteen years at Mt. Hood Meadows.

**Thor Thorson**, who has been in Oregon since 1980, is planning to move to the Sacramento, California area at the end of January. Moving there is something his wife has wanted to do for some time. Most certainly it is a California gain and an Oregon loss.

**Jon Lea** has mostly been doing yard chores, such as cleaning up downed wood from last winter's snow and wind. While Jon is doing that, **Jolyne Lea** has been enjoying some Irish music livestream event from around the world. In doing this she has developed a circle of friends. She also made some trips to Newark, NJ and Orlando, FL for American Kennel Club quarterly meetings as a delegate from the Vancouver Kennel Club. Jolyne is also involved in planning the Western Snow Conference that will be held in Bozeman, MT next May. They also made a trip to Carson City, NV to attend the memorial service for Jon's longtime school friend and best man. Jon and Jolyne have been enjoying more visits from their daughter **Rowyn** and her husband, now that they live in Bothell, WA.

**Frank Reckendorf** pondered the question that many of us have, who have lived years beyond our life expectancy – why are we still alive, while others who were born about the same time aren't? This is what Frank wrote: "We have no way of knowing what is keeping some of us alive. Modern medicine is certainly a factor and works with our genetic background. We cannot change our genetics, but we can change our life style to make each day easier or harder. In my situation I know at ninety, I must give up traveling. I certainly enjoyed my travels to over forty countries. I feel fortunate to have survived four near death experiences, and maybe God is just not ready for me. At ninety I will still try to contribute to family, friends, and society. The one area I know that I can still contribute is in writing. I am one of the fortunate ones that does not suffer from declining mental health, and the fact that I can be absent-minded does not bother me, as I have always been absent-minded. At our advanced age we need to ask family, friends and hired help for what we need. I have been through the process of trying to get my finances into trusts to reduce the inheritance for my children. I hope I have made the right decision. Take care of yourselves."

The Oregon retiree winter quarter lunch is planned for January 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Elmer's on NE 181<sup>st</sup> Avenue just off I-84. Watch your email for details.

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## TENNESSEE

**Dana Ensor, ARCSE Representative**

**Email:** [dyork818@yahoo.com](mailto:dyork818@yahoo.com)

The Retirees met at the Shoney's in Lebanon on 12/12/2024. In attendance were: **Jim Lansford, Kevin Brown, Bobby Moore, James Sims, Allen Crowe, Terry Gupton, Gary Handley, Patty Lane, Debbie Brasfield, Shirley Childs, and Traci Horne.**



Those who were unable to attend but shared an update: **Anna and Jack Chidester** had an appointment with a computer technician and were unable to attend. She said to tell everyone "Hi". **Dana York Ensor** was in a car accident with a deer in August. She has had a long road to recovery, and just recently had surgery on her back where her L1 vertebrae had been crushed. She is out of pain finally and wanted to say "Hello" to all. **Sharon Englett** was unable to attend as her church was in Atlanta working with Operation Christmas Child.

**Pam Hoskins** had planned to attend, but her daughter is pregnant and due any time now.

**Donald Dotson** had a scheduling conflict and was unable to attend.

**James Creasy** had planned to attend, but he caught a virus from his grandkids and is feeling unwell, and didn't want to give us all an early "Christmas present." He said to tell everyone hello also.

**Debbie Brasfield** is still working with ACES, doing soil judging, babysitting and staying busy. Her daughter in law just graduated from nurse anesthetist school! **Gary Handley** has had some surgeries this year but is doing well. His oldest grandson graduated from community college AND high school at the same time. He is now at Tennessee Tech University studying to become an engineer. Gary has been travelling all over purchasing antique gas pumps for his garage. He's really racking up the miles on his truck, hoping to justify the purchase of a new one.

**Traci Horne** is planning to fly to Tampa in about a week for a 10-day visit with family and to cook the Christmas meal. She just returned from Tampa last month after a week-long visit. Her dad has Alzheimer's. She enjoyed a trip to Oxford and Laurel, Mississippi with **Faye Floyd and Patty Lane**.

**Patty Lane** is enjoying her retirement along with her grandchildren and now a great grandchild! She enjoyed the trip to Mississippi with Faye and Traci. **Shirley Childs** is grateful to be here and is very blessed. She also shared that **Laura Lee** has been having some health issues and falls lately. She said that Laura said to tell everyone Hello and Merry Christmas.

**Jim Lansford** lives in Cookeville by way of several homes across the state during his career. He retired 20 years ago. He has 2 grandsons aged 17 and 14 who he enjoys spending time with. **Kevin Brown** turned 72 yesterday. He enjoys gardening, soil health work, and staying busy. He had the whole family in for Thanksgiving. He also shared that **Brad Denton** has issues with kidney stones and became very ill due to a severe infection. He has bounced back and is hoping for a clean bill of health on his next doctor visit.

**Bobby Moore** left Tennessee 34 years ago, then retired 30 years ago. His wife has been in the hospital a couple of times recently and is currently in rehab. He asked for prayers for her. **Allen Crowe** missed out last meeting because his grandson got married in California at a big ranch/barn venue near San Luis Obispo. It was a great trip. His grandson and wife are living in Maryville, TN.

**Terry Gupton** has been retired for 20 years this year. He still enjoys cattle farming and has a pretty large operation. He sells beef and breeding stock. His wife was a nurse and is still working, but she is now teaching nursing. He has 6 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. He had 2 field days at his farm this year.

**James Sims** is still working as an ACES employee, with projects including the Waverly flood (working with Corps of Engineers who designed a structure to the tune of 29–50 million dollars.) He is working on Jamestown and Oneida water supplies, as well as flood control in Selmer. He also went to New Orleans recently and went to the World War II museum. He also mentioned visiting with **Bill Anderson**, a former SCS West Tennessee engineer. Mr Anderson is still healthy and doing well.

Our next meeting will be on March 20, 2025. It will be in middle Tennessee, most likely at the Shoney's in Lebanon. Merry Christmas and best wishes to all of you!

–Traci

## TEXAS NORTH

**Mike Bogard, ARCSE Representative**

Email: [mbogard41@gmail.com](mailto:mbogard41@gmail.com)

Ron Hilliard wrote: **Edith** and I just returned from a 7-day cruise in the Caribbean, visiting Jamaica, Grand Cayman, and Cozumel Mexico. It's not our anniversary, but we did this same cruise on our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary – our first cruise ever – 32 years ago, and this just happened to be our 32<sup>nd</sup> cruise on Princess Cruises. Very relaxing, restful week in the Caribbean.

Our Christmas get together with the sons, daughter-in-laws, and four granddaughters was in North Zulch, near Bryan, TX, at our oldest son's home. Our next activity will begin in February till mid-March when we relocate to Houston, TX in our RV, to volunteer on the Ranching and Livestock Committee at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Hope all had a Merry Christmas and wishing all Happy New Year. - Ron and Edith Hilliard.

## WEST VIRGINIA

**Peg Reese, ARCSE Representative**

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

The WV Legislature allocated \$10 million for the WVDA Drought Recovery Program. Funds can be used for pasture restoration, water development, and other drought related practices. In mid-November, 99% of WV was in drought, with nearly 30% experiencing severe or exceptional drought. Farmers must enroll through their conservation district by January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

The WV Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame is accepting 2025 applications until February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Application forms can be found at <https://agriculture.wv.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2024-AFHOF-Nomination-Form.pdf>.

Happy New Year!

## WISCONSIN

**Deb LeGear, ARCSE Representative**

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



**Julie MacSwain:** "Giving back in retirement is my number one go to item on my bucket list. On Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, I led a Thrivent Action Team event at Our Neighbors' Place in River Falls, Wisconsin. The team and I purchased goods that are helpful to victims of domestic violence and the homeless. Participating in this type of activity really fills my heart."

**Grand Portage Falls in Grand Portage, Minnesota on the border of Ontario, Canada**

Submitted by Deb LeGear

A childhood friend, **Jane**, visited from Chicago, Illinois in October. I suggested she pack her passport for a three-day excursion to see a bit of Minnesota along the shore of Lake Superior and into Ontario, Canada. So off we went to see a lighthouse, waterfalls, and the Glensheen mansion, with a stop at Betty's Pies for a meal and pie for dessert. We made stops in Duluth, Two Harbors, Grand Portage, Minnesota as well as Thunder Bay and Kakabeka Falls, Ontario, Canada. If anyone needs a scenic drive that is relaxing, I suggest driving North on MN-61 along the shore of Lake Superior. Many parks and outlook points along the shore to enjoy. September and October will provide a wonderful view of the autumn colors.



**Glensheen Mansion in Duluth, Minnesota.** NOTE: Free App to download to take a virtual tour of the mansion.



(L-R) Jane Hermle and Deb LeGear at Kakabeka Falls Provincial Park in Ontario Canada also nicknamed the Niagara Falls of the North.



**Breakfast room in the Glensheen Mansion located in Duluth, Minnesota on the shore of Lake Superior. The glass and furnishings are outstanding, and this is my favorite room.**



**Split Rock Lighthouse in Two Harbors, Minnesota**



**Gooseberry Falls in Two Harbors, Minnesota**

## **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.

## SENIOR CONSERVATIONIST CHRONICLE

### Senior Conservationist

**Kenneth E. Benham**

**Kenneth E. Benham** was born 10/04/1941 in Cedar County, Missouri. He earned his B.S. in Soils in 1965 at the University of Missouri, and his M.S. in Agronomy in 1970. He grew up on a dairy/general farm. He started out with SCS as a Soil Scientist trainee in 1963 and 1964. He was a Soil Scientist party member from 06/03/65 to 02/02/75; and a Soil Scientist Party Leader from 02/02/75 to 01/02/99. He earned Certificates of Merit in 1970 and 1989. He also received a Certificate of Appreciation in 2009 for mapping over one million acres. He mapped soils part time for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources from Nov. 2000 to Apr. 2001. He retired on 01/02/99 as a Soil Scientist in Ava, MO.

Ken says that his health is relatively good, especially when he is sitting in a tractor seat. He says "I have traveled in 50 states and eight foreign countries. I was part of a group that rafted through the Grand Canyon and on the Salmon River in Idaho. I was also part of a group that hiked through the Grampian Mountains in Scotland, and I climbed Ben Nevis, the tallest mountain in the British Isles at 4,409 feet."

Kenneth's contact information is 5023 W. 20<sup>th</sup> St., Joplin, MO 64804. 417-626-8695, kbenn@att.net.

## OBITUARY INFORMATION

**Paul Benedict, Membership Chair**

When you receive word of someone passing, with little other information provided to you, obituaries can often be found by doing an advanced search using Google, using the full name of the deceased. If you do not have access to the internet, Paul Benedict will be glad to do the search. PLEASE SEND DEATH NOTICES AND OBITUARY INFORMATION DIRECTLY TO PAUL BENEDICT AT [soilwarden@verizon.net](mailto:soilwarden@verizon.net). Always include the position or the spouse's position with SCS/NRCS.

Surname	Year	<i>In-Memoriam</i> (Note: These are recent notices. For a complete list, please see <a href="https://www.arcse.org">www.arcse.org</a> )
Collins	2024	<b>Ralph Lester Collins</b> (76) of Higginsville, Missouri, passed away on December 15, 2024, at his home. Ralph was born on July 5, 1948, in Mayview, Missouri, the son of John William Collins and Ethel LaVerne (Turner) Collins. After attending two semesters of college, he started a long-standing career as a Soil Conservation Technician for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. He retired in 2008. Ralph was a dedicated and devoted member of Zion A.M.E church in Mayview, where he was named the church Man of the Year 2014-15. Ralph was also very devoted to his family and active in his community where he served as a member of the Jaycee organization for many years, as well as a school board member for the Lafayette Co C-1 school district. His survivors include his wife of 36 years, Linda Collins of the home; children, Ange Collins, LaShawn (Wade) Miller, Dawn (late Andre) Harrison, Iesha (Isaac) James and Cheri (Ricky) McDaniel; grandchildren Destanee, Daitrien, Cierra, Cirron, Paige, Natasha, Shantel; and four great-grandchildren.
Conner	2024	<b>Cecil C. Conner</b> (86) of Kinston, North Carolina, passed away peacefully on November 30, 2024, at his home surrounded by his beloved wife and family. Cecil was born August 7, 1938, the son of Rodolph and Lettie C. Conner. He retired from the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, where he worked as an Engineering Technician, spending much of his career on the watershed projects of Lenoir and Duplin counties in North Carolina. Cecil loved music, particularly the soulful songs of his youth and Carolina Beach Music. He enjoyed dancing, especially when he heard the smooth rhythm of "Brenda" or the great beat of "Love Train". While quiet by nature, he possessed a quick wit and created many good laughs with his phrases and replies; even in his last days he gifted his family with many smiles, great laughs, and enduring memories. He is survived by his cherished wife of 58 years, Connie Chase Conner; son, Brian A. Conner and significant other, Eileen of Kinston; daughter, Tanya Conner Tyson (Jody) of Snow Hill, North Carolina; granddaughters, Conner C. Harrison (Parker) and Riley Anne Craft.
Dietz	2024	<b>Anita M. Dietz</b> (94) of Topeka, Kansas, passed away peacefully on November 10, 2024. Anita was the wife of ARCE Honorary Member <b>Harlan E. Dietz</b> , retired National Range Conservationist for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. Anita was born March 28, 1930, in Pratt, Kansas, the daughter of George and Vera Shultz Morris.

		<p>She attended Pratt Junior College. Anita married Harland Dietz on June 17, 1951, in Pratt. She worked for the Kansas Forestry Fish and Game Department in Pratt, the Kansas Power and Light in Salina, and Houston General Insurance in Fort Worth, Texas. Anita was a people person and made many lifelong friends through her job, playing bridge, and as an active member of the First Christian Church Disciples of Christ. Anita is survived by her husband of 73 years, Harland; children, Sheryl Morris of Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Brad Dietz (Marlene) of Topeka; four grandchildren; and three great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her son-in-law, Don Morris.</p>
Ford	2021	<p><b>Charles Bradford Ford, Jr.</b>, (89) of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, passed away on May 20, 2021. He was born on November 11, 1931. Charles retired from the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, where he was an Information Specialist (Photographer) at the Northeast National Technology Center. He was the beloved husband of the late Barbara Kay Ford (nee Dorsey), who passed away in 2019. He is survived by his children Pamela (LeRoy) and Charles III; grandchildren Cameron, Brandon, ChiAyrsh (Matthew), Briana and CaiAynh. A Memorial Service was held June 5, 2021, at the Chapel of the Good Shepherd located at 654 Church Lane, Yeadon, Pennsylvania.</p>
Gery	2024	<p><b>Marsha Gery</b> (76) of Galena, Illinois, passed away November 29, 2024, after a battle with cancer. At her request an obituary was not published. Marsha worked for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service as a public affairs specialist in Hawaii and California. She retired in 2003 after her husband, Dave, who also worked for NRCS, passed away.</p>
Gibbens	2024	<p><b>Robert Ray Gibbens, Jr.</b> (60) of Fredericksburg, Texas (formally of Karnes City, Texas) passed away April 29, 2024, with his family by his side. Robert was born in Uvalde, Texas on July 20, 1963, to Bobby and Laquita Gibbens. He attended Texas A&amp;M University where he earned a degree in Range Management in 1986. He married his favorite dance partner and love of his life, Shelley on July 6, 1991. Soon after graduating he began working for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. Throughout his career he served in field offices located in Spur, Tahoka, Floresville, Tilden and Kenedy, Texas. Upon his retirement after 33 years of service in 2019, it was noted that the land and water was in better health because of his service, and he received appreciation for his many years of support and partnership with the San Antonio River Authority. Robert was a member of the Karnes City Volunteer Fire Department where he helped countless people in his community. He was a faithful member of St. Paul Lutheran Church while living in Karnes City. Upon moving to Fredericksburg, he joined Bethany Lutheran Church and was a man of great faith and integrity. Robert was a friend to all and never met a stranger. He is survived by his loving and devoted wife, Shelley; daughters Jessie Kate Gibbens of Fredericksburg, Meg Barrett (Regina) of New Braunfels, Texas, Lacey Barrett Clemens (Andrew) of Converse, Texas; and three grandchildren Brynley Bennett, Kolten Bennett, and Kohen Mills.</p>
Gockowski	2024	<p><b>Marie (Stifter) Gockowski</b> (98) of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, passed away peacefully in her home on March 28, 2024, surrounded by her family. She was the loving wife of the late <b>Jerome "Jerry" Gockowski</b>, who retired from the National Office of the USDA-Soil Conservation Service as Director of Cartographic and Remote Sensing in November 1980. They shared 54 years of marriage. Marie was born on May 4, 1925 to the late Eugene and Angela (Fasching) Stifter. She moved to Minneapolis, where she worked as a secretary for several years. Then she moved to Seattle, Washington in her 20s to work at a television station. She returned to Minnesota to marry the love of her life, Jerome, and start a family. Marie and Jerome eventually moved to the Washington, D.C., area where she took on her most fulfilling and challenging job: successfully raising six children. In 1976, Marie rejoined the workforce as an editorial assistant for the USDA. Marie and Jerome built and retired to their lakefront dream home in Gettysburg in 1987. Several years after her husband's passing, Marie moved to her townhouse near downtown Gettysburg, where she lived independently until her passing. Marie, an active and devoted member of the St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church. She is survived by her six children, Carol Rentz of Fairfax, Virginia, James (Suzanne) Gockowski of Gettysburg, Mary Burchette of Coralville, Iowa, Tom (Nancy) Gockowski of Chalfont, Pennsylvania, Nancy (Steve) Putman of Grantsville, Maryland and Jean (Geoff) Dubey of Westchester, New York; two sisters, Sister Corina Stifter and Gladys Hintz; one brother, Gerard Stifter; as well as 12 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.</p>
Graham	2024	<p><b>Anne Claire Moseley Graham</b> (97) of Meansville, Georgia, passed away on December 12, 2024. She was born on November 18, 1927. Anne was the wife of the retired USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS) District Conservationist the late <b>Guy Elton Graham</b>, who passed away in 1996. She attended North Georgia College (University of North Georgia) in Dahlonega, Georgia and the University of Georgia (UGA) in Athens, Georgia. At UGA she met Guy. During Guy's career with SCS, Guy and Anne lived in Eastman, Broxton, and Thomaston, before making the final move to Meansville. Anne was a devoted homemaker, taking care of Guy and their two daughters, while spending time serving her church and helping neighbors and friends. She was known as "Mama" to many of the youth. She taught Sunday School, Girls in Action and Training Union at Meansville Baptist Church. She was a substitute teacher at Meansville Elementary. In 1960, Anne represented Pike County in the Miss Georgia Contest. She is survived by her daughters, Monica Jacobs and Annice Page, (Burn), grandsons, Lee and Wes Jacobs, Justin and Brandon Page, nephews Wendell and Tony Moseley and five great grandchildren.</p>
Green	2024	<p><b>Preston Leon Green</b> (86) of Wilburton, Oklahoma, passed away peacefully on September 30, 2024, at his home. Preston was born on December 11, 1937, in Wister, Oklahoma. He worked as a Soil Conservation Technician for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service for 35 years. In his younger years, he and the family spent numerous weekends either on Spring Creek Lake or Long Creek Lake, boating, boarding and water skiing. The number of horseshoe games and tournaments Preston participated in is beyond measure. Preston was known for his love of the great outdoors with his family and passed on his love for these simple pleasures of life to the next generation of his family. Preston found a new passion for building several cabins all down the Compton Hollar railroad tracks. Preston is survived by his Wife: Kay Green, of the home; Daughters, Regina Pope (Wayne) of LeFlore, Oklahoma, and Tina Judkins (Phillip) of Bengal, Oklahoma; 6 Grandchildren: Josh Pope of LeFlore, Oklahoma, Brandi Smith of Prescott, Arizona, Kayla Rees of Bokoshe, Oklahoma, Chance Judkins of Tuskahoma, Oklahoma, Parker Judkins of Bengal, Oklahoma, and Kenzie Pope of LeFlore, Oklahoma; and 15 Great Grandchildren. Funeral services were held October 2, 2024, at the Bengal Community Building in Bengal, Oklahoma.</p>
Haakenstad	2024	<p><b>Timothy George Haakenstad</b> (64) of Lincoln, Nebraska, passed away on October 29, 2024, at his home in Lincoln after suffering a stroke. Tim was born on June 8, 1960, in Albion, Nebraska, to Sydney H. Haakenstad and Bonnie M. (Schroeder) Haakenstad. He attended the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the College of Engineering and Technology. He had a lengthy career that began as a Civil Engineer in 1980 with the USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) for offices in many areas of</p>

		Nebraska. He later became the Assistant State Conservation Engineer in Lincoln from 1998 to 2007 and was the State Conservation Engineer in Lincoln from 2007 to 2015, when he retired from NRCS. After his retirement, he worked part time in the private sector as a civil engineer. Tim married Kiki Nick on January 12, 1990, in Omaha, Nebraska. Timothy had a passion for classic cars; his first vehicle was a restored 1956 Chevy. He loved attending classic car shows and frequently visited swap meets. He loved to listen to blues music. Additionally, he enjoyed drawing and spending time with his family and friends. Tim's father Sydney Haakenstad was also an engineer for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. He is survived by his wife Kiki, daughters Ellana, Alexandra, Victoria and son Sam.
Haakenstad	2013	<b>Sydney H. Haakenstad</b> (91) of Norfolk, Nebraska passed away July 23, 2013, at Faith Regional Health Services. Sydney was born May 29, 1922, on a farm near Souris, North Dakota, to Sivert and Anne (Hanson) Haakenstad. He joined the United States Army Air Corps on November 20, 1942, and served overseas in the China, Burma, India war theater and was discharged on Jan. 29, 1946. Sydney graduated from North Dakota State University in Fargo, North Dakota in 1952 with a degree in agricultural engineering. After graduation he went to work for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service on the Salt, Wahoo and Brownell Creek pilot watershed projects, headquartered at Lincoln, Nebraska. He was transferred to Albion, Nebraska in 1956 as area engineer and relocated to Norfolk in 1972. Some of the projects he worked on as area engineer were the Farwell Irrigation Project in Sherman and Howard Counties, Aowa Creek Watershed Project, Skyview Lake (Corporation Gulch Flood Control Project), Maskenthine, Tekamah Mud Watershed Project, Willow Creek in Pierce and many others. He retired from the Soil Conservation Service in 1984 after more than 30 years of federal service. He was married to Bonnie Schroeder in 1958 in Laurel, Nebraska. He was a member of United Methodist Church, Norfolk, and a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion and Albion Masonic Lodge.
Harryman	2024	<b>Doris Irene (Meservey) Harryman</b> (85) of Bethany, Missouri, passed away peacefully in her sleep at her home on December 2, 2024. She was the wife of retired USDA-Soil Conservation Service employee Robert L. Harryman. Doris was born September 7, 1939. She graduated from the University of Missouri - Columbia with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1961. Doris and Harry married on June 16, 1962. During her lifetime, Doris worked for the University of Missouri Medical Center, Barton County Hospital, Missouri Southern University School of Nursing, Crestview Nursing Home, and the Harrison County Health Department. Doris is survived by her husband Bob of 62 years; children, Tamara May "Tammy" (Tom) Pettijohn, Marsha Lee (Russ) Casebeer, and Robert Warren "Rob" (Melanie) Harryman; 5 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.
Haynes	2024	<b>Jon Douglas "Doug" Haynes</b> (63) of Stockport, Iowa, passed away on November 15, 2024. Doug was born on October 20, 1961, in Laramie, Wyoming, to John Henry Jr. and Carole Jean (Troutman) Haynes. He attended Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, obtaining a degree in natural science. His love for the land and nature led him to a fulfilling career as a Soil Conservation Technician with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, working out of the Keosauqua, Iowa office. He worked there from April 1983 until his retirement in December of 2022. On December 29, 1984, Doug married his soulmate, Tina Amanda Twiss, in a beautiful ceremony at the Bonaparte Baptist Church. Doug's retirement years were spent working as a substitute mail carrier and contributing his time at the Fairfield Recreation Center, he currently was working as a contract employee through MEC Energy. His commitment to the outdoors was evident through his long-standing role as the caretaker at Morris Park outside of Stockport, a position he held since April 1989. Doug enjoyed trains and playing. Survivors include his two sons, Spencer and Bryce Haynes of Stockport; his daughter, Danielle Akron (Stewart) of Muscatine, Iowa; and his seven grandchildren, Allison, Elizabeth, Mollie, Rowan, Riddick, Rilea, and Lilly. Doug was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Tina.
Heller	2024	<b>Edward Henry Heller</b> (87) of LaGrange, Missouri, passed peacefully as he slept on December 13, 2024, in the home of his daughter, Cindy Young in Columbia, Missouri. Ed was born on May 26, 1937, in a Nebraska farming community, and was raised in Clatonia, Nebraska. After graduating the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Ed took a position with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, and moved his family, first to Higginsville, Missouri. He later took a position in LaGrange, Missouri where he invested his life into his family and his community for more than 60 years with his wife Carol and three children. Ed loved sports, especially basketball officiating that he did for over 30 years, including 5,150 official games, 11 state tournaments, and countless regional tournaments. He also served as a Baseball/Softball Umpire. In addition to SCS, he also worked for Bergman's Nurseries, was Head Coach for Culver Stockton Softball; and worked for Terrible's Casinos. He coached Team USA softball (NAIA) in both Europe and Australia, undefeated in Europe and Australia. He was inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame by a unanimous vote in 2006, the only inductee ever to enter HOF as an official (referee). Ed is survived by three children, Cindy (Bruce) Young of Columbia, Missouri, Chris (Rose) Heller of Fort Smith, Arkansas, and Joe (Jackie) Heller of St. Louis, Missouri; 11 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. He was preceded in passing by his wife, Carol Heller.
Hill	2024	<b>Jimmy Wayne Hill</b> (85) of Stillwater, Oklahoma, passed away on December 6, 2024. Jimmy was born on January 4, 1939, in Antlers, Oklahoma. He enrolled at Oklahoma State University at the age of 16 where he earned a degree in Civil Engineering and was a member of the Flying Aggies. His first job took him to western Oklahoma where he met his loving wife of 63 years, Jo Ann Peters Hill. He spent over three decades working as an engineer with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service working to improve, protect and conserve natural resources. In retirement he continued with his various land development projects and provided engineering and land survey services to others. He was active in his local church, community, Gideons International, and will be remembered for his faith, integrity, kindness, generosity, and a lifetime of helping others. He is survived by his wife, Jo Anne, children John (Fidela) of Scottsdale, Arizona and Julie (Steve) Raney of Edmond, Oklahoma, grandchildren Allie (Cooper) Nichols of Wichita, Kansas and Dr. Austin Raney of Memphis, Tennessee, great-grandchildren Clark and Raney Nichols, as well as many friends and extended family members who will miss him dearly. Services were held December 20, 2024 at Sunnybrook Christian Church of Stillwater.
Hillebrand	2024	<b>Francis (Frank) Joseph Hillebrand</b> (72) of Clayton, Kansas, passed away peacefully December 12, 2024, at the Norton County Hospital in Norton, Kansas. Frank was born August 15, 1952, in Norton, Kansas to Joseph L. and Hannah "Olene" (Brooks) Hillebrand. He was drafted into the United States Army on June 5, 1972. He completed basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He was then trained as a 64 C 20 Light Vehicle Driver at Fort Myer, Virginia and assigned to the U.S. Pentagon Motorpool as a staff car driver in Washington D.C. As a staff driver, he drove many high-ranking officers around D.C. for meetings and fact-finding tours. He was most proud to drive the returning Vietnam POWs and hear their very interesting stories. He was honorably discharged June 4, 1975, with the rank Specialist 5. Once he fulfilled his commitment, he returned to the family farm northeast of Clayton. Frank married Susan N. LeBeau on October 16, 1982, in Norton, Kansas. He found great joy in all aspects of farming. In addition to the farm, Frank worked with area

		<p>farmers and landowners in Norton County. He assisted in the planning and implementation of conservation practices as a Soil Conservation Technician with USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) in Norton from 1984 to 2011 when he retired to spend more time on the farm and enjoy his family and friends. Frank did enjoy getting cleaned up and going to town to meet friends and take his wife dancing on Saturday nights. Together, they enjoyed dancing to big band music along with country music. They loved doing a waltz, 2-Step, or a swing dance. They led many grand marches for newlywed couples in the area and traveled out of state several times. Frank's survivors include his loving wife, Susan of the home; daughter, Megan (Matthew) Stevenson of Norton; son, Blake (Beth) Hillebrand of Greeley, Colorado; and grandchildren: Weston, Callie, and Logan Stevenson and Henley and Magnolia Hillebrand</p>
Holligan	2024	<p><b>Jerry Ehlinger Holligan</b> (86) of Burnet, Texas, passed away on May 7, 2024. Jerry was born on February 12, 1938, in Bryan, Texas to Alva Monroe Holligan and Julia (Mathis) Holligan. He married Julia "Judy" Bishop on September 2, 1960. After completing his degree in agricultural engineering at Texas A&amp;M University in College Station, Texas in 1963, Jerry and his family ended up in Austin, Texas where he found employment with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS) as an engineer, and Jerry continued his career with the SCS for thirty years. He developed lasting friendships with his fellow employees and enjoyed spending many days in the field working with the local farmers on engineering projects. After retiring from the SCS, Jerry started a surveying/engineering company with his son Len. In later years, Jerry and Judy built a home on a piece of property in the Oatmeal Community, Texas. Jerry enjoyed working to fix up the land and with the well-fed cows he kept on the property. He and his wife also attended many bluegrass festivals featuring top named bands. Jerry is survived by wife of 63 years, Judy, son Kelly (Karen) and son Len.</p>
Kearney	2024	<p><b>James L. Kearney</b> (87) of Lincoln, Nebraska, passed away November 8, 2024. Jim was born May 4, 1937 and raised as an only child in Wahoo, Nebraska to James M. and Marie E (Schmidt) Kearney. Jim received his Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from the University of Nebraska. Jim surveyed for JEO Engineering out of Wahoo during the summers. In the early 1960's Jim took a geologist position for the building of the Nebraska State highway system. Jim moved on to work for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in the Lincoln State Office in the Federal building, then the Midwest National Technical Center (MNTC) in Lincoln, Nebraska, serving as geologist. When the MNTC closed, Jim's office moved to North Platte, Nebraska where he worked for a number of years. Jim then launched Geologic Solutions, Inc., a geological consulting firm. Once retired, he continued his consulting and as a contract employee with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to assist with their heavy workload. Geology was his profession and his hobby. He shared his knowledge and love of the earth with his family, teaching his children and grandchildren to appreciate the beauty and wonder of rocks, sand, and millions of years old soil. *Don't forget the groundwater! Jim is survived by his wife, Irene; children, Michelle (Michael) Evans, Patricia (Todd) Korensky, Michael (Jenny) Kearney, and Ryan (Cathy) Kearney; grandchildren, Chase (Miranda), Gage, and Shae Canfield; Colin (Holly), Mason, Addie, Charlie, Peter, Cooper, and Kearney Korensky; James, Joseph Nicholas, Elizabeth, and Hannah Kearney; Willa and Mae Kearney; great granddaughter, Adalynn Korensky and Baby Korensky due March 22, 2025. Jim was preceded in death by his granddaughter, Katie Korensky.</p>
Koster	2024	<p><b>Roger Anthony Koster</b> (96) of Hills, Iowa (formerly of Elkader, Iowa) passed away peacefully on November 5, 2024, at Atrium Village in Hills, Iowa. Roger was born on September 24, 1928, in Breda, Iowa, to William and Matilda (Grabner) Koster. After high school, Roger worked for his dad with plans to be a farmer. But when the Korean War broke out, Roger was drafted into the Army and was stationed with his Division near the demilitarized zone in southern Germany alongside other NATO forces. Roger contracted tuberculosis (TB) near the end of his service and spent over a year recovering in the Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska, and eventually at home in Breda. Because of damage to Roger's lungs due to TB, doctors at the VA Hospital advised him to give up his plans to farm. With funding available through the VA, Roger was able to enroll at Iowa State University and graduated with a degree in Agronomy in July 1957. Roger married Darlene Wolterman on June 15, 1955. Throughout his career as a soil conservationist with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and later as coordinator for Iowa State University Extension's Big Spring Basin Project, Roger devoted his time and effort to the stewardship of our natural resources and worked tirelessly to address issues related to soil preservation, water quality, and wildlife habitat. Roger also served on various boards including the Clayton County Conservation Board and he was a lifelong member of Ducks Unlimited and Pheasants Forever. Roger's love of the land was also apparent in the hobbies he enjoyed. He liked hunting turkeys, pheasants, geese and ducks, preferably with one of his faithful dogs by his side. But most of all, Roger was a lifelong fisherman at heart, especially when he was fishing alongside Darlene, his children, and above all his grandchildren. Roger's faith was the cornerstone of his life. He was a member of St Joseph's Catholic Church in Elkader. Roger is survived by his children, Stanley of Palo, Iowa, Suzanne (Pat) Hyde of Coralville, Iowa, William (Lisa) of Huntington Beach, California, Nancy (Tom) Healy of Elkader, and Daniel (Kris) of Van Meter, Iowa; nine grandchildren, Ryan (Emily) Hyde, Amanda (Stuart) Kunkel, Tyler Koster, Andrew (Abbey) Healy, Danielle (Mitch) Hankey, Elizabeth Healy, Bryon Koster, Owen Koster and Benjamin Koster; and nine great-grandchildren and one on the way. Roger was preceded in death by his wife, Darlene, in 2014.</p>
Kral	2024	<p><b>Robert "Bob" Marden Kral</b> (95) of Corsicana, Texas, passed away at his home in Corsicana on December 6, 2024 from complications of congestive heart failure. His passing was peaceful, and he was surrounded by family. Bob was born June 17, 1929, in Sweetwater, Texas. He attended Texas Tech University where he earned a bachelor's degree in agronomy. At Tech, he was active in the Wesley Foundation and Air Force ROTC. Following graduation from Tech in 1951, he lived on the farm with his father while awaiting his call-up to the Air Force. In 1953, he was activated into the Air Force at Carswell Air Force Base in Fort Worth, Texas, where he served as a First Lieutenant. In 1954, he married Willa Faris. After his discharge from the Air Force in 1955, he joined the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS), where he spent most of his career working as an agronomist and soil scientist. He loved his work with the SCS, serving in Littlefield, Crosbyton, Lamesa, and Corsicana, Texas and became friends with many of the farmers and ranchers in his districts. He was very active in the Soil and Water Conservation Society. He was a highly effective advocate for soil conservation and an expert on native plants, making a number of appearances on television broadcasts in the Lubbock area. Bob was a lifelong and dedicated member of the Methodist Church and served in leadership roles in each church the family attended. He was active in Meals on Wheels for many years, until his health made it impossible to continue. He loved the outdoors, especially hunting and fishing. Bob was preceded in death by his son Lee. He is survived by his wife Willa Kral, his daughter Jeanette Gordon, his son Robin Kral (Robert Jr.) and daughter-in-law Rachel Kral, five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.</p>

Lappegard	2024	<b>Laurel Keith Lappegard</b> (90) of West St Paul, Minnesota, passed away surrounded by his loving family on November 5, 2024. Laurel was born on December 8, 1933, to Otto and Dena Lappegard. He enlisted in the United States Army where he attained the rank of Sergeant First Class. He then attended the University of North Dakota, where he received a Bachelor's degree as a Civil Engineer. He worked as an engineer for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, retiring in 1989. He then went on to work an additional 20 years for the City of Oakdale as a Civil Engineer and was a mentor for the Engineering students at the University of Minnesota during the summers. He was lucky to have traveled the world over with his wife LaVonne. But, his favorite place in the world was at the family cabin in Ashby, Minnesota. Laurel is survived by his loving wife of 64 years, LaVonne (Buerth); children Scott (Jenny) Kelsey and Josie, Pam (Burns), Angie and Dan (Emily); great-grandchildren, Evelyn and Jackson, Todd, Mark (Edel), Odin and Olav.
McCachren	2024	<b>Clifford "Tip" Mitchell McCachren</b> (90) of Powhatan, Virginia (formerly of Salisbury, North Carolina) passed away November 21, 2024, at Anchored in Peace Living Home in Powhatan. Tip was born on April 15, 1934, in Harrisburg, North Carolina to the late Bernice Nash McCachren and Hoyt McKee McCachren. He was a graduate of North Carolina State University majoring in Agriculture. Tip worked for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service as a Soil Scientist. He worked out of the Salisbury Area Office for most of his career. Tip was a member of Evergreen Community Presbyterian Church of Powhatan and First Presbyterian Church of Salisbury. He was also a member of the Civitan Club, Kiwanis, Lions Club, and a Boy Scout Leader. He had earned his Eagle Scout. Tip was a tour guide for the Historical Salisbury Foundation and volunteered with the Transportation Museum of Spencer. He was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy Mae McCachren who passed away April 4, 2021. Surviving is his son, Shane McCachren (Stephanie) of Powhatan and three grandchildren.
McCarthy	2024	<b>John Robert McCarthy</b> (90) of Columbia, Missouri, passed away peacefully on November 14, 2024. John was born October 8, 1934, to John H. and Anna (Miller) McCarthy. John met the love of his life, Carol Ann Hall, in high school in Peoria, Illinois and they were united in marriage on January 25, 1958. The couple moved to Tucson, Arizona so John could complete his Master's degree. The family returned to Peoria in 1960, where John worked for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service for 13 years and then in Missouri for another 23 years. He retired in 1996 as the State Agronomist in Missouri. John and Carol loved to travel and always spent two weeks in the northern states every summer and two weeks in the southern states every winter. John especially enjoyed fly fishing, a good German beer and quizzing his grandchildren with math and science problems. Survivors include daughter Kathy Bailey; grandchildren Andrew Bailey, Angie Bailey, Brandon Bailey and Brittany Lawler; as well as a great-grandchild, Matthew Bailey and a great-great-grandchild, Matthias Bailey. John was preceded in death by his beloved wife Carol in 2020. The Rite of Christian Burial was celebrated at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church on November 21, 2024, followed by inurnment at Memorial Park Cemetery.
Meetze	2024	Life Member <b>John Calvin Meetze</b> (84) of Auburn, Alabama, passed away November 2, 2024. John was born in Chapin, South Carolina on May 7, 1940, to Azilee Younginer Meetze and Herbert Samuel Meetze. John graduated from Irmo High School in the top twenty-five --there were only twenty-five students in the class, and from Clemson College (now Clemson University) in 1963 with a degree in Agronomy. John joined the Army before entering his freshman year of college and continued to serve in the Army Reserves for eleven years. John started his career as a Soil Scientist in South Carolina with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service which later became the Natural Resources Conservation Service. He moved to Alabama in 1980 as the State Soil Scientist and later served there as the State Resource Conservationist. He retired in January 2003 from NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) with 40 years' Federal service. John loved people, and often burst into song no matter where he was. He believed in doing things for others. He also loved sports, especially football and baseball at both Clemson and Auburn. After retiring, he and Vicki traveled extensively. He is survived by his wife of 61 years Vicki Gray Meetze, and children Heather Meetze James (Mark) and Kevin Reed Meetze (Kathy), grandchildren Jessi James, Haley, Jordan, Nick and Ali Meetze. John was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Auburn for 44 years. A celebration of life was held at Trinity on Saturday, November 9th, 2024.
Mickelson	2024	<b>Charles Owen Mickelson</b> (88) of San Angelo, Texas, passed away December 12, 2024. He was born in Clifton, Texas on February 21, 1936, to Otis and Margaret Mickelson. He graduated high school in 1954 and enrolled in college at Texas A&M. As a freshman, he "walked on" and made the freshman Baseball team. He graduated in 1958 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Range Management. Upon graduation he was employed as a Range Conservationist with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service. He served in this position at San Saba and Big Spring. He later served as a Work Unit Conservationist in charge of the office at Big Spring from 1962 to 1964. He then served as a District Conservationist at Seminole from 1964 to 1972, then in Brownwood from 1972 to 1974 prior to being transferred to San Angelo as Area Conservationist where he retired in 1994. He was a longtime member of the Sierra Vista Methodist Church in San Angelo. Charles is survived by his wife, the love of his life, Annagene. He is also survived by his son Chris (Elizabeth) along with granddaughter Sarah and grandson Levi, of Soldotna, Alaska; and son Kerry (Mitzi), of Richardson, Texas.
Mills	2024	<b>Joyce "Mimi" Mills</b> (93) of Ardmore, Oklahoma, passed away September 17, 2024, surrounded by her family in her home of 45 years. Joyce was born July 27, 1931, to the late Henry and Vivian Vaughan Michael, at home in Loves Valley in Love County, Oklahoma. She was a graduate of Marietta High School. She worked for Selective Service in Marietta, Oklahoma for most of her younger years then for the Arbuckle Conservation District and USDA-Soil Conservation Service as a Clerk until she retired at 85 years of age. She married Charles Wayne Mills on December 29, 1979, in Ardmore and he preceded her death in 2014. Survivors include her son Mike Fox; granddaughter Dr. Nikki Fox (Shane Hayes); her sister LaVonne Vinson and her brother Jim Michael.
Moser	2024	<b>Gregory H. "Greg" Moser</b> (77) of Richmond, Virginia, passed away on November 16, 2024. Greg was born in Washington, D.C., in 1947 and grew up in Arlington, Virginia. He enjoyed summers at his grandfather's farm in Crozet, Virginia, where he learned to appreciate the country and all natural things. He was a proud graduate of Virginia Tech, earning a bachelor's degree in wildlife management in 1969 and later a Master's degree in biology. In 1980, Greg married Catharine Moser in Richmond, Virginia. He dedicated his professional life to serving as a federal employee with USDA-Soil Conservation Service, and then Natural Resources Conservation Service in Virginia, where he served as State Biologist. Beyond his career, Greg was deeply committed to conservation, purchasing and protecting land in Virginia and Maine to ensure that its beauty and biodiversity endured for generations. He found joy in hiking, backpacking, fly fishing, and birding. Greg is survived by his wife, Catharine Moser; his beloved daughter, Sarah Moser (Daniel Nash) and their daughter, Lewella Nash, all of Boston, Massachusetts.

Mullin	2024	<p>Life Member <b>Wayne C Mullin</b> (87) of LaFayette, Indiana, passed away on October 30, 2024, at his residence. Wayne was born in Logansport, Indiana, to the late Estal T. Mullin and Mabel E. (Benner) Mullin. He was married to Eileen Ruth Yoder on October 1, 1960, in Mount Ayr, Indiana. Eileen proceeded him in death on April 16, 2001. Wayne attended Purdue University and then served in the United States Army Reserve in the Communication Center and Warehouse Operations. Obtaining the rank of Buck Sergeant, Wayne was honorably discharged from the Army Reserves at the end of his contract. Wayne spent the next 37 years working for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service as a Construction Surveyor and Inspector until his retirement in 1996. He worked out of the Lafayette (Tippecanoe Co.), Indiana office and the Green Castle, Indiana office. Some of the projects he worked on included Jordan Creek, Bachelor Run, and Wea Creek. After retirement he enjoyed traveling with his wife until she passed in 2001. He worked on the family farm throughout his life and was a true Chicago Cubs fan. He was so excited when the "Cubbies" won the World Series. He was also a Purdue sports and Indianapolis Colts fan. He never lost his love of driving. He enjoyed visiting family, taking long drives through the countryside, checking on his old work projects and checking on his farm in Carroll County. He is survived by his 3 children, Cheryl (Jim) Mills of Lafayette, Doug (Cheryl) Mullin of Rossville, Indiana, and Mitchell (Gayla) Mullin of Port St. Lucie, Florida; 5 grandchildren, Stacey (James) Nelson, Ashley (Peter) Dalpe, Tyler Mullin, Hunter Mullin, and Taylor Mullin; 2 great-grandchildren, Jay Riley and Sarah Nelson. Along with his wife Eileen, he was also preceded in death by his daughter, Bethany L. Mullin.</p>
Neisler	2024	<p><b>Marion Auddie Neisler, Jr.</b> (77) of Brookston, Texas, passed away peacefully on October 25, 2024, surrounded by his family. Auddie was born on April 22, 1947, in Paris, Texas, the oldest child of Marion and Lucille (Boaz) Neisler. He grew up on a family farm in the Maxey Community, where he developed a lifelong passion from a variety of hobbies; tractor pulls, antique tractors and collecting coins. Auddie attended Texas A&amp;M University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics. Auddie married Vicki Basinger, with whom he shared 50 wonderful years. Along with farming, he later devoted himself to a 22-year career as a Soil Conservationist with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. After retirement he focused his efforts on his passion as a coin dealer. Auddie was a long-time member at Lamar Avenue Church of Christ. He was actively involved with the Red River Valley Antique Tractor Club and the North Star of Texas Coin Club. Auddie's memory lives on through his children, Andy (Molly) of Honey Grove, Texas, and Jesse (Stephanie) of Wichita, Kansas; and grandchildren, Shelby, Jonah, Kellen, Skye, and Case.</p>
Posey	2024	<p><b>Clifford Conrad Posey</b> (74) of Temple, Texas, passed away on December 1, 2024. He was born on July 1, 1950, in Eagle Pass, Texas, to Libon Ray Posey and Lillian Elsie Wilhelmina Posey. Cliff served his country as part of the United States Army during the Vietnam War, where he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal among other honors. His service was a source of great pride, and he carried that sense of duty into all aspects of his life. A skilled drafter, Cliff worked for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, where he earned the respect of his colleagues for his expertise and dedication. Outside of work, he had numerous passions. He loved sports, especially football, basketball, NASCAR, and golf. He once made a hole-in-one, a moment he was incredibly proud of. Cliff was an avid nature lover with a special interest in birding, bees, and photography. He was also fond of classic cars, particularly '57 Chevys, and had a deep appreciation for good music, including The Grateful Dead, Cream, and Bob Dylan. He especially enjoyed traveling to National Parks with his childhood friend, Andrew Sturgess. Cliff is survived by his beloved wife of 44 years, Cindy Zirkelbach Posey; daughter Sarah Elizabeth (Allen) Easterwood and son Andrew Thomas (Rachael) Posey; five grandchildren Elle Elizabeth Easterwood, Everett Rolf Easterwood, Aria Drew Posey, Aiden Conrad Posey, and Elliott James Easterwood. Services will be held on December 27, 2024, at Scanio-Harper Funeral Home in Temple, Texas. Graveside services with military honors will follow Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen, Texas.</p>
Pullen	2024	<p><b>Jerry Paul Pullen</b> (90) of Davis, Oklahoma, passed away November 15, 2024, in Davis. Jerry was born August 19, 1934, in Davis, to the late Walker Lynn and Minnie Lucille (Hager) Pullen. He joined the United States Air Force on August 19, 1953, and was honorably discharged on August 18, 1957. He married Leta Joyce Bridges on July 5, 1954, in Gainesville, Texas. He spent his working years as a Civil Engineer Technician for the USDA-Soil Conservation/Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and was Construction Inspector in the Davis and Pauls Valley construction offices. He was an instructor for training courses on concrete towers, etc. throughout the United States. In addition to his full-time job with the government, he worked on boat motors for C.L. Risner at Arbuckle Sports Center. He retired from NRCS several years ago but still worked as an Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services (ACES) Program employee, mostly working with rehabilitating watershed structures. He had the heart of a servant and was always looking out for the needs of others. His love and devotion to the Lord, his country, his family, and his friends were at all times unwavering. He was preceded in death by his wife Leta Joyce in 1995. He is survived by his daughter, Kelly Owens (Kel) of Davis; grandchildren, Julie Pullen Bartee of Durant, Oklahoma, Nathan Pullen (Lanissa) of Davis, Luke Pullen (Marcy) of Tishomingo, Oklahoma, Brandi Harris (Matt) of Ardmore, Oklahoma, Trey Owens (Lori) of Davis and Olivia Sager (Jarrod) of Davis; as well as 19 great-grandchildren.</p>
Richards	2024	<p>Life Member <b>William J. "Bill" Richards</b> (93) of Circleville, Ohio, passed away peacefully in his home on November 12, 2024. He will always be remembered as an innovator and pioneer in conservation farming. He believed that every producer has the duty to use the best available technology to protect soil, water, and other natural resources, and that society has the obligation to base its environmental decisions on good science. Bill was born on October 19, 1931, to Elmon Eben Richards and Mabel Haynes Richards. After earning a degree in agricultural economics from the Ohio State University, Bill set to work to grow a successful, diversified family farming operation, together with his wife and three sons. He was selected as U.S. Jaycees Outstanding Young Farmer of America in 1967. He also was one of the founders of Premium Agricultural Commodities, a purchasing and marketing co-op that became a model in the industry for sharing ideas and providing technology for farmers and business leaders. Bill became a progressive, dynamic manager in agribusiness and government over the course of his illustrious career. As an active member in agriculture, Bill was a past president or participant in many farm organizations, including: National Outstanding Farmers of America, Farm Foundation Bennett Roundtable, Top Farmers of Ohio, National Association of Conservation Districts, National Corn Growers Association, American and Ohio Soybean Association, American Farm Bureau, the Soil and Water Conservation Society, Alpha Gamma Rho, and Premium Agricultural Commodities. Locally, he was a lifelong member of Circleville Rotary and the Circleville Presbyterian Church. While his sons tended the farm, Bill served as the Chief of the USDA-Soil Conservation Service from 1990 to 1993, during which he guided the agency under the environmental requirements of the 1985 and 1990 farm legislation, in areas of soil erosion control, wetlands protection, and water management. He led cooperative efforts to bring the agricultural industry, government, and the farm media together for a common purpose. After his time at the USDA, Bill enjoyed teaching others about conservation agriculture as a visiting lecturer and</p>

		<p>spokesperson. Bill spoke to a wide range of audiences: farm, university, commodity, agrifinance, chemical and machinery industries, environmental organizations, and federal and state agencies. He was a contributing writer to Farm Journal, Top Producer, and monthly articles in Agrifinance, and he mentored foreign students in an Ohio State University exchange program. He participated in numerous short courses and seminars at Ohio State and Purdue and attended Harvard University's agri-business executive education seminars. His contribution to agriculture lives on in the seeds of knowledge and curiosity that he sowed for farmers across the country. With all the honors and accomplishments of his storied life, the best thing Bill ever did was marry Grace Stevenson Richards. In her, he found a true partner and best friend, and together, they were always listening and learning. They traveled extensively to visit farms and agriculture leaders in all fifty states, England, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Kenya, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, and Mexico. In turn, they were also gracious hosts on their family farm, welcoming massive parties, late-night drinks with friends, and everything in between. Bill was keenly observant and sharp, even into his final days. He reaped the harvest of pursuing what he loved for 93 years. Bill is survived by his sons: Bruce S. Richards (Betsy), and Elmon S. Richards (Connie); daughter-in-law Loribeth Kowalski; his grandchildren: Ashley Richards (Geoffrey Robicheaux), Brock Richards (Siobhan), Mason Richards (Katherine), Maria Roberts (Frank), and Julie Foy (Patrick); step-grandchildren Jason (Kristi) Carithers and Lisa Salyers; several great-grandchildren; and special friend Grace Moore. Bill is preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Grace Stevenson Richards, in 2015 and his son, William Stevenson Richards, in 2013.</p>
<b>Root</b>	<b>2024</b>	Senior Conservationist and ARCSE Member <b>Gerald William Root</b> (90) of Bumpass, Virginia, passed away November 25, 2024, from congestive heart failure. Gerald was born on October 18, 1934. He was married to Marilyn for 66 years. He worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service for 37 years, starting as a Soil Conservationist in Pennsylvania, then in Wisconsin where he became an Assistant State Conservationist and ended his career in National Headquarters where he was the Deputy Director for the Conservation Planning Division. An obituary was not available, but I was able to find his name on several studies and papers on conservation policy and nonpoint pollution.
<b>Schwille</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>Edward Martin Schwille, Sr.</b> (89) of Groesbeck, Texas, passed away on July 6, 2024. Ed, or sometimes called "Mr. Ed", was born Nov. 12, 1934, in Oak Cliff, Dallas County, Texas, and was the son of Martin Bartram Schwille and Sue Kirby Schwille. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Management with a minor in Education from Texas A&M. He spent 30 years having an impact on soils, plants, small watersheds, and fish-wildlife habitat conservation with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service as a biologist. Ed, notably, was a State Biologist in Colorado and was the National Poultry Water Quality Consortium manager, headquartered in Tennessee. Upon retirement from federal service, he continued working with farmers, ranchers and individuals as a District Technician for 25 years with Limestone-Falls Soil and Water Conservation District in Groesbeck, Texas. Mr. Ed had always dreamed of living on a lake and upon retirement, moved his family to Lake Limestone. Being a people person, in his time, he had belonged to four Volunteer Fire Departments, was active with the SCS-NRCS Retirees Association, and enjoyed helping local food pantries and "jawing" with neighbors. Ed will be missed by his family and friends. Ed is survived by his wife Ruth and children, Ed M. Jr. (Carla) of Conroe, Texas, Leslie L. Moravic (John) of Arlington, Texas, Susan E. Lowe of Wichita Falls, Texas, Marty W. Byouk (Althea) of Lavon, Texas, Libby J. Fabian of Flanders, New Jersey and Kristina D. Dean (Alvin) of Tyler, Texas. He is also survived by 16 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.
<b>Snyder</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>Alfred Amos Snyder</b> (92) of Pine Grove, Pennsylvania, passed away peacefully on December 9, 2024, surrounded by his loving family. Alfred was born in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania on May 5, 1932, to the late Andrew J. Sr. and Dillie Savilla Snyder. After growing up on the family farm, he joined the United States Army and proudly served his country as an Encryption Specialist where he earned the Army of Occupation Medal Germany and the National Defense Service Medal. Following his military service, he attended Pennsylvania State University earning his Civil Engineering degree. He worked for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service designing dikes and dams. His job carried him to North Carolina, but he later returned to the farm homestead to enjoy the place he loved the most. He was honored to receive a Century Farm certificate on behalf of the family homestead. He was preceded in death by his grandson, Duane Hayes, and great grandson, Chase Solomon. He is survived by his loving wife of sixty-six years, Shirley Miller Snyder of the home; daughters Ginny Hayes (Mike) of Clarkton, North Carolina, Barbara Quinn (Tim) of Zebulon, North Carolina, Linda Markham (Doyle) of Vass, North Carolina, and son David Snyder (Yalonda) of DeLand, Florida; and many precious grandchildren and great grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.
<b>Ujke</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>John Francis Ujke</b> (69) of McFarland, Wisconsin, passed away surrounded by family on November 27, 2024, at Agrace HospiceCare. John was born on January 13, 1955, in Ashland, Wisconsin, to Stanley and Margaret (Cadotte) Ujke. He earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. In 1981, he moved to Madison to start his career working for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service as a cartographer and later as an IT specialist, where he worked for 35 years until he retired in 2016. In 1984, he married Kim Wachsmuth, his wife of over 40 years. He participated in many sports throughout his adult life such as baseball, bowling, tennis, and softball. In his free time, he enjoyed reading, watching movies, playing cards, and cooking. John is survived by his wife, Kim; son, Joshua Ujke; and daughter, Jennifer Ujke.
<b>VanderZanden</b>	<b>2024</b>	Life Member <b>Eldena C. VanderZanden</b> (73) of Forest Grove, Oregon, passed away on November 17, 2024, at her home. Eldena was born February 27, 1951, in Galveston, Texas, the daughter of the late Elden Hamilton and Mary Oslin (Carr) Hamilton. Eldena attended the University of Texas at Austin, where she received a bachelor's degree in math and economics. She was united in marriage to Kerry W. VanderZanden on May 20, 1987, in Forest Grove. They celebrated their 37th Wedding Anniversary this past May. Following their marriage, they resided in Forest Grove on the family farm. Eldena worked as an economist for the United States Corps of Engineers in Galveston, Texas and shortly in Auburn. When she moved to Oregon in 1985, she began work with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service in Oregon, until she retired in 1994. While working at the West National Technology Center in Portland, Oregon, Eldena assisted with rolling out the use of computers within the agency. Eldena was an active member of St. Bede's Episcopal Church and long-term member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She was also a huge supporter, advocate, and fundraiser for Relay for Life since 2000. Her fundraiser goal exceeded over \$16,000 in 2019 when she was re-diagnosed with breast cancer. Among many of her interests and hobbies she collected Siamese cats, Gone with the Wind memorabilia, she loved all Disney, Flamingos, and the color purple. The thing she loved in life more than life itself was her family and spending time with grandkids/nieces and nephews as they grew older. She was always planning vacations with family and friends, nonstop gatherings, she was the life of the party everywhere she went! Survivors include her husband, Kerry VanderZanden; her son, James (Tiffany) VanderZanden, of Eugene, Oregon; her daughter Erika (Mitch) Myrick, of Forest

		Grove; and two grandchildren, Chase and Kayla Myrick. A Funeral Service was held on November 24, 2024, at St. Bede's Episcopal Church, 1609 Elm Street in Forest Grove with The Rev. Marlene Metchler, Vicar, officiating.
<b>Watson</b>	<b>2024</b>	Life Member <b>Gordon Watson</b> (85) Of Bozeman, Montana, passed away November 5, 2024, in Bozeman. Gordon was born in Fort Benton, Montana on June 20, 1939, and started life on a family farm outside Virgelle, Montana, where he began working with his siblings at the ripe old age of eleven. Gordon graduated from Montana State College (now University) in 1962 with a degree in agriculture (civil) engineering. He was a life-long Bobcat fan, a season ticket holder for football and basketball for several years and we often attended games as a family. Gordon was drafted into the Army after college during the Vietnam War and served by making maps for the war efforts in Germany. He eventually returned to Montana and went to work for the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS). He married his wife Joann in Miles City, Montana in 1967 and together they raised their family throughout the state of Montana including Miles City, Shelby, Great Falls, and Bozeman. Gordon worked for 30 years for SCS, finally retiring as an Assistant State Conservationist in 1995. He loved working and assisting farmers across the state to sustain natural resources while maximizing agriculture production. Gordon was overtly friendly, and always had a smile on his face for everyone including the curmudgeons who frequented the coffee clutch at the Kagi Korner store every week. After retiring, Gordon spent his time in service to his community volunteering for Meals on Wheels and served for many years as a local Civil Air Patrol Volunteer. One of his most significant local contributions was the design and building of the Bozeman Pond Park as part of the Bozeman Breakfast Optimist group. One of Gordon's favorite hobbies was building houses; he designed and built four family houses during his vacation time in the summers. Gordon is preceded in death by granddaughter Sarah Jo Watson. Survivors his wife, Joann; daughter, Sheree Watson; and son, Robert and his family, Heidi, River, and Izzy Watson.
<b>Zwank</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>Douglas (Doug) Charles Zwank</b> (77) of Middleton, Wisconsin, passed away peacefully on Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 2024. The timing feels fitting, as Doug was always someone who gave thanks for the many blessings and good fortunes in his life. Doug was born November 9, 1947, to June and Bob Zwank grew up on the west side of Madison, Wisconsin. He received a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin. He proudly served in the United States Marine Corps in Vietnam and this difficult experience deeply shaped the person he was. Doug had several interesting jobs in his career including special investigator for the State of Wisconsin, private eye (Wisconsin Detective Agency), IT Group Manager for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, and mayor of Middleton. He passionately loved running, reading and keeping up with world affairs. He never shied away from writing his opinion to the local newspapers. Doug was a devout Catholic but appreciated the value of other world religions. He was devoted to his children and cherished his grandchildren. He is survived by many he loved including his dear wife Kathy, his sons Mike, Pat and Ben, his grandchildren Finn, Bodie, Joey and Sami, his daughters-in-law Nienke, Taija and Maddi, his sister Karen Wagner (Chris) and so many other family members, friends, and neighbors.

## 2024 MEMBER LOCATOR

December 24, 2024 (Sorted alphabetically by State, City, then Last Name)

Use this current listing to find members in states or cities you may be passing through. Find contact information for members in the 2024 ARCSE Member Directory.

First Name	Last Name	City	State
Robert (Bob) N	Jones	Palmer	AK
Clifford E	Jones	Auburn	AL
Charles	Love	Auburn	AL
Stephen	Musser	Auburn	AL
Marshall "Mac"	Nelson	Auburn	AL
Earl L	Norton	Auburn	AL
Perry	Oakes	Auburn	AL
Ernest V	Todd	Auburn	AL
William "Gary"	Kobylski	Foley	AL
Larry	McCrory	Moundville	AL
David L	Schertz	Northport	AL
Jesse (Charles)	Bush	Opelika	AL
Robert	Berry	Vinemont	AL
Billy A	Garner	Booneville	AR
Dennis	Hackbart	Little Rock	AR
Ralph	Mashburn	Little Rock	AR
George	Dahlke	North Little Rock	AR
Mike	Sullivan	North Little Rock	AR
M Bruce	McCullough	Ozark	AR
Christopher P	Williams	Chandler	AZ
Wade	Biddix	Goodyear	AZ
Thomas E	Calhoun	Green Valley	AZ
Gordon O	Klofstad	Mesa	AZ
Ron	Lowery	Mesa	AZ
Karl R.	Klingelhofer	Oro Valley	AZ
Stephen	Black	Phoenix	AZ
J Gordon	Odell	Saddlebrooke	AZ
Rodney M	Alt	Surprise	AZ
Ruth	Wilimek	Tempe	AZ
Galen S	Bridge	Tucson	AZ
Christopher	Cochran	Tucson	AZ
Kenneth M	Cookson	Tucson	AZ
Joseph L	Knisley	Tucson	AZ

First Name	Last Name	City	State
Cathy E	McGuire	Tucson	AZ
Romy	Myszka	Antioch	CA
Ron	Harben	Arroyo Grande	CA
Darwyn H	Briggs	Davis	CA
Madalene M	Ransom	Davis	CA
Edward	Schmit	Davis	CA
Walter E.	Sykes	Davis	CA
Chester	Bush	Fresno	CA
Pamela	Hertzler	Grass Valley	CA
John H	Stierna	Hidden Valley Lake	CA
William L	Braker	Lancaster	CA
Robert D	Slayback	Lodi	CA
Harbans	Lal	Los Altos	CA
Leonard	Jolley	Napa	CA
Nyle L	Jordre	Rio Vista	CA
Thomas	Wehri	Roseville	CA
Mary	Andreuccetti	Sacramento	CA
William A.	Ward	Sacramento	CA
Kay Joy	Barge	Salinas	CA
Albert	Cerna Jr.	Salinas	CA
Edwin L	Minnick	Walnut Creek	CA
Paul	Koluvek	Winters	CA
Phil	Hogan	Woodland	CA
Duane L	Johnson	Cedaredge	CO
Ivan R.	Wilkinson	Estes Park	CO
Jack R.	Carlson	Fort Collins	CO
Charles M	Hart	Fort Collins	CO
Scott	Snover	Fort Collins	CO
John	Andrews	Foxfield	CO
Wendell	Hassell	Fruita	CO
Stuart N.	Keil	Ft. Collins	CO
Emery C	Johnson	Grand Junction	CO
Larry	Flentie	Loveland	CO

First Name	Last Name	City	State
Wendall R	Oakes	Loveland	CO
Carter	Christenson	Lyons	CO
Larry D	Miles	Pagosa Springs	CO
William	Ireland	Chaplin	CT
Joseph	Csiki Jr.	Willington	CT
Joseph E	Polulech	Woodstock Valley	CT
Bruce	Knight	Washington	DC
Douglas J.	Lawrence	Washington	DC
Richard P	Bennett	Georgetown	DE
James W	Stingel	Lewes	DE
Edward J.	Brzostek	Ocean View	DE
Andrea M.	Cora	Rehoboth Beach	DE
Eileen	Campbell	Wilmington	DE
Maurice J	Mausbach	Denton Beach	FL
Robert G	Law	DeLand	FL
Richard E	Highfill	Fort Meyers	FL
Clayton R	Miller	Ft. Meyers	FL
Robert G	Halstead	Homosassa	FL
Cesar C	Jusino	Lake City	FL
Jazelle	Jusino	Lake City	FL
Willis J	Ridenour	Largo	FL
Marc	Crouch	Leesburg	FL
Raymond L	Marshall	Mt Dora	FL
Sterling B.	Caple	North Port	FL
Jerome C	Hytry	Orlando	FL
Janice	Reid	Palm Coast	FL
William	Kuenstler	Santa Rosa Beach	FL
Donald	Butz	Tampa	FL
Charlie	Godley	The Villages	FL
Karl H.	Langlois	The Villages	FL
Joseph E	Williams	Vero Beach	FL
William E	Frederick	Winter Haven	FL
Carolyn C	Adams	Athens	GA
Linda R	DiPietro	Athens	GA
Leonard	Jordan	Douglasville	GA
Curt	Hobbs	Fayetteville	GA
John W	Adams	Lyons	GA
Ross L	Ulmer	McDonough	GA
Thomas W	Christensen	Milton	GA
James	Ford	Newnan	GA
Beverly H.	Walker	Statesboro	GA
Philip	Hadarits	Toombsboro	GA
Edward P.	Ealy	Watkinsville	GA
Kenneth M	Kaneshiro	Aiea	HI
Jody	Christiansen	Altoona	IA
David D	Breitbach	Ames	IA
Thomas L	Gust	Ames	IA
John K.	Skerritt	Ames	IA
Eldon C	Weber	Ames	IA
Bruce	Wight	Ames	IA
Carolyn	Christian	Ankeny	IA
Dennis G	Miller	Ankeny	IA
Lee C.	White	Ankeny	IA
John H (Herb)	Wilson	Ankeny	IA
James M	Woods	Ankeny	IA
Debra A	Vonnahme	Arcadia	IA
Gerald C.	Stevens	Boone	IA
Sheila	Cox	Bronson	IA
Dora	Guffey	Carlisle	IA
Lyle W	Asell	Chariton	IA
Scott K	Osborn	Cherokee	IA
Brian C.	Peterson	Coming	IA
Lawrence L	Dorgan	Creston	IA
Jim	McIntosh	Creston	IA
Jeff	Godwin	Cumberland	IA
Dennis L	Hurtz	Decorah	IA
Keith	Krause	Delhi	IA
Jay	Ford	Denison	IA
Thomas	O'Connor	Des Moines	IA
Maralee J	Sarasio	Des Moines	IA
Donald K	Ummel	Des Moines	IA
Kathleen	Woida	Des Moines	IA
James	Gillespie	Earlham	IA
Ronald J.	Kuehl	Elkader	IA
Lane	Collins	Fairfield	IA
Kelly	Lewiston	Fairfield	IA

First Name	Last Name	City	State
Stanley R	Simmons	Fairfield	IA
Daryl L	Carpenter	Ft Dodge	IA
Larry	Beeler	Indianola	IA
Alan	Lauver	Indianola	IA
Lynn	Betts	Johnston	IA
Martin "Marty"	Adkins	Knoxville	IA
Lew A	Brent	Knoxville	IA
Douglas	Morningstar	Lisbon	IA
Dale	DuVal	Logan	IA
Dana C	Holland	Marshalltown	IA
Roger	Link	Maxwell	IA
Arnold "Arnie"	Wetzstein	McGregor	IA
Marvin D	Brown	Mt Pleasant	IA
Steve	Manternach	Nevada	IA
Barbara	Stewart	Newton	IA
Suzette D	Betts	North Liberty	IA
Mark	Lindflott	Northwood	IA
John W	Chenoweth	Pella	IA
Bob	Dayton	Polk City	IA
Bill	Hammitt	Portsmouth	IA
Greg	Townley	Prairie City	IA
Erwin O	Aust	Shenandoah	IA
Edward "Ed"	Marshall	Silver City	IA
Richard W	Hall	Sioux City	IA
Terri	Sage	Sioux City	IA
Jim	Ayen	Urbandale	IA
David W	Beck	Urbandale	IA
Dennis	Pate	Urbandale	IA
Richard A	Rogers	Urbandale	IA
Mark J.	Jensen	W Des Moines	IA
William R	Woerner	Waterloo	IA
Don C	Peterson	West Des Moines	IA
Norman	Friedrich	West Union	IA
Paul H	Calverley	Boise	ID
James A.	Cornwell	Boise	ID
Stanley	Hobson	Boise	ID
Gerald G	Larson	Boise	ID
Mark	Weatherstone	Bonners Ferry	ID
Richard	Van Klaveren	Hayden	ID
Sue R.	Ellis	Meridian	ID
Rob	Fredericksen	Meridian	ID
Daniel	Ogle	Meridian	ID
Donna	Beggs	Moscow	ID
Daniel R.	Pierce	Moscow	ID
Cheryl	Simmons	Moscow	ID
Mike	Somerville	Nampa	ID
Dale	Benz	Champaign	IL
Lester J	Bushue	Champaign	IL
David W	Dalzell	Champaign	IL
Richard L	Dickerson	Champaign	IL
Earl Eugene	Evans	Champaign	IL
Ben	Mingo	Champaign	IL
Andy	Cerven	Charleston	IL
Marjorie	Faber	Chicago	IL
John R.	Garrity	Earlville	IL
Jerry	Misek	Elizabeth	IL
Glenn H	Paulsgrave	Galesburg	IL
Lee H	Bridgman	Jacksonville	IL
Ross	Braun	Macomb	IL
Jim E	McQuilkin	Magnolia	IL
Elsie Mae	Campbell	Mahomet	IL
J Wiley	Scott	Mahomet	IL
Neil	Pellmann	Mokona	IL
Rich	Stewart	Moline	IL
Nancy	Phalen	Monticello	IL
Leroy J	Drechsel	Mt Carmel	IL
Arthur A	Bryant	Peotone	IL
James F	Steinkamp	Quincy	IL
Bryon	Kirwan	Seymour	IL
Shelby H	Brownfield	Shelbyville	IL
Loran E. (Gene)	Davis	Shelbyville	IL
Jerry W.	Leonard	Tuscola	IL
James L	Evans	Urbana	IL
Judith C	Hummel	Urbana	IL
James	Rospopo	Woodstock	IL
Rex	Brock	Bourbon	IN

First Name	Last Name	City	State
Glen A.	Weesies	Brownsburg	IN
Dick	Gilbert	Carmel	IN
Chris	Tippie	Carmel	IN
B Harold	Kracht	Crown Point	IN
Dan	McCain	Delphi	IN
Alvin K.	Balmer	Edinburgh	IN
Robert V.	Bollman	Greencastle	IN
Jane	Hardisty	Greenfield	IN
Elias	Bloom	Indianapolis	IN
Charlie	Gossett	Indianapolis	IN
Jerry D	Larson	Indianapolis	IN
Roger	Roeske	Lucerne	IN
Robert	Steiner	North Vernon	IN
Rebecca	Fletcher	Plainfield	IN
Jerry J	Pearson	Plymouth	IN
Donald E.	Weaver	Richmond	IN
Robert C	Martin	Wabash	IN
Carl S	Diehl	Warsaw	IN
Charles C	McKee	West LaFayette	IN
Robert L	Eddleman	Westfield	IN
G Franklin	Furr, Jr.	Winamac	IN
James L.	Gaskell	Chanute	KS
C Owen	Maddux	EI Dorado	KS
Randy	Bennett	Girard	KS
Roger L	Haberman	Lamed	KS
William B	Sorensen	Ness City	KS
Robert B	Crawford	Newton	KS
Harold	Blume	Salina	KS
John	Ourada	Salina	KS
Mary D.	Shaffer	Salina	KS
Jim & Bobbie	Wallace	Salina	KS
Britt	Weiser	Shawnee	KS
Harlan E	Dietz	Topeka	KS
Michael J	Mitchell	Bowling Green	KY
Bill W	Milliken	Fulton	KY
Glenn E	Kelley	Lexington	KY
Richard A	Myers	Lexington	KY
Kenneth W	Overhults	Lexington	KY
Frank C	Scudder	Murray	KY
Anthony	Burns	Pendleton	KY
Billye Morgan	Haslett	Richmond	KY
Joseph	Branco	Alexandria	LA
Cherie E	LaFleur	Washington	LA
Kevin D	Norton	Woodworth Ln	LA
Jeffrey G	Anliker	Belchertown	MA
Cecil B	Currin	Hadley	MA
James A	Wesoloski	Hadley	MA
Valerie	Oksendahl	Longmeadow	MA
Terry	D'Addio	Bethesda	MD
Edward G	Riekert	Bowie	MD
Galen W	TeSelle	Bowie	MD
Eleanor	Bogner	Catonsville	MD
Richard D. (Rick)	Swenson	Catonsville	MD
Dave	Mason	Centreville	MD
William	Boyer	Chester	MD
Obie D	Ashford	Columbia	MD
Stephen & Judy	Foland	Crofton	MD
James E.	Hannawald	Denton	MD
Diana	Morse	District Heights	MD
William U	Reybold	Easton	MD
Donald	Woodward	Gaithersburg	MD
Roger	Cronshay	Huntington	MD
Noller	Herbert	Huntingtown	MD
Lillian V	Woods Shawver	Laurel	MD
Robert R	Ensor	Manchester	MD
Bobby E	Rakestraw	Monrovia	MD
Michael P	Sigrist	Pocomoke City	MD
Hagner R	Mister	Prince Frederick	MD
Helen L	Ross	Rockville	MD
Richard W	Hardy	Salisbury	MD
Robert	Snieckus	Silver Spring	MD
Peter M	Tidd	Belfast	ME
D Bruce	Champeon	Glenburn	ME
John J	Simon	Hampden	ME
George & Nancy	Stevens	Lincoln	ME
Arthur	Taylor	Milford	ME

First Name	Last Name	City	State
William G	Moulton	Pittston	ME
Tim	Bohnhoff	Auburn	MI
Fred and Mary	Gilbert	Belmont	MI
Loren W	Berndt	Bridgman	MI
Gaylynn	Kinter	Flushing	MI
Thomas J	Fedewa	Fowler	MI
Thomas H	Purkey	Gaylord	MI
Julius O.	Pigott	Jackson	MI
William J	Fude	Lansing	MI
Frank A	Griffin	Lapeer	MI
Daniel F	Kesselring	Marshall	MI
Dwight & Norma	Quisenberry	Okemos	MI
Robert G	Law	Oscoda	MI
Bruce E.	Green	Vandalia	MI
Mary	Monte	Little Falls	MN
Marlene M	Mechelke	Maplewood	MN
Robin	Martinek	Prior Lake	MN
Justin L	Murray	Rochester	MN
Margaret	Gangl	Roseville	MN
Victorin "Vic"	Ruhland	St. Paul	MN
John	Brach	Stillwater	MN
Michael	Blaine	Baring	MO
Lyle	Noblitt	Carrollton	MO
Darlene E	Edwards	Columbia	MO
J.R.	Flores	Columbia	MO
Roger A.	Hansen	Columbia	MO
Jean C	Herman	Columbia	MO
Gary	Moreau	Columbia	MO
Dave	Rastorfer	Columbia	MO
Burns (Ed)	Smith	Columbia	MO
Rita Marie	Williams	Fair Grove	MO
Francis F	Miller	Hartsburg	MO
Robert L	Hummel	Jefferson City	MO
Kenneth E	Benham	Joplin	MO
Charles D	Cheek	Kansas City	MO
Michael J	Bradley	Kirksville	MO
David	Lightle	Labadie	MO
Marvin L	Knabach	Lee's Summit	MO
Hugh	Curry	Overland Park	MO
James E	Sturm	Princeton	MO
John F	Rice	Rolla	MO
David	Williams	Salem	MO
F. Tyler	Smith	Springfield	MO
Ellis	Benham	Stockton	MO
Charles B	Tisdale	Raymond	MS
Phillip	Fames	Bozeman	MT
Scott	Hoag, Jr.	Bozeman	MT
James S	Johnson	Bozeman	MT
Lori	Valadez	Bozeman	MT
Dick	Gooby	Twin Bridges	MT
Francis T	Holt	Asheville	NC
Angela	Gragg	Boone	NC
James H	Canterberry	Cary	NC
Richard A	Gallo	Cary	NC
Duncan C	McGregor	Cary	NC
Mark W.	Berkland	Chocowinity	NC
Rodney W.	Johnson	Elizabeth City	NC
Randall W	Giessler	Faith	NC
William J.	Harrell	Four Oaks	NC
Dean K.	Bingham	Goldsboro	NC
Donald L	Basinger	Greensboro	NC
Jeff	Porter	Greensboro	NC
Robert J	Glennon	Hobbsville	NC
Dennie G	Burns	Kitty Hawk	NC
P. Benjamin	Robinson, Jr.	Lincolnton	NC
Phyllis K	Pate	Lumberton	NC
Craig M	Right	Mebane	NC
Francis	Zaik	Pine Knoll Shores	NC
Robert	Horton, Jr.	Pinehurst	NC
Maurice	Cook	Raleigh	NC
Thomas T.	Cutts	Raleigh	NC
W. Hubert	Hawkins	Raleigh	NC
Edgar L	Helmey	Raleigh	NC
Horace	Smith	Raleigh	NC
Greg	Walker	Raleigh	NC
Talmadge J	Wiggins	Raleigh	NC

First Name	Last Name	City	State
Manly S	Wilder	Raleigh	NC
Samuel C	Bingham	Rutherfordton	NC
Larry	Hendrix	Salisbury	NC
Stuart A	Lee	Smithfield	NC
Frank	Clearfield	Southport	NC
Dominic	Fetterer	Southport	NC
V. Loring	McIntyre	Swannanoa	NC
Albert B	Coffey	Wake Forest	NC
Rodney E.	Woolard	Washington	NC
Tim	Garrett	Waynesville	NC
M. Alan	Walker	Waynesville	NC
Robert A	Bird	Bismarck	ND
Norman	Koester	Beaver Lake	NE
James R.	Gerding	Elkhorn	NE
Dave	Camper	Lincoln	NE
Doug	Christensen	Lincoln	NE
James	Culver	Lincoln	NE
Craig	Derickson	Lincoln	NE
Gus & Donna	Dombusch	Lincoln	NE
Norman	Helzer	Lincoln	NE
David	Hoover	Lincoln	NE
Norman & Sylvia	Kempf	Lincoln	NE
Harold L.	Klaege	Lincoln	NE
Gerald L	Montgomery	Lincoln	NE
Henry R	Mount	Lincoln	NE
Gary B	Muckel	Lincoln	NE
Kenneth E	Noonan	Lincoln	NE
Steve	Scheinost	Lincoln	NE
JoAnne	Thiele	Lincoln	NE
Charline A	Woodside	Lincoln	NE
Claudia	Stevenson	Ogallala	NE
Dana	Snyder	Seward	NE
Becky	Ross	Epping	NH
Charles H	Dingle	Exeter	NH
Dean F	Sherman	Plymouth	NH
Gregory J	Westfall	Allentown	NJ
Thornton	Hole	Egg Harbor City	NJ
Annunziata (Nancy)	Paolini	Ewing	NJ
Tom	Drewes	Flemington	NJ
Richard G	Hutchins	Marlton	NJ
Laurence R	Irelan	Pennsville	NJ
Luther F	McDougal	Mimbres	NM
Kenneth B	Leiting	Rio Rancho	NM
Jim P	Thornton	Sante Fe	NM
James A	Linebaugh	Carson City	NV
Charles R.	Houston	Reno	NV
Loretta	Krall	Reno	NV
Elizabeth A	Warner	Washoe Valley	NV
Paul A	Dodd	Baldwinsville	NY
William P	Yolton	Canastota	NY
Paul	Ray	Chittenango	NY
Joe	DelVecchio	Clayton	NY
John	Whitney	East Aurora	NY
Donald W	Lake	Erieville	NY
B. Keith	Reece	Fayetteville	NY
Eugene C	Hanchett	Latham	NY
Julius D	Toenniessen	Rush	NY
Allan S.	Connell	Southold	NY
Nancy	Lee	Waterloo	NY
Betty A	Ball	Athens	OH
Jon	Gerken	Carroll	OH
Bob	Parkinson	Columbus	OH
Clifford E	Simpson	Englewood	OH
David F	Berna	Grove City	OH
Richard W	Rush	Grove City	OH
John H	Brown, Jr.	Marion	OH
K. Keith	Huffman	Marysville	OH
Charles F	Lamborn	Mt Gilead	OH
Norman	Mull	New Paris	OH
Scott	Jerome	Pickerington	OH
Mike	Monnin	Pickerington	OH
Joseph	Branco	Port Clinton	OH
D. Rex	Mapes	Powell	OH
Mark	DeBrock	Reynoldsburg	OH
John S.	Weller	Seville	OH
Karl H	Reinhardt	Sidney	OH

First Name	Last Name	City	State
Thomas	Sewell	Strasburg	OH
Larry	Tomes	Sunbury	OH
Stephen S.	Davis	Toledo	OH
Lennie	Losh	Westerville	OH
Ralph E	Gray	Willoughby	OH
Suzanne C	Schenkel	Willoughby	OH
Barry	Cavanna	Wooster	OH
Joseph R	Steiger	Zanesville	OH
John R "Dick"	Bogard	Durant	OK
Jamey	Wood	Edmond	OK
Wes	Oneth	McAlester	OK
Nickey J	Lambeth	Okemah	OK
Jimmy D	Thomas	Oklmulgee	OK
Joe	Freeland	Pauls Valley	OK
Larry	Caldwell	Stillwater	OK
Fred J	Fortney	Stillwater	OK
Randy	Freeland	Stillwater	OK
Jimmie W	Frie	Stillwater	OK
John E	Witty	Adrian	OR
Donald E	Greiner	Albany	OR
Ralph S	Wadleigh	Aloha	OR
Gerald W	Yeoumans	Baker City	OR
Donald L.	Stettler	Beaverton	OR
Roy S	Mann	Clackamas	OR
Terry	Mitchell	Fairview	OR
Eldena	VanderZanden	Forest Grove	OR
Roy M	Carlson	Fossil	OR
Clifton E	Deal	Gresham	OR
Russell	Hatz	Hillsboro	OR
Wendell A	Styner	Hillsboro	OR
Richard (Dick)	Sylvester	Hillsboro	OR
Maurice L	Jernstedt	Hubbard	OR
Patricia L	Straka	Keizer	OR
Edward E	Weber	Keizer	OR
Anne	Derting	King City	OR
Matthew H.	Fillmore	Lebanon	OR
Garry L.	Schaefer	Molalla	OR
Beth	Zetter	North Plains	OR
Louise	Davis	Oregon City	OR
Tommy A	George	Portland	OR
Roberta L	Hart	Portland	OR
Cliff	Hillebrandt	Portland	OR
Bruce	Newton	Portland	OR
Jeffrey P.	Repp	Portland	OR
Donald E.	Wallin	Rainier	OR
Leland A	Hardy	Salem	OR
Frank F	Reckendorf	Salem	OR
Duane K	Setness	Salem	OR
Chad L.	McGrath	Tigard	OR
Thomas W	Calvert	Berlin	PA
Ronnie L	Taylor	Bethlehem	PA
Samuel E	Young	Bloomsburg	PA
Robert T	Heidecker, Jr.	Boiling Springs	PA
Frederick E	Bubb	Camp Hill	PA
Donna	Krebs	Centre Hall	PA
William R	Parrish	Ebensburg	PA
Carl A	Du Poldt	Edgemont	PA
Nevin L	Ulery	Elizabeth	PA
Shirley L	Thomas	Elizabethtown	PA
Wayne M.	Maresch	Emlenton	PA
John R	Akers	Everett	PA
Steven A	Probst	Gettysburg	PA
Warren M	Lee	Glen Mills	PA
Rollin N	Swank	Graysville	PA
Timothy J.	Murphy	Harrisburg	PA
Gary P.	Smith	Harrisburg	PA
Jana L.	Mellott	Harrisonville	PA
Robert L	Hilliard	Lancaster	PA
Walter Hosea	Latshaw	Lebanon	PA
Alan	Wood	Lebanon	PA
Larry	Schardt	Lewistown	PA
Harvey	Pinkerton	Marble	PA
Jeff	Mahood	Mechanicsburg	PA
Wayne F	Maresch	Millersville	PA
Mike W.	Anderson	New Oxford	PA
Howard W	Hall	Quarryville	PA

First Name	Last Name	City	State
Edward	Sokoloski	Scott Township	PA
Donald E	McCandless, Jr.	State College	PA
Wayne M.	Bogovich	Sugar Run	PA
Frederick H	Schuetz	Trappe	PA
Frank E	Resides	West Chester	PA
Paul	Welle	West Chester	PA
Michael	Kolman	York	PA
Curtis	Sharp	York	PA
Juan	Martinez	Gurabo	PR
Richard (Phou)	Vongkhamdy	Coventry	RI
Everett A	Stuart	North Kingstown	RI
Arthur B	Holland	Bluffton	SC
John H	Miner	Blythewood	SC
Walter W	Douglas	Chapin	SC
Wm Burton	Wells	Clemson	SC
Douglas W.	Deaderick	Columbia	SC
Niles	Glasgow	Columbia	SC
Ellis D.	Morrow	Columbia	SC
Larry H	Robinson	Columbia	SC
Dennis	Bauknight	Easley	SC
James C	Sanders, Jr	Greenwood	SC
Russell F	Patrick	Lancaster	SC
Jacob W	Black	Laurens	SC
Hugh	Caldwell	Lexington	SC
Dave	Demarest	Moore	SC
George H	Comer	Murrells Inlet	SC
George & Nancy	Stevens	N Myrtle Beach	SC
Daniel	Guy	Saluda	SC
Ned	McGill	Starr	SC
Bunyan W	Anderson	Timmonsville	SC
Ron E	Hendricks	Gann Valley	SD
Rod	Baumberger	McIntosh	SD
James C	Hunt	Mitchell	SD
Yvonne	Haefner	Mobridge	SD
Verle R.	Smith	Spearfish	SD
Darwin	Newton	Ashland City	TN
Harold D.	Jones	Bean Station	TN
Jim	Lansford	Cookeville	TN
Donald L	Dotson	Franklin	TN
Hardy	Cloutier	Germantown	TN
Doris Marie	Blackwell	Jackson	TN
Dana	Ensore	Jonesborough	TN
James F	Brasfield	McEwen	TN
Raymond P	Sims	Nashville	TN
Robert	Sanders	White Bluff	TN
Benjamin C.	Doerge	Arlington	TX
Jon	Fripp	Arlington	TX
Bernie	Owen	Arlington	TX
Ed	Thomas	Bryan	TX
Rosendo	Trevino III	Bulverde	TX
Johnny	Green	Burleson	TX
Mark	Boysen	Crowley	TX
David V.	Buland	Crowley	TX
William	Erion	Crowley	TX
Beverly	Moseley	Fischer	TX
Clyde L.	Goodman	Fort Worth	TX
Douglas C	Seibel	Fort Worth	TX
Calvin M	Jackson	Ft Worth	TX
Frank	Richardson	Ft Worth	TX
Michael H	Bogard	Gatesville	TX
William J	Gradle	Georgetown	TX
Arnold D.	King	Granbury	TX
David A	Stockbridge	Granbury	TX
Earl D.	Archer	Grandbury	TX
Ronald L	Hilliard	Haskell	TX
Wilson	Scaling	Henrietta	TX
Patricia	Cecil	Jasper	TX
Bailey	Mayo	Lubbock	TX
Hector	Gonzalez	McAllen	TX
John D	O'Connor	Mt Pleasant	TX
Carl F	Englerth	New Braunfels	TX
John	Mueller	New Braunfels	TX
Wayburn D	Mitchell	Paducah	TX
Larry D	Miles	Round Rock	TX
James D	Abbott	Temple	TX
Wesley L	Miller	Victoria	TX

First Name	Last Name	City	State
Steve	Garner	Weatherford	TX
Richard B	Heizer	Weatherford	TX
Mary	Evitch	Weslaco	TX
Jon G	Werner	Eden	UT
Phillip J	Nelson	Farmington	UT
Warren	Lytton	Herriman	UT
J Michael	Nethery	Logan	UT
Richard	Baird	North Ogden	UT
Phillip D	Coombs	Salt Lake City	UT
Eileen	Bogovich	Alexandria	VA
Lawrence	Clark	Alexandria	VA
R Neil	Sampson	Alexandria	VA
Robert K	Reaves	Arlington	VA
Jerry	Seinwill	Arlington	VA
Joseph S	Haugh	Ashburn	VA
Janet	Perry	Barboursville	VA
John W	Peterson	Burke	VA
Edgar H	Nelson	Cross Junction	VA
James H	Spitz	Daleville	VA
Ronald W.	Gilkeson	Dayton	VA
Barbara	Osgood	Fairfax	VA
Keith O	Schmude	Fairfax	VA
Ronald L.	Marlow	Fairfax Sta	VA
Diane	Gelburd	Falls Church	VA
Gary R	Gross	Fredericksburg	VA
Ron	Page	Gainesville	VA
Kenneth E.	Carter	Glen Allen	VA
Brenda M	Thomas	Herndon	VA
Carol	Campbell	King George	VA
Claudia C	Hoeft	Manassas	VA
Melvin	Womack	Mechanicsville	VA
Barry L.	Kintzer	Mechanicsburg	VA
George C	Norris	Richmond	VA
Bill	Irwin	Springfield	VA
John S.	Moore	Springfield	VA
Paul R	Newcombe	Springfield	VA
Walter J	Ochs	Springfield	VA
Jerry M.	Bernard	Stafford	VA
Gary A	Margheim	Stafford	VA
Paul W	Benedict	Stephens City	VA
Richard L	Duesterhaus	Vienna	VA
Thomas A	Weber	Warrenton	VA
Barbara B	Fletcher	Winchester	VA
Ronald W	Tuttle	Winchester	VA
Dave	Thackeray	Woodbridge	VA
Francis M	Keeler	Colchester	VT
David G	Van Houten	Essex Junction	VT
Lynn	Knight	Milton	VT
Daniel A	Smith	Chelan	WA
Jon	Lea	La Center	WA
Phil	McLoud	Mount Vernon	WA
David	Dishman	Olympia	WA
Gilbert R	Landtiser	Sequim	WA
Harold	Crose	Soap Lake	WA
Thomas L.	Spofford	Soap Lake	WA
Roylene	Comes At Night	Spokane	WA
A. Stefan	Fechter	Spokane	WA
Shelly R	Lassiter	Spokane	WA
W J "Joe"	Carmack	Spokane Valley	WA
Mark	Parson	Stevenson	WA
Lamont	Robbins	Vancouver	WA
Denise	Troxell	Vancouver	WA
David L	Omernik	Antigo	WI
Jay	Custer	Baldwin	WI
Roman A	Statz	Baraboo	WI
Stephen A	Rake	Black River Falls	WI
Deborah R	LeGear	Eau Claire	WI
Tim	Meyer	Eau Claire	WI
Larry	Natzke	Eleva	WI
Randy	Gilbertson	Grand View	WI
Dean	Sylla	Green Bay	WI
John P	Corrigan	Hudson	WI
Julie	MacSwain	Hudson	WI
William	Conner	Madison	WI
Larry J	Dawson	Madison	WI
James L	Enlow	Madison	WI

First Name	Last Name	City	State
Howard	Gundlach	Madison	WI
Dale	Gagner	Menomonie	WI
Michael C	Schendel	Menomonie	WI
Carol A	Wettstein	Middleton	WI
Patricia	Leavenworth	Mount Horeb	WI
Renae	Anderson	Oakfield	WI
Emeron P	Christensen	Onalaska	WI
Irwin	Ten Haken	Portage	WI
Peter	Lindgren	Rhinelander	WI
Louis C	Barber	Siren	WI
Steven J	Price	Spring Valley	WI
Norbert E	Wozniak	Stevens Point	WI
Edward	Weber	Webster	WI

First Name	Last Name	City	State
James R	Michael	Berkeley Springs	WV
Richard L.	Judy	Beverly	WV
Carrie	Wetsch	Elkins	WV
David F	Burns	Fairmont	WV
Gary A	Gwinn	Hambleton	WV
Tom	Noonan	Morgantown	WV
Margaret (Peg)	Reese	Morgantown	WV
Delores "Dee" R	Weston	Morgantown	WV
Orland C.	Parks	Scherr	WV
Jim W	Doughty	Buffalo	WY
Ted	Gilbert	Casper	WY
David O	Taylor	Casper	WY
Don	Gaddie	Lander	WY



**SOIL MECHANICS SHORTCOURSE, Level II, January 5 – February 11, 1977**

**Front Row:** W.G. Holtz, Edwin L. Minnick, Susanne M. Leckband, Deborah J. Lyons, Thomas W. Smith, John J. Swanda Jr.

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

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

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**DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH/APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS IS FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2025.**